



Ludwig Boltzmann Institut für Menschenrechte  
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# STUDY ON POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION IN THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA: Skopje, March 2011



*Skopje, March 2011*



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# STUDY ON POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION IN THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA: LOCAL SOCIAL PROBLEMS AND NEEDS

*Skopje, March 2011*



ВЛАДА НА РЕПУБЛИКА МАКЕДОНИЈА  
МИНИСТЕРСТВО ЗА ТРУД  
И СОЦИЈАЛНА ПОЛИТИКА

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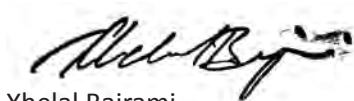
Esteemed Ladies and Gentlemen,

Please allow me to express my pleasure by the Study on Poverty and Social Exclusion that complements our efforts for building an inclusive and cohesive society in the process of integration into the EU and NATO.

In this regard, I would also like to express my gratitude to the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights and the Austrian Development Cooperation for their endeavours to jointly improve and develop policies in the area of social protection and social inclusion by applying the human rights approach.

The current states, presented in this study, give an opportunity for creating an environment for generating social development and cohesion.

Our goal will be maintaining the dialogue and the partnership relations between all the stakeholders, at national and local level, as a key process in creating a society where the relationship between the individual and the society will be based on 'equal opportunities for all'.



Xhelal Bajrami  
Minister of Labour and Social Policy

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**LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS:**

**OTA** – ONE-TIME FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

**MLSP** – MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL POLICY

**NGO** – NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION

**PFA** – PERMANENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

**SFA** – SOCIAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

**CACAP** – COMPENSATION FOR ASSISTANCE AND CARE FROM ANOTHER PERSON

**EC** – EMPLOYMENT CENTRE

**SWC** – SOCIAL WORK CENTRE

# I METHODOLOGY FRAMEWORK

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The independence of the Republic of Macedonia, in 1991, as well as the transfer from planned to market economy marked the beginning of a long and socially painful transition. The process of transition was accompanied with privatisation and restructuring of companies and closing down a large number of non-profitable industrial capacities. As a result, a large proportion of the workforce in the Republic of Macedonia was made redundant, the unemployment and poverty rates increased rapidly, and the living standard considerably worsened. In such circumstances, poverty and social exclusion, as complex and multidimensional problems, led to human rights deprivation, as vulnerable groups could not satisfy basic living conditions. The relative poverty rate in the Republic of Macedonia, which is still very high - 28.7%, points to the graveness and the persistence of this problem<sup>1</sup>.

In such societal context, the system of social protection in Macedonia faced the challenge to respond to the rising number of poor and socially excluded citizens. One of the relevant indicators for the poverty of the Macedonian citizens is the number of beneficiaries of social financial assistance for population of working age financially unprovided for (allocated to a household). In December 2009, out of the total number of households in Macedonia (564.296), 9.4% or 53.105 households were beneficiaries of social financial assistance<sup>2</sup>. Despite the efforts of the policy creators for decreasing the costs for receiving social assistance and including vulnerable groups in the society, the number of beneficiaries has not dropped significantly in the last two decades. In order to achieve greater social inclusion of the citizens, in the period after 2004, the focus was placed on decentralising the social protection. With the changes and the amendments on the Law on Social Protection, from 2004<sup>3</sup>, adopted jointly with the Law on Decentralisation, the municipalities had the opportunity and the responsibility to develop social functions at local level and create programs to meet the needs of the groups exposed to social risks.

The Law provided the municipalities opportunities to develop extra-institutional forms of protection through the establishment and functioning of centres for daily and temporary care for citizens according to their needs, as well as, through organising and providing social protection to the citizens from their area through own developmental programs addressing their specific needs. The allocation of financial allowances, which do not cover all vulnerable groups and are insignificant in decreasing poverty and social exclusion, are still very centralised.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.mtsp.gov.mk](http://www.mtsp.gov.mk)

<sup>2</sup> [www.mtsp.gov.mk](http://www.mtsp.gov.mk)

<sup>3</sup> Social Protection Law(Official Gazette of the republic of Macedonia, No50/97, 16/2000, 17/2003, 65/2004)

Despite the changes in the legislation, the municipal functions in the area of social protection are still underdeveloped, due to the unfinished fiscal decentralisation in most of the municipalities, the lack of local initiative and the lack of legally binding elements that will define the role of the municipalities in creating local social programs. However, the Law on Social Protection from 2009<sup>4</sup> introduced an element that binds the municipalities to relate their social programs with the strategic programs of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and submit them to MLSP for an opinion. In the coming period, it is expected that the municipal activities in the area of social protection will increase.

The consequence of the abovementioned situation is a poorly developed network of social services in the municipalities in Macedonia. The access to certain social services is provided in the legislation, yet other legal or administrative obstacles deny it. Moreover, the social services at local level are often established without prior and appropriate analysis of the situation, of the local social problems and needs assessment. As a result, on one hand, the social beneficiaries are only passive users of the system of protection (especially the users of financial allowances); on the other, certain groups of the population face multiple social problems without access to social services because they are already socially excluded.

The general findings reveal insufficient analysis of the poverty, social exclusion, social problems and needs at local level. Therefore, the results of this research are expected to contribute to breaching the gap and provide relevant data to the municipalities involved in the research for the process of strategic planning for dealing with poverty and social exclusion.

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<sup>4</sup> Law on Social Protection (Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia, 79/09)

## 2. DEFINITION OF THE CONCEPTS IN THE RESEARCH

**Poverty:** Poor persons are considered to be persons, families or groups whose resources (material, cultural and social) are at level that excludes them from the minimum acceptable way of life in the country where they reside<sup>5</sup>.

**Social exclusion:** Compared to poverty, which focuses on individuals or households, social exclusion primarily covers the relationships between the individual and the society and the dynamics of these relationships.<sup>6</sup> Social exclusion is the inability for effective participation in the economic, cultural and social life, and in a certain way is alienation and distancing from the natural processes in the society.

**Social needs:** The needs of the individual as an entity, which are prerequisites for his/her existence as a human being, as well as the needs of the individual that he /she satisfies in the community.<sup>7</sup>

**Social problem:** Unfavourable state/condition that influences considerable number of people and which, according to its distribution, is considered a source of difficulties and discontent, and which can be prevented or its effects alleviated by an organised societal action.<sup>8</sup>

**Social protection:** Financial allowances or personal social services provided to persons who do not enter into any social insurance scheme, and who have insufficient financial resources for themselves and their families.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu>

<sup>6</sup> [www1.oecd.org/cer/obj5/docs.htm](http://www1.oecd.org/cer/obj5/docs.htm)

<sup>7</sup> Pejanovic, S (1995), the Notion of Need and Social Needs, Social Thought, No 5-6, Belgrade

<sup>8</sup> Z Sulejmanov, N Stojanovski (2002), Social pathology, pg 21, Skopje

<sup>9</sup> G Amicis (2004), Social Protection System in the Republic of Macedonia, pg 11-12, Skopje

### 3. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

**Overall objective:** The overall objective of the research of poverty and social exclusion is assessment of the social needs and problems of the poor and socially excluded groups among the population of the eight selected municipalities in Macedonia: Lipkovo, Caska, Studenicani, Negotino, Radovis, Konce, Berovo and Pehcevo.

**Specific objectives:**

- ▶ Identification of various types of social problems and needs of socially excluded citizens.
- ▶ Determining the state of poverty and the living standard of the citizens involved in the research.
- ▶ Obtaining information for the living conditions and the problem of marginalisation and participation in the local community.
- ▶ Identifying forms of exclusion of poor and socially excluded citizens in the targeted municipalities.
- ▶ Analysis of the allowances and types of services in the area of social protection, as well as the obstacles to access them.
- ▶ Establishing the reasons for possible limited access of the vulnerable groups to social services.
- ▶ Presentation of the existing local networks of social services and their accessibility (municipalities, social work centres-SWC, social, health and education institutions, non-governmental organisations and other relevant stakeholders).
- ▶ Identifying the social services in the municipalities for which there is a need and a lack of, as well as, identifying the key obstacles for provision of existing services at local level.
- ▶ Recommendations for resolving identified social problems.
- ▶ Providing data that could be used in the preparation of strategic documents for fighting social exclusion and poverty in the targeted municipalities.

## 4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The methodology applied in the research is a combination of qualitative and quantitative methodology.

### 4.1. Qualitative methodology

The techniques applied for the qualitative methodology were the following:

- ▶ *Content analysis* of previous researches, statistical databases and relevant legislation.
- ▶ *Experts interviews* conducted with one representative from each municipality, SWC and the employment centres: overall, 24 expert interviews were conducted (3 for each of the eight municipalities: Lipkovo, Caska, Studenicani, Negotino, Radovis, Konce, Berovo, Pehcevo).
- ▶ *Focus group discussions* were organised in every municipality: 8 focus group discussions were organised and 76 people took part, of which, 58 beneficiaries of social protection rights and 18 non-beneficiaries, residents of the municipalities (see Table 1).

Table 1. Focus groups participants' structure

Municipality	SP beneficiaries		SP non-beneficiaries		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Lipkovo	7	/	2	/	9
Caska	9	2	3	/	14
Studenicani	6	/	4	/	10
Negotino	5	4	1	/	10
Radovis	4	1	1	1	7
Konce	3	1	1	/	5
Berovo	7	/	3	/	10
Pehcevo	8	1	2	/	11
<b>Total:</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>76</b>

The following instruments were prepared and used for the qualitative part of the research analysis: expert interview plans (3) and a checklist for focus groups discussion.

### 4.2. Quantitative methodology

The technique household survey was used for the quantitative part of the research. A questionnaire was prepared as an instrument for the survey, consisting of 41 closed and open-ended questions, covering 8 areas: 1) basic information for the head of the household, 2) information for the household, 3) living standard, 4) health and nutrition, 5) education, 6) social problems and social protection; 7) sports, leisure and culture and 8) housing.

#### 4.2.1. Quantitative Research Location

The empirical research was conducted in 8 municipalities in Macedonia; 4 urban and 4 rural municipalities: a) urban municipalities: Berovo, Pehcevo, Negotino and Radovis and b) rural municipalities: Lipkovo, Caska, Studenicani and Konce. The survey was conducted in the period of October and November in 2010. The research covered the municipalities preselected by Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights, under whose auspices the research was carried out.

Table 2. Populated places where the survey was conducted

Municipality	Populated place	Urban	Rural
Berovo	T. Berovo	50	
	V. Vladimirovo		50
Lipkovo	V. Lipkovo		100
Radovis	T. Radovis	65	
	V. Raklis		35
Caska	C. Чашка		100
Pehcevo	T. Pehcevo	63	
	V. Umlena		27
	V. Ciflik		10
Konce	V. Konce		100
Negotino	V. Negotino	70	
	V. Dolni Disan		19
	V. Temjanik		8
	V. Tremnik		3
Studenicani	V. Studenicani		100
<b>Total</b>		248	552

\* T- Town \* V- Village

#### 4.2.2. Basic Sample Structure

The sample of the empirical research was 800 households i.e. 100 households in each of the eight targeted municipalities. The head of the household (when present) provided the answers, or if he/she was absent, an adult member of the household provided the answers on his/her behalf. It was a combination of suitable sample, a representative by defined indicators:

- ▶ *Rural-urban distribution*: in view of this criterion, the participation of the households from the rural and urban areas in the sample is equivalent with the actual structure of the population according to rural-urban distribution in the targeted municipalities. 248 (31%) households from urban areas were subject of the survey; 532 (66.5%) from rural areas and 20 (20.5%) from sub-urban areas.
- ▶ *Social assistance beneficiaries v.s. non-beneficiaries*: In order to cover and the analyse social conditions of socially vulnerable households (that have already used the system of social protection - social assistance) as well as, to cover households that have not used such services, and further, to compare the living standard and the problems between these two groups

of households, in each municipality approximately the same number of households from each group was covered with the survey (the ratio was approximately 50%-50%). There were 381 (47.6%) households beneficiaries of social assistance surveyed and 418 (52.3%) households that have not used social assistance.

- *Ethnicity*: In view of ethnicity, the participation of the households in the sample is approximately equivalent to the actual ethnic structure of the population in the targeted municipalities (for further details, please see the sample in Table 3 and 4 in the text below).

Преглед 3. Структура на примерокот според етничка припадност

Municipality	ethnicity of the household head							Refuses to answer	Total
	Macedonian	Albanian	Roma	Turkish	Serbian	Bosniak			
Radovis	Count	88	0	4	7	0	0	1	100
	%	11,0%	0,0%	0,5%	0,9%	0,0%	0,0%	0,1%	12,5%
Negotino	Count	96	0	2	1	0	0	1	100
	%	12,0%	0,0%	0,3%	0,1%	0,0%	0,0%	0,1%	12,0%
Berovo	Count	84	0	16	0	0	0	0	100
	%	10,5%	0,0%	2,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	12,5%
Pehcevo	Count	92	0	7	0	1	0	0	100
	%	11,5%	0,0%	0,9%	0,0%	0,1%	0,0%	0,0%	12,5%
Konce	Count	96	1	0	1	2	0	0	100
	%	12,0%	0,1%	0,0%	0,1%	0,3%	0,0%	0,0%	12,5%
Lipkovo	Count	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	100
	%	0,0%	12,5%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	12,5%
Studenicani	Count	0	96	0	2	0	1	1	100
	%	0,0%	12,0%	0,0%	0,3%	0,0%	0,1%	0,1%	12,5%
Caska	Count	96	1	0	1	2	0	0	100
	%	12,0%	0,1%	0,0%	0,1%	0,3%	0,0%	0,0%	12,5%
	Count	552	198	29	12	5	1	3	800
	%	69,0%	24,8%	3,6%	1,5%	0,6%	0,1%	0,4%	100,0%

Table 4. Sample structure according to rural-urban distribution and according to users/non-users of social assistance

Municipality		Populated place type			Total
		Urban	Rural	Suburban	
Radovis	Beneficiaries	Count 31 31%	19 19%		50 50%
	Non-beneficiaries	Count 34 34%	16 16%		50 50%
	Total	Count 65 65%	35 35%		100 100%
Negotino	Beneficiaries	Count 30 30%	20 20%		50 50%
	Non-beneficiaries	Count 40 40%	10 10%		50 50%
	Total	Count 70 70%	30 30%		100 100%

Berovo	Beneficiaries	Count %	19 19%	23 23%		42 42%
	Non-beneficiaries	Count %	31 31%	27 27%		58 58%
	Total	Count %	50 50%	50 50%		100 100%
Pehcevo	Beneficiaries	Count %	24 24%	21 21%		45 45%
	Non-beneficiaries	Count %	38 38%	16 16%		54 54%
	Refuses to answer	Count %	1 1%	0 0%		1 1%
	Total	Count %	63 63%	37 37%		100 100%
Konce	Beneficiaries	Count %		47 47%		47 47%
	Non-beneficiaries	Count %		53 53%		53 53%
	Total	Count %		100 100%		100 100%
Lipkovo	Beneficiaries	Count %		50 50%		50 50%
	Non-beneficiaries	Count %		50 50%		50 50%
	Total	Count %		100 100%		100 100%
Studenicani	Beneficiaries	Count %		50 50%		50 50%
	Non-beneficiaries	Count %		50 50%		50 50%
	Total	Count %		100 100%		100 100%
Caska	Beneficiaries	Count %		38 38%	9 9%	47 47%
	Non-beneficiaries	Count %		42 42%	11 11%	53 53%
	Total	Count %		80 80%	20 20%	100 100%

\* The actual structure according to rural-urban distribution in the targeted municipalities is: Lipkovo (100% rural), Caska (100% rural), Studenicani (100% rural), Konce (100% rural), Radovis (66.14% urban, 33.86% rural), Pehcevo (58.67% urban, 41.33% rural), Berovo (50.23% urban, 49.77% rural), Negotino (69.14% urban, 30.86% rural)

### 4.2.3. Additional Characteristics of the Sample Structure

With regards to gender distribution of the household heads, in the majority of the overall number of 800 surveyed households i.e. 694 (86.8%) the head of household was male, while in 99 (12.4%) households the head was female. The highest proportion of households where the head is female are in the urban municipalities of Negotino (29.3%) and Berovo (20.2%) (Table 1).

Table 1. Gender of head of household by municipality

Municipality		Gender of household head			Total
		Male	Female	Refuses to answer	
Radovis	Count	94	5	1	100
	%	11,8%	0,6%	0,1%	12,5%
Negotino	Count	71	29	0	100
	%	8,8%	3,6%	0,0%	12,5%
Berovo	Count	80	20	0	100
	%	10,0%	2,5%	0,0%	12,5%
Pehcevo	Count	92	7	1	100
	%	11,5%	0,9%	0,1%	12,5%
Konce	Count	90	10	0	100
	%	11,3%	1,3%	0,0%	12,5%
Lipkovo	Count	92	8	0	100
	%	11,5%	1,0%	0,0%	12,5%
Studenicani	Count	85	10	5	100
	%	10,6%	1,3%	0,6%	12,5%
Caska	Count	90	10	0	100
	%	11,3%	1,3%	0,0%	12,5%
	Count	694	99	7	800
	%	86,8%	12,4%	0,9%	100%

With regards to **age**, the majority of the heads of household are over 40 years of age (613 or 76.6%). In 22% or 27.5% households, the household head is at the age of 40 to 49. Furthermore, the number of households where the head of the household is at the age of 50 to 59 is significant (208 or 26%); the number of households where the head is over 60 is 185 households, or 23.1%.

According to **marital status**, the majority of the household heads are married (662 or 82.8%); 59 (7.4%) are widowed (majority of whom are women, 33 of them living in rural areas); 58 (7.3%) are not married, and 17 (2.1%) are divorced (majority of them, 13, living in the urban areas).

The analysis according to household size shows that out of 800 surveyed households, 280 (35%) consist of 3 members, 221 or 27.6% of four members. Namely, 258 (32.2%) households consist of 5 to 7 members, and 38 or 4.7% have 8 or more members. The majority of the households with 5 and over 5 members are concentrated in the rural areas of Lipkovo and Studenicani where the predominant population is of Albanian ethnicity (Table 2).

Table 2. Number of household members by municipality

Municipality		Number of household members														Refuses to answer	Total
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	13	14	15		
Radovis	count % of total	1 0,1%	25 3,1%	22 2,8%	35 4,4%	11 1,4%	5 0,6%	0 0,0%	0 0,0%	0 0,0%	0 0,0%	0 0,0%	0 0,0%	0 0,0%	0 0,6%	1 0,1%	100 12,5%
Negotino	count % of total	3 0,4%	16 2,0%	22 2,8%	31 3,9%	20 2,5%	6 0,8%	0 0,0%	1 0,1%	0 0,0%	1 0,1%	0 0,0%	0 0,0%	0 0,0%	0 0,0%	0 0,0%	100 12,5%
Berovo	count % of total	16 2,0%	25 3,1%	19 2,4%	31 3,9%	8 1,0%	1 0,1%	0 0,0%	0 0,0%	0 0,0%	0 0,0%	0 0,0%	0 0,0%	0 0,0%	0 0,0%	0 0,0%	100 12,5%
Pehcevo	count % of total	4 0,5%	17 2,1%	20 2,5%	35 4,4%	13 1,6%	7 0,9%	2 0,3%	7 0,9%	0 0,0%	0 0,0%	0 0,0%	0 0,0%	0 0,0%	0 0,0%	2 0,3%	100 12,5%
Konce	count % of total	6 0,8%	17 2,1%	15 1,9%	33 4,1%	17 2,1%	12 1,5%	0 0,0%	0 0,0%	0 0,0%	0 0,0%	0 0,0%	0 0,0%	0 0,0%	0 0,0%	0 0,0%	100 12,5%
Lipkovo	count % of total	2 0,3%	0 0,0%	6 0,8%	10 1,3%	28 3,5%	18 2,3%	11 1,4%	12 1,5%	6 0,8%	4 0,5%	1 0,1%	1 0,1%	0 0,0%	1 0,1%	0 0,0%	100 12,5%
Studenicani	count % of total	1 0,1%	3 0,4%	2 0,3%	13 1,6%	35 4,4%	24 3,0%	11 1,4%	8 1,0%	1 0,1%	0 0,0%	1 0,1%	0 0,0%	1 0,1%	0 0,0%	0 0,0%	100 12,5%
Caska	count % of total	6 0,8%	17 2,1%	15 1,9%	33 4,1%	17 2,1%	12 1,5%	0 0,0%	0 0,0%	0 0,0%	0 0,0%	0 0,0%	0 0,0%	0 0,0%	0 0,0%	0 0,0%	100 12,5%
	count % of total	39 4,9%	120 15,0%	121 15,1%	221 27,6%	149 18,6%	85 10,6%	24 3,0%	21 2,6%	7 0,9%	5 0,6%	2 0,3%	1 0,1%	1 0,1%	1 0,1%	3 0,4%	800 100%

Such household structure, according to household members, points to the existing practise of several generations living in one household, as well as indicates to high natality rate among the Albanian households.

The **education status** of the household heads reveals that out of 800 households, in 780 (97.55) households the household head is literate i.e. is able to read and write. In 10 households only (1.3%) the head of the household is illiterate. 10 or 1.3% of the surveyed households have not stated the literacy status of the head. One should point out the fact that the majority of the household heads, i.e. 297 (37.1%) have completed primary education only, and 69 (8.6%) have no education or have not completed primary education. The highest percentage of those who have not completed primary education are concentrated in the rural areas of Konce and Caska, as well as in Berovo - and most of them belong to the Roma ethnic community (Table 3).

Table 3. Formal education of the head of household by municipality

Municipality		Level of formal education of head of household									Total
		No education	Incomplete primary education	Primary education	Secondary Vocational education	Secondary (gymnasium)	college	Post-secondary education (undergraduate graduate)	Higher Education (post graduate)	Don't know	
Radovis	count	0	11	32	34	8	7	7	0	1	100
	% of total	0,0%	1,4%	4,0%	4,3%	1,0%	1,0%	0,9%	0,0%	0,1%	12,5%
Negotino	count	1	4	14	43	25	8	5	0	0	100
	% of total	0,1%	0,5%	1,8%	5,4%	3,1%	1,0%	0,6%	0,0%	0,0%	12,5%
Berovo	count	0	12	34	29	10	3	11	0	1	100
	% of total	0,0%	1,5%	4,3%	3,6%	1,3%	0,4%	1,4%	0,0%	0,1%	12,5%
Pehcevo	count	1	1	27	39	17	6	9	0	0	100
	% of total	0,1%	0,1%	3,4%	4,9%	2,1%	0,8%	1,1%	0,0%	0,0%	12,5%
Konce	count	1	14	38	39	3	6	9	0	0	100
	% of total	0,1%	1,8%	4,8%	4,9%	0,4%	0,8%	1,1%	0,0%	0,0%	12,5%
Lipkovo	count	0	4	62	9	13	6	4	1	1	100
	% of total	0,0%	0,5%	7,8%	1,1%	1,6%	0,8%	0,5%	0,1%	0,1%	12,5%
Studenicani	count	0	5	52	18	19	4	2	0	0	100
	% of total	0,0%	0,6%	6,5%	2,3%	2,4%	0,5%	0,3%	0,0%	0,0%	12,5%
Caska	count	1	14	38	39	3	3	2	0	0	100
	% of total	0,1%	1,8%	4,8%	4,9%	0,4%	0,4%	0,3%	0,0%	0,0%	12,5%
	count	4	65	297	250	98	40	41	1	3	800
	% of total	0,5%	8,1%	37,1%	31,3%	12,3%	5,0%	5,3%	0,1%	0,4%	100%

With regards to **occupation**, the majority of the household heads are workers (277 or 34.5%); followed by pensioners (134 or 16.8%) and farmers<sup>10</sup> (105 or 13.15%).

With regards to **household type**, out of the total 800 surveyed households, 340 (42.5%) are non-agricultural, 266 (33.3%) are of mixed type, and 149 (18.6%) are agricultural households. 45 or 3.8% households did not provide answer regarding type.

### 4.3. Research Challenges

The research team faced few challenges while conducting the research:

- ▶ With regards to the *qualitative research*, the expert interviews in most of the municipalities and in the social work centres, as well as, with the focus groups were all carried out with no difficulties. However, when contacting the social work centres we encountered unwillingness for cooperation and resistance to providing data on unemployment and its characteristics in the targeted municipalities (about the number and the characteristics of the unemployed persons and the shortage occupations in the municipalities). The challenge was overcome by the data provided from the Employment Service Agency in Skopje which maintained central database for all the municipalities (about the number and the characteristics of the unemployed persons and about the shortage occupations in each municipality).
- ▶ In the area of the *quantitative research*, certain, sensitive questions that touched upon the private life of the household resulted in some resistance by the interviewed household heads to provide the answers. However, the ratio of the answers from the category 'refuses to answer' is statistically

<sup>10</sup> Farmer is a worker in agriculture. He/she is head of an agricultural household.

insignificant, therefore, it did not prevent generalisation of the findings obtained by the research.

- ▶ In the research, there was no possibility for gender balance in view of women representation in the focus groups and as heads in the surveyed households, mostly due to the fact that, in the Republic of Macedonia the role of the household head, traditionally, is a male role.

## II RESEARCH RESULTS



# MUNICIPALITY OF BEROVO



## 1. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF BEROVO

The municipality of Berovo is at altitude of 800m and covers an area of 500km<sup>2</sup>. The geographical configuration of the terrain is predominantly hilly and mountainous, and the flat regions are only around the banks of the River Bregalnica. The municipality has one town and eight villages, all of them defined as rural local communities. The distribution of the populated places dense, i.e. there are 3 to 15km distance from the municipal centre to each place, except for the village Dvoriste which is close to the Macedonian- Bulgarian border and is at 21km distance from Berovo.

According to the census in 2002, the population of the municipality was 13.941. From 1921 to 1991 the number of residents was continuously increasing, and then, it started to fall with an annual rate of 0.4%. In comparison with the previous census, in 1994, the number of citizens decreased for 238 persons, i.e. for 1.7%. In the town of Berovo only, in the period between the two censuses, the number of residents increased for 250 persons (3.6%) due to the migration village to city (town). In all other populated places the number of residents decreased, and the largest decrease, of 22.5%, was in the village of Vladimirovo. With 23.4 people per square kilometre, the municipality is among the municipalities with low population density in the Republic of Macedonia. 50.4% of the residents are male, and 49.6% are female. With reference to the ethnic structure of the population, 13.335 (95.65%) declared themselves as Macedonians, 459 (3.29%) as Roma, 91 (0.65%) as Turks etc. Half of the population lives in urban areas, while the other half in rural areas. The average age is 36.3 years. The age structure indicates aging of the population in the municipality. According to the census in 2022, 3553 (23.6%) residents were at the age of 0 to 19, 8405 (55.2%) were at the age of 20 to 65, and 1978 (19.2%) were at the age of over 65.

The municipality is rich in natural resources. The forests and the lakes are of particular natural importance. The oak and the beech tree predominate in the forests. The arable land is 68.226 ha, of which 57% are agricultural land, and 43% are forests. 67% of the agricultural lands are used, of which, 21% are gardens and fields, 33% are pastures, 2.2% are orchards, and 9.5% are meadows.

Of great importance for the development of the municipality are the mineral resources and the ores. There is a functional coalmine in the municipality. The potential of the municipality for silica crystals is still not explored. The situation with the kaolinite clay suitable for the production of ceramics and fireproof products is alike. Furthermore, quartz used for production of fireproof materials, coal, iron and other ore forms, which are partially active, and in greater part are only potentially attractive resources for further exploration and exploitation. The development potentials are mainly seen in the development of tourism, and in developing light and environmentally friendly food industry, as well as exploitation of the forest resources.

## 2. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES

**Education:** There are two central schools for primary education in the municipality of Berovo; in the town Berovo and in the village of Rusinovo. The primary school in Berovo has regional schools (branches) in seven villages. There is one secondary school in Berovo, and it provides gymnasium and vocational education and in addition, it has a regional branch in Pehcevo. There are no special schools. The number of students in the primary and secondary education is decreasing.

**Health:** Primary health care is provided in the Health care centre in the town of Berovo, and in eight private General Practitioners offices. There are five private dental surgeries, following the reforms for privatisation of the dental services. At the territory of the municipality of Berovo there are three private pharmacies. There is no private gynaecologist office. Currently, there is an office point of a specialist doctor from another municipality. In the larger villages (Rusinovo and Dvoriste) there are health organisations which provide primary health care. With a decision, these areas are defined as rural areas and there are 2 GPs. There is an ambulance, however it does not own a special ambulance vehicle. It has an ordinary vehicle in good condition. In the municipality of Berovo, there is a special prosthetic dentistry, specialist laboratory, specialist ophthalmology, internal medicine and X-ray. At primary health level, there is a dispensary for school medicine and preventive dentistry. There is no polyclinic neither specialist clinic, and when needed, the residents of this municipality travel to Kocani, Stip or Skopje.

**Social institutions:** The central, municipal public kindergarten '23 Avgust' is responsible for upbringing and education of preschool children. 180 children go to the kindergarten in Berovo, and together with its clones<sup>11</sup> located in the three largest villages, the total of 248 children go to kindergarten. There is no private kindergarten. In the municipality of Berovo, there is no nursing home, neither public nor private.

**Cultural institutions:** The Cultural Home 'Dimitar Berovski' is the only institution for the cultural life in the municipality of Berovo. Within the Cultural Home, there is a library, museum and a cinema, which is not functioning in the last period.

**Sports:** In the municipality of Berovo there are two gyms, three sports fields in the town Berovo, and seven in all the villages in the municipality.

**Media:** In the municipality of Berovo there is one private local radio station, one private local TV station which broadcasts entertaining programs, and an online newspaper.

**Citizens' organisations:** In the municipality of Berovo there are 60-80 registered citizens' associations, however only 10 are active.

**Economy:** At the territory of the municipality of Berovo, the textile industry is the most developed economic sector. This sector employs the majority of the workforce. There are 5-6 companies registered in this sector, and they employ 450-

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<sup>11</sup> In the Macedonian preschool system, 'clones' are regional branches of a central kindergarten

500 persons. There used to be 4-5 companies that employed over 1200 persons, however only two have completed the process of privatisation successfully, while the others became insolvent or were liquidated

### 3. DOMINANT PROBLEMS IN THE MUNICIPALITY

**Social problems:** The prevailing problems in the municipality are poverty and unemployment. The employment rate is 41.5%, and the majority of the population works in the industry (43.1%); the services sector is also important and employs 36.7% of the total number of employed persons; then the agriculture, as a third sector which employs 20% of the employed workforce. The majority of employed persons come from the town, bearing in mind the location of the industrial capacities and the public institutions. The unemployment rate at the territory of the municipality of Berovo is 31.9%. From 2681 unemployed persons, 1114 (41.6%) are women. The unemployment rate among the young population at the age of 15 to 24 is 67.3%. The east region of the country, to which this municipality belongs, has the lowest unemployment rate among the young population compared to the rest of the regions in the Republic of Macedonia.

Another characteristic of the unemployment is the long-term unemployment. From the overall figure of unemployed persons, 31.5% wait for their employment for 8 or over 8 years. The majority of the unemployed are unqualified workforce (41.4%); 26.9% have completed secondary education, while the lowest proportion, 9.7%, have completed post-secondary or higher education. The analysis of the unemployment rate according to age groups indicates relatively equal distribution; namely, among persons of 20-29 years of age 575 (21.4%) are unemployed; among persons of 30-39 years of age 644 (24.0%) are unemployed; among persons of 40-49 years of age 617 (23.0%) are unemployed, among persons between 50-59 years of age 599 (22.3%) are unemployed. From the persons of over 60 years of age, 193 are unemployed, i.e. 7.2% of the overall figure of the unemployed. The gray economy is not widely present in the municipality of Berovo.

Nine persons work in the Employment Centre in Berovo, an institution responsible to implement measures for reducing unemployment. Five of them have completed higher education: there is a lawyer, an economist, a psychologist, sociologist and one person with technical education. The Centre carries out activities and programs for self-employment, programs to support and strengthen existing businesses, subsidised employment (for single parents, couples with 3 and more than 3 children, persons who were made redundant or when companies were liquidated, for persons over 55 years of age, or young people below the age of 27).

The Employment Centre, in 2009, carried out training programs on how to start a business and on preparation of a business plan, training for economic strengthening of women –victims of domestic violence, as well as, it carried out a survey for the skills and knowledge required at the labour market in the municipality of Berovo. In 2010, no beneficiaries of social financial assistance were contracted to carry out community works, although in the previous year this

activity was carried out.

According to the assessment of the local Employment Centre, the most endangered category, from employment perspective, are the persons that have completed high/higher education. They are willing to work at positions for which lower educational level is required, and at low paid job positions. With regards to the beneficiaries of social protection services, the possibilities to stimulate their employment by introducing legal measures and direct support should be taken into consideration (eg. by paying their social insurance for longer period of time).

The demand for workforce is low and cannot contribute to significant decrease of the unemployment. In general, all the profiles and occupations are present for which there has been an interest by the employers in the municipality. However, the age structure is unfavourable (due to the high proportion of older and middle age workforce), as well as the gender structure (the number of unemployed male persons is higher than the female, while the demand for female workforce is higher).

Other social problems are present to a smaller extent, such as alcoholism and family violence. Recently, the problem of drug abuse has appeared among the population of under 18.

The Roma ethnic community is socially most endangered group. Recently, the state with the Roma population has worsened, and the problem of ghettoising and functioning in groups is widely present. The most endangered category is the population living in poverty, and according to age, most endangered population is the population older than 50.

**Infrastructural problems:** The state of the infrastructure in the municipality of Berovo is satisfactory. The coverage of the water supply system is 95% of the territory of the municipality (with partially replaced pipes), while the rest of the population uses wells and hydrophores. There is a new drinking water purification station and wastewater purification station; a Swiss donation of 11 million EUR. There is a sewerage system in the towns and in the villages. The road connection is good, with asphalt roads to each village or a place. However, the quality of the asphalt has worsened, and in the villages, there are still dirt roads.

**Environmental problems:** In the municipality of Berovo, no significant environmental problems are reported. Most important environmental problems are the illegal refuse dump and problems related to fires.

#### 4. SOCIAL PROTECTION IN THE MUNICIPALITY

**Municipal administration:** There is no separate unit on social protection within the municipal administration, thus the competencies and the activities in this area are carried out by the Unit for Local Development, International Cooperation and Public Affairs. Out of the overall figure of municipal employees, 29 have a status of civil servants. There is no social worker employed by the municipality. The municipality has not prepared an action plan, or a strategy for local development. The Council of the municipality of Berovo has adopted Guidelines for Housing

of Homeless Persons, and allocated finances from the municipal budget for this group of citizens. The cooperation with the citizens is mainly realised through forums, however, so far, there were no citizens' initiatives, assembly of citizens, neither a local referendum. The municipality allocates single financial assistance as protection to socially endangered persons, for which the municipal council and the mayor are responsible. The budget item for allocating single financial assistance is 300.000 denars per annum, and the amount allocated per application cannot exceed 50.000 denars.

The social services network of the municipality consists of a social work centre, a daily centre for special needs persons, a small group home and a community kitchen.

**Social Work Centre:** The Social Work Centre provides services to two municipalities, Berovo and Pehcevo. The number of employed persons by the Centre is 29, of which: seven are social workers, three are pedagogues, there are two psychologists, two lawyers, two speech pathologists, one sociologist, one teacher, two economists, three nurses and support staff. The spatial and the technical facilities of the centre are not satisfactory. The centre owns two vehicles in bad shape. The centre in Berovo has seven offices and 17 computers.

The Social Work Centre has established cooperation with the NGO sector, most of all, in the realisation of a project for housing families; further on, it cooperates with the municipality about the functioning of the service 'community kitchen' and when contracts are offered to beneficiaries of social financial assistance to carry out community works. Furthermore, it cooperates with the schools when it works with children exposed to risks, as well as, with health institutions when there is a need for it. It was raised, within the focus groups, that the process of contracting beneficiaries of social financial assistance to carry out community works is selective: *'When money are paid for the job, then politically affiliated persons are contracted; when the job needs to be done for free, then we (Roma) are hired'*.

The greatest problems for the functioning of the Social Work Centre are the vehicles, the lack of gas and the problems with team coordination. The most difficult working areas are: relationship parents- children, family violence and child sexual abuse.

**Number and structure of beneficiaries of social protection measures and services:** The analysis of the structure of beneficiaries of social protection, at the territory of the municipality of Berovo, reveals that 182 households are beneficiaries of social financial assistance, 25 families use permanent financial assistance, 344 persons are beneficiaries of care by third persons. This year, approximately 20 persons are beneficiaries of single financial assistance. The right to social financial assistance is usually denied to an applicant due to his/her ownership of agricultural land. The functional Daily Centre for Special Needs Children is a form of extra-institutional protection at the territory of the municipality of Berovo, financed fully by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy. The municipality provides the space for the Centre, while the Centre itself is managed by the NGO 'Poraka'. The first group centre opened in Berovo and it accommodates five children with no parents

or parental care. Three educators work with these children. In Berovo, there is a functional 'community kitchen' jointly run by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, the municipality and the Social Work Centre. There are 14 persons for which the institutions provide care; 2 are in the Home for Children with no Parents '11 Oktomvri' in Skopje, 9 are accommodated in the SOS Village Skopje, two in Banja BANSKO and one in Demir Kapija. There are no facilities to accommodate families, neither an old people's home in the network of public services for social protection.

## 5. COOPERATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY WITH LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS

The municipality has established good cooperation with ZELS<sup>12</sup>, however the cooperation does not touch upon social protection issues. In the last period, the intensity of the cooperation is decreasing, and it becomes narrowed down only to formal, protocol-like cooperation.

The cooperation of the municipality with the Employment Service Agency was realised through the project for preparation of Local Action Plan for Employment in Berovo and Pehcevo 2009-2011, as well as when persons for carrying out community works were contracted.

The municipality cooperates with citizens' associations mostly through consultations i.e. obligatory consultation when the budget for the next year is planned as well as by co-financing in certain NGO projects.

The cooperation with the private sector is insufficient, though it was noted that the social responsibility of the private companies is on the rise. Some of the companies donated finances for the opening of the Daily Centre for persons with special needs.

The cooperation at central and local level is realised through joint projects as the 'community kitchen' and the functioning of the Daily Centre.

There is a local citizens' association created which functions on voluntary bases, and all the relevant stakeholders at local level, as well as representatives from the Christian and Islamic denominations take part in it in order to prevent social problems.

## 6. HOUSEHOLD SURVEY RESULTS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BEROVO

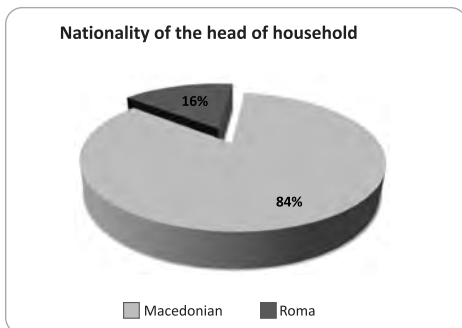
### 6.1. General Information about the Surveyed Households

The overall number of households surveyed in the municipality of Berovo was 100; of which 50 were in urban areas and 50 in rural areas. The structure of the surveyed households indicates that they are non-agricultural (58%) in most part; then agricultural households (25%) and mixed households (17%). The distribution of the households according to ethnicity reveals that 84 declared as Macedonian, and 16 as Roma. The household head is male in 80 households, and in 20 households, the head is female. In most of the one-member households the head of the household is female (62.5%). In fewer cases, when there are two

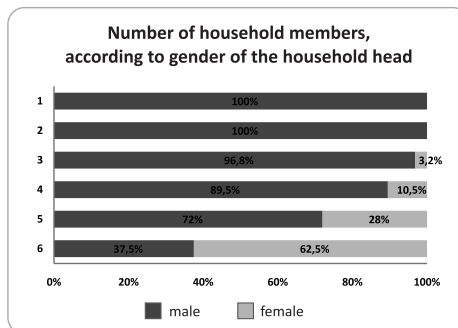
<sup>12</sup> Association of Units of Local-Self government in the Republic of Macedonia

household members, the head of the household is female (28%). When there are three-members households, the head is female only in 10.5% of the cases.

Graph 1

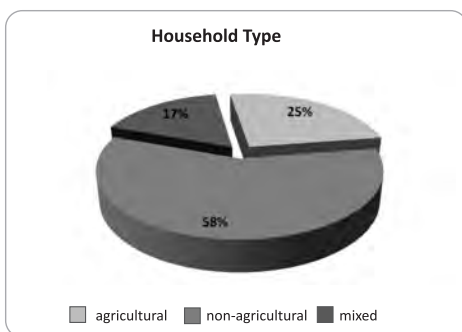


Graph 2

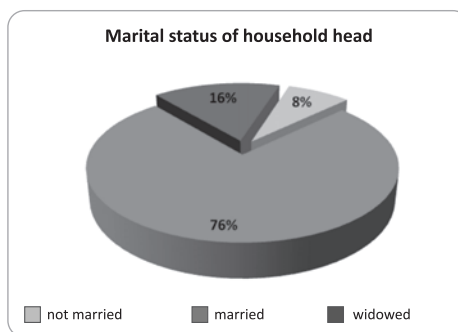


Almost in all of the households with several members, the head of the household is male. In most cases, the household heads are married (76%), 8% are not married, and 16% are widowed. Although 99% of the population surveyed are literate, a great proportion (12%) have not completed their primary education; 34% have completed primary education; 39% have completed secondary education, and 14% have completed post-secondary or higher education. In most of the households, the head is a pensioner (25%), followed by a worker (23%), farmer (21%), and clerk (6%). It is worth noting that 12% of the respondents refused to provide an answer to the question. 42 persons declared that they are beneficiaries of social financial assistance, and in all of these 42 households, there is no person employed. According to household type, there is a relative, balanced distribution, thus, of the agricultural households 21% are social protection beneficiaries, and among the non-agricultural households the percentage is 19%.

Graph 3



Graph 4



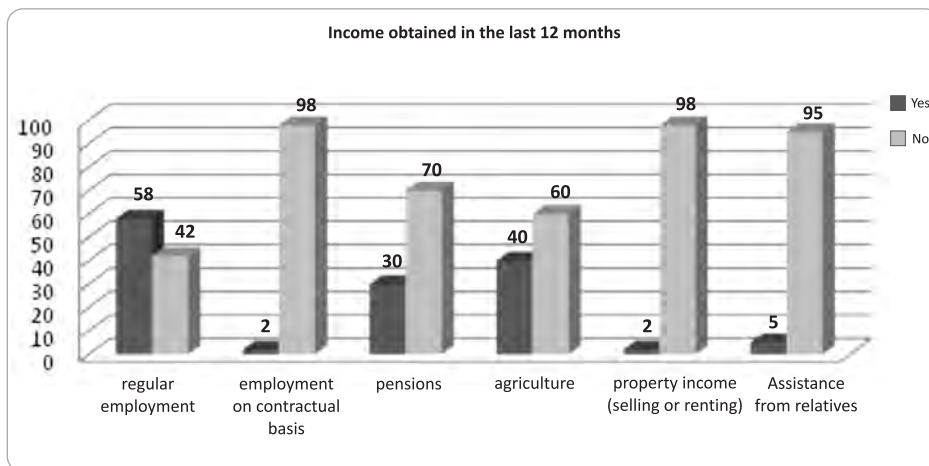
## 6.2. Employment

In 59% of all the surveyed households, there is no person employed. Of them, 76.3% are Macedonian households, while 23.7% are Roma households. The unemployment rate among the Roma ethnic group is worrying; 87.5% stated that there is no person employed in their household. In 25 households, there is one person employed, while in 16 households there are two persons employed, of which the majority are of Macedonian ethnicity.

## 6.3. Living Standard

The analysis indicates that 58 households have obtained no earnings through employment for the past 12 months. The same tendency appears in the Roma families, where 87.5% live without a personal income. 30% of the respondents stated that the household had incomes from pensions, and 40% received incomes on the bases of performed agricultural works. Only 2% responded that they received income from property (from renting or selling a property). Only 5 of the respondents answered that they had received financial assistance by a close relative of the family. Higher solidarity rate is registered among the Roma population, where 18.8% had received such assistance. The income received on any other basis is insignificant for the overall household budget.

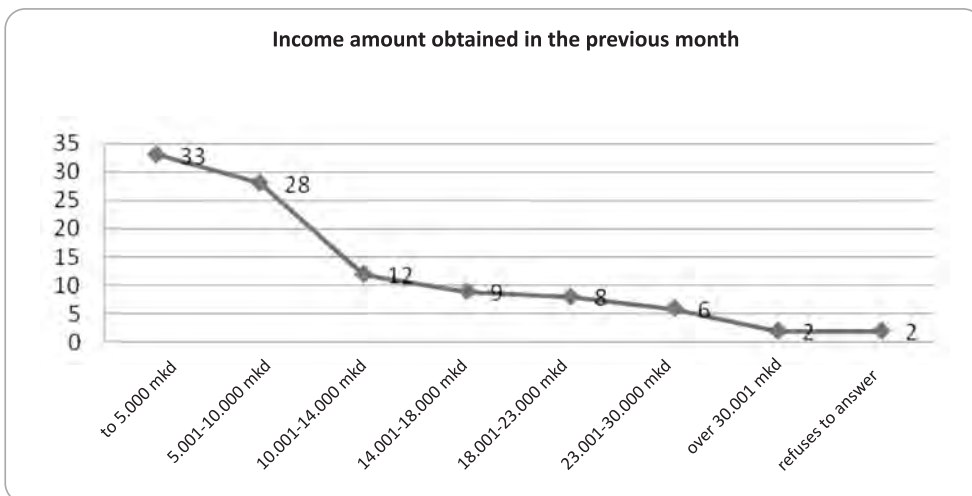
Graph 5



The majority of the households i.e. 33%, in the last month, received income up to 5000 MKD<sup>13</sup>, of which 78.8% are households beneficiaries of social financial assistance, and 21.2% are not. This amount, of 5000 MKD, is most regular income among the beneficiaries of social financial assistance; namely, out of 42 beneficiaries of social protection, 26 stated that in the previous month they had received an income up to 5.000 MKD. 28% of the surveyed households obtained monthly income of 5001 to 10.000 MKD, and the majority of this group are not beneficiaries of any kind of social financial assistance (71.4%). Only 8% of the surveyed participants obtained income of over 23.000 MKD.

<sup>13</sup> MKD- denars

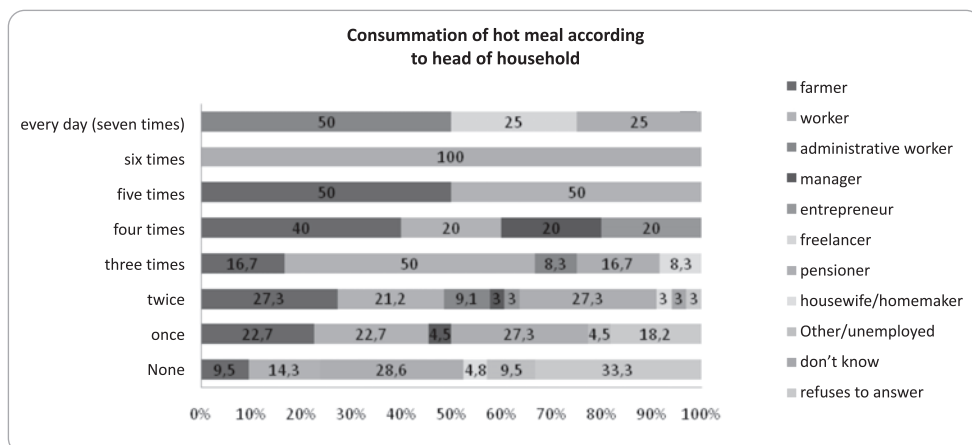
Graph 6



It is important to note that 54.8% of the beneficiaries of social financial assistance have received income from agricultural works. On the other hand, one third of the surveyed participants, not users of social financial assistance, have not obtained any income based on agricultural works.

With regards to the question for the frequency of consuming warm meal containing meat, most dominant are the households where hot meals with meat are prepared twice a week (33%), then the households where warm meal with meat is prepared once a week (22%), and in 11% of the households this type of meal is prepared more than twice per week. It is important to mention that the number of households where a warm meal containing meat is not prepared, at least, once in a week is quite high (21%). 62.5% of the surveyed Roma families fall in this category. Among the beneficiaries of social financial assistance, 33% responded that they consume warm meal with meat less than once a week; 26.2% consume such meal twice per week; while 21.4% prepare such meal once a week. In 19% of the cases, a meal with meat is prepared more than twice a week. The highest proportion of the households not consuming warm meal with meat, at least once a week, are the pensioners households (28.6%); then the workers households (14.3%), and the agricultural households (9.5%). In the households where the head is an administrative worker, in most cases, warm meal with meat is prepared twice a week (50%); while in 33% such meal is consumed seven times a week.

Graph 7

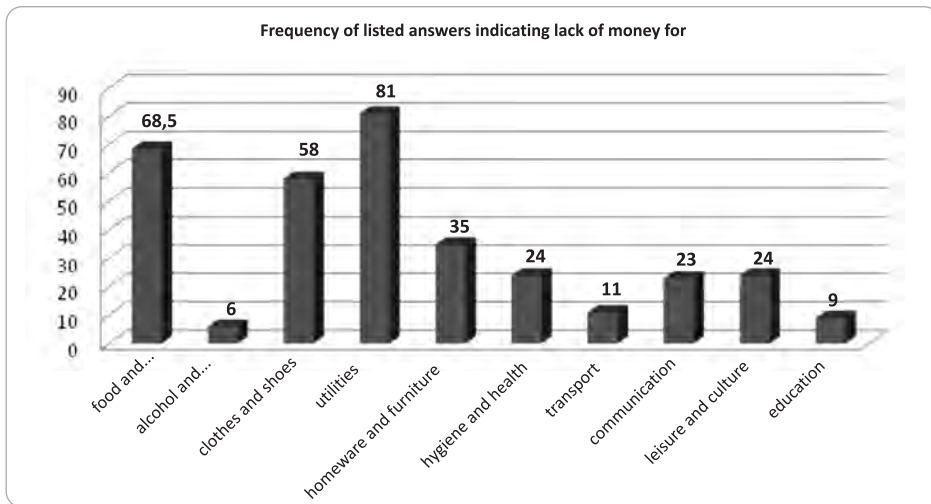


The distribution of the answers according to gender of the household head indicates similar tendency; in the majority of households where the household head is male, warm meal is consumed twice a week (35.0%), while where the household head is female, warm meal is consumed twice a week (25%). We have recorded that high percentage of the households where the head is female (25%) do not consume warm meal with meat even once in the week.

The largest number of the respondents (81) answered that they lack money to cover utilities (housing, electricity, water, gas supply); 68 of the persons responded that they lack money for food and non-alcoholic beverages; and 58 referred to lack of money for clothes and shoes. To a smaller extent, the respondents expressed lack of money for homeware and furniture (35); for communication (23); and (24) responded that they have insufficient finances to satisfy their hygienic and health needs, as well as their cultural and recreational needs.

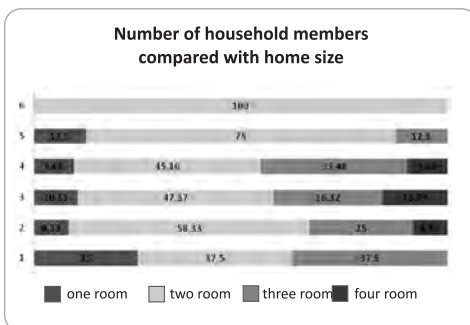
Only nine persons responded that they lack money for education. The analysis of the responses from the beneficiaries of social financial assistance indicates similar trend. Namely, 90.5% pointed out that they lack finances to cover the utilities, 83.3% lack money for food and non-alcoholic beverages, and only 4.8% indicated lack of money for tobacco and alcohol. Equal number of surveyed Roma (15) responded that they lack money for food and utilities. Compared to them, among the surveyed Macedonians, the number of those lacking money for utilities is higher (66) than those who lack money for food and beverages (53).

Graph 8

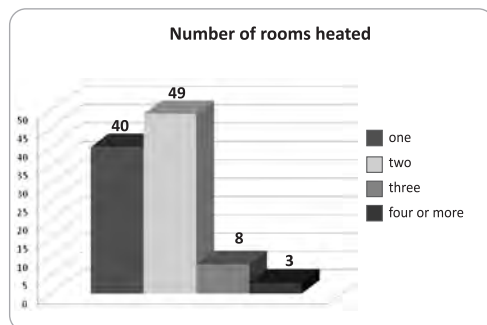


The majority of the respondents live in a two-room apartment (50%); a smaller proportion live in a three-room apartment (29%), and only 8% live in a four-room apartment. The analysis of the housing conditions, in relation to the number of household members indicates that, in most part, the households with one member live in two-room or three-room apartments. The fact that 12.5% of the five-members households live in one-room apartments, and 100% of the households with six members live in two-room apartments is worrying.

Graph 9



Graph10

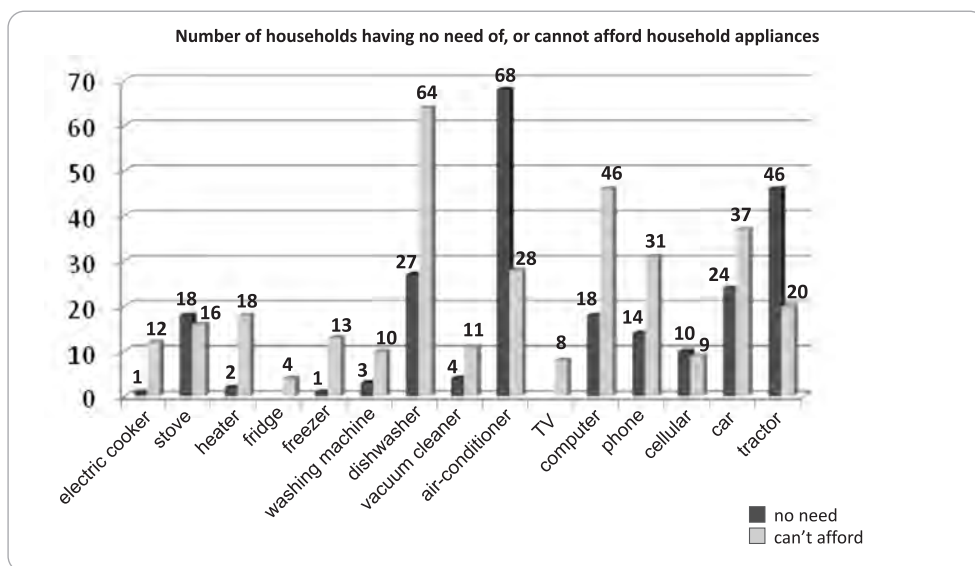


With regards to heating, high percentage of the households use solid fuel stoves - wood (92); small number heat the home with an individual heating system (3), electric stoves (3) and liquid fuels (2). The data showing how many rooms are heated in the winter reveal low living standard.

Namely, the largest proportion of the households (49%) heat up only one rooms in the home, 40% heat up to two rooms, while only 11% heat three or more rooms.

Most of the households (98%) are connected to the sewerage system. The same tendency has been registered among the beneficiaries of social financial assistance, i.e. two households only use septic tanks. 76 households have a toilet and a bath in the home. 37 households have their toilets outside, in the garden, and 20 households have toilet in the apartment. The results show that most of the households are connected to the water supply system, i.e. 94 households have tap water in the home.

Graph 11

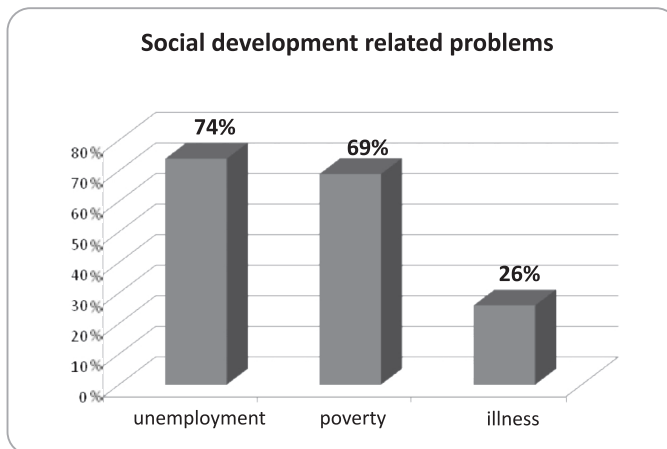


It is evident that 18 households have no boiler, of which, 6 are beneficiaries of social financial assistance. Some of the surveyed households lack basic household appliances, as an electric cooker (13), fridge (4) and a freezer (13). Half of the households have no computers, of which 46 cannot afford it, while 18 have no need for it. A large proportion of the respondents (42.6%) cannot afford a computer. 61 of the households do not own a car; 37 cannot afford it; while 66 households have no tractor, of which 20 cannot afford it.

#### 6.4. Social problems and Social Protection

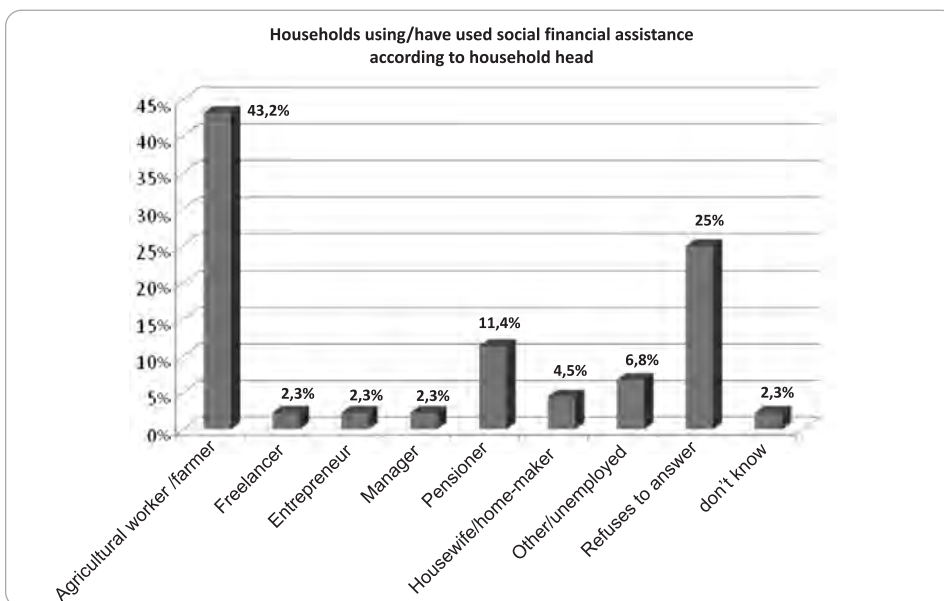
With regards to social development, unemployment (74%) and poverty (69%) are the most aggravating problems. In 26% of the cases, a relevant problem is an illness of a family member; and in one case only, invalidity is the most serious problem. Social problems related to social deviations and problems from the third group, related to environment issues, are not indicated as significant problems by the respondents.

Graph 12



The surveyed households reveal that, so far, they have not used any form of extra-institutional or institutional social protection. With regards to financial assistance as social protection, a most frequent form of assistance is the social financial assistance i.e. 44 families state that have been in the past, or are at the moment beneficiaries of social financial assistance. In one case only, the respondent is a beneficiary of permanent financial assistance. Among the beneficiaries of social financial assistance, 68.2% are Macedonians, while 31.8% are Roma.

Graph 13

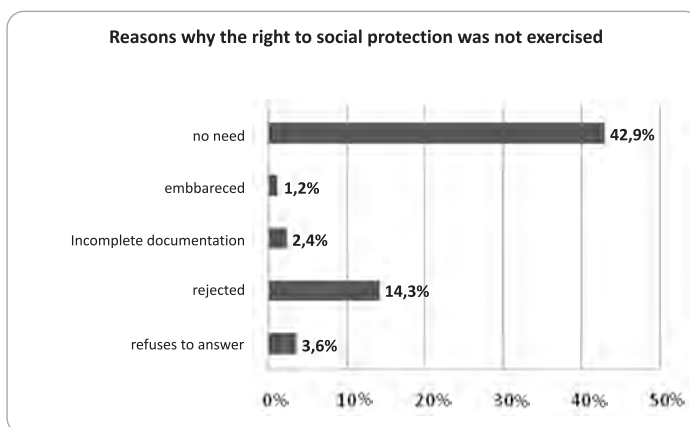


Prevailing form of child protection is the child’s allowance, i.e. 34 respondents stated that they used child’s allowance, and one respondent only stated that he/she used special child allowance. The number of beneficiaries of child allowances is insignificantly higher among the Macedonian population. The right to child allowance is used by five households, of which, four are Macedonian and one is Roma household.

The respondents stated that, by that time, they had not received any kind of assistance by NGOs, by the municipality, by religious and humanitarian organisations or other legal entities.

The analysis on the reasons for not using the right to financial assistance as social protection, leads to the need for separate analysis of the Macedonian and the Roma ethnic communities. This is due to the fact that the majority of the Roma households (87.5%) exercise the right to financial assistance. Namely, only two Roma households involved in the research indicated that they are not beneficiaries of this right ( in one case only, they were rejected by the authorities, and in the other, said that they did not need financial assistance). Therefore, the analysis on the state of the households of the Macedonian ethnic community becomes relevant, as 42.9% of the respondents stated that they had no need to exercise the right to financial assistance, and 14.3% stated that their application was refused by the authorities. Small number of the respondents stated that they had not used the right because they were uninformed (3.6%), another reason was the lack of necessary documents ( 2.4%) and the feeling of shame from the community (1.2).

Graph 14



With regards to the right to child protection, the analysis shows different situation. The members from the Roma community, to a great extent, were denied this right by the authorities (43.8%), while 25% have not exercised this right due to being uninformed. The Macedonian ethnic community, to a great degree, indicates no need for exercising this right (29.8%), high degree of rejection by the authorities (21.4%), being uninformed (2.4%), and a feeling of shame (1.2%).

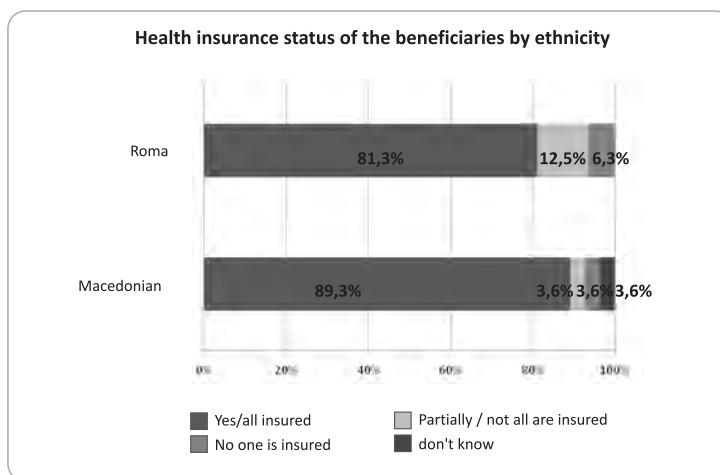
Regarding the forms of institutional and extra-institutional protection, the majority of the respondents did not need it (49%); 26% were rejected; 16.0%

were uninformed; 7.0% had incomplete documents, and 2% were ashamed from the community. One should highlight the high rate of rejection of the applications (43.8%) to use the right to extra-institutional or institutional support, especially among the Roma population.

### 6.5. Health and Nutrition

In most cases (88%), the respondents stated that all of their family members had health insurance, although this percentage was insignificantly lower among the Roma population (81.3%). The fact that in five households (three Macedonian, and two Roma) no family member has health insurance is worrying. Furthermore, in four households (three Macedonian and one Roma), all beneficiaries of social financial assistance, none of the household members is insured. The analysis of the data indicates that all of them are members of agricultural or workers' families.

Graph 15

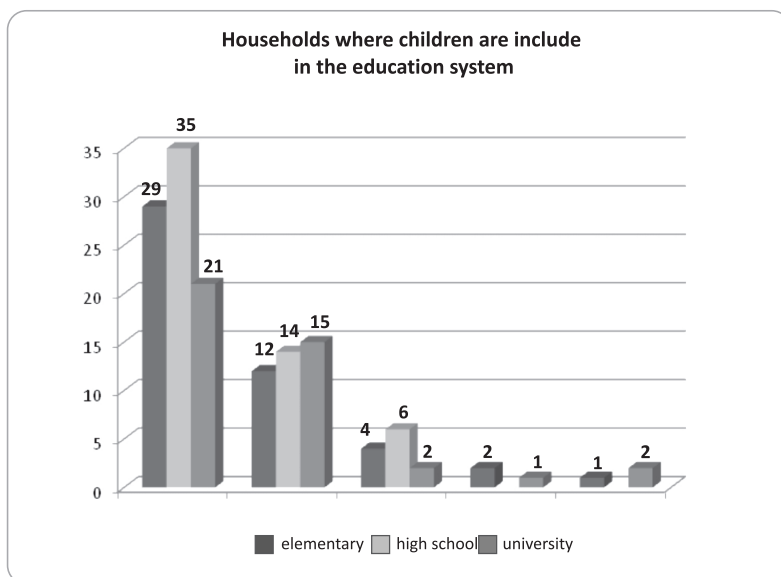


The majority of the households (85%), when a member is ill, use public health services (services of the public health organisations and buy drugs covered by the Health Insurance Fund). A small proportion of the respondents (5%), household members where the head is a worker (3%) and clerk (2%), buy drugs not covered by the Health Insurance Fund. Only 3% of the households use private health services, of which 2% are agricultural households. Notably, all of the households using private medical services are at the same time beneficiaries of social financial assistance. It is also important to mention that 4% of the respondents do not visit GP and use alternative medicine. The distribution of answers by ethnicity indicates that 12.5% of the Roma, compared to 2.4% Macedonians, use alternative medicine. Of the persons not visiting GP, but treating illnesses at home, 50% are beneficiaries of social financial assistance. The majority of the respondents (66%) live within a distance of 15 minutes' walk from the closest health organisation; 30% of the respondents are distanced 15-30 minutes' walk; while in one case only, a Macedonian household, the distance from the closest health office is over 30 minutes' walk.

## 6.6. Education

From the overall number of surveyed households, in 42 there are children at the age of six or older, i.e. children involved in the process of education. Of them, 34 households are of Macedonian ethnicity, while 8 are of Roma ethnicity. Among the households of Macedonian ethnicity, 11 have a child that has completed primary education; seven households have two children attending primary school; nine households have one child attending secondary school; two households have two children in secondary school; while ten households have one child at the university and four households have two children involved in the process of higher education.

Graph 16



Among the households of Roma ethnicity, three households have one child attending primary school, four households have two children attending secondary school and one household has three children attending secondary school. Two households have one child in secondary education, and only one Roma household has two children at the university. In none of the surveyed households there was a child at a school age and not involved in the process of education. Of the overall number of households having children at a school age, 22 are beneficiaries of social financial assistance. Of them 17 have children attending primary school, six have children in secondary school, while five families have children at the university. The distribution of responses according to the profession of the household head indicates that 51.7% of the agricultural families have children involved in the process of education; 52.2% from the workers households; 66.7% of the households where the head is clerk or a manager have children in the education process.

In most of the cases, the households with children in primary education live within 1km of a primary school (73.1%), while, to a smaller extent, there are households (11.5%) within 1-2 km distance from a school, or households (11.5%)

living within a distance of 2-3 km from a school. In one case only, an agricultural household is distanced 4km from the school. The majority of the households, beneficiaries of social financial assistance, live in a vicinity of a school (70.6%), 17.6% are within a distance of 1-2 km from a school, and in two cases, the distance between households and the schools is over 2km and 4 km.

The analysis indicates that all of the children in primary and secondary education attend classes regularly.

The households with children in primary or secondary education have not used any kind of education assistance, except free transport, of which five households having children in primary education, and three having children attending secondary school. The distribution of the answers shows that three households, beneficiaries of social financial assistance used free transportation, of which, two to a primary school, and in one case, to a secondary school. Regarding households members at university studies, two of them receive scholarships and three receive loans. Neither of the households, beneficiaries of social financial assistance have received any scholarship, and in one household only there is a member who uses loan for studies at higher education. All the households using such types of education assistance are of Macedonian ethnicity.

### **6.7. Sports, Leisure, Culture**

The respondents from the municipality of Berovo pointed out that in most of the populated places in the municipality, there are coffee bars, bars and markets. Half of the respondents stated that in their populated place there is a cinema, a library, sports fields, playgrounds, restaurant, internet coffee, a betting office. The majority of the households (72) state that none of their members uses internet. 25% of the internet users have used personal computer, and in one case only the person used internet at an internet coffee.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 7.1. Conclusions

Area	Focus area	State/Problems
<b>1. Dominant activities</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Agriculture</li> <li>▶ Animal husbandry</li> <li>▶ Textile industry</li> <li>▶ Tourism</li> </ul>
<b>2. Institutional capacities</b>	<i>Education:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 2 primary schools</li> <li>▶ 7 regional schools</li> <li>▶ One secondary school (gymnasium and vocational school)</li> </ul>
	<i>Health:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Health organisation</li> <li>▶ 8 GPs (General Practitioners offices)</li> <li>▶ 5 dental surgeries</li> <li>▶ No gynaecologist office</li> <li>▶ Outpatient clinic</li> <li>▶ Three pharmacies</li> </ul>
	<i>Social issues:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Social work centre</li> <li>▶ Daily centre for special needs persons</li> <li>▶ One kindergarten with three clones* in three villages</li> <li>▶ No nursing home</li> <li>▶ One 'community kitchen'</li> <li>▶ Small group home</li> </ul>
	<i>Culture: Sports/ leisure:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Cultural house</li> <li>▶ No functional cinema</li> <li>▶ Library</li> <li>▶ Museum</li> <li>▶ No theatre</li> <li>▶ local TV station, radio and electronic newspaper</li> <li>▶ Two gyms and ten sports terrains</li> </ul>
	<i>Economic entities:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ The textile industry, employer to most of the residents in the municipality. 5-6 companies are registered in this sector, employing 450-500 persons.</li> </ul>

<b>3. Social problems</b>	<i>Socially vulnerable groups:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Dominant problems: poverty and unemployment,</li> <li>▶ Unemployment rate 31,9 %</li> <li>▶ Unemployment among population at the age of 15 to 24 is 67,3%</li> <li>▶ Most of the unemployed are unqualified workforce (41,4%),</li> <li>▶ Long-term unemployment, i.e. of the total number of unemployed persons 31,5% are unemployed for eight and over eight years,</li> <li>▶ The unemployment rate according to age intervals indicates relatively equal distribution,</li> <li>▶ Alcoholism and family violence,</li> <li>▶ Drug use by minors.</li> <li>▶ Poor persons,</li> <li>▶ Elderly persons,</li> <li>▶ Roma</li> </ul>
<b>4. Infrastructural problems</b>	<i>Roads:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Asphalt roads to all populated places.</li> <li>▶ Bad quality of the asphalt,</li> <li>▶ Dirt roads in the villages,</li> </ul>
	<i>Water supply:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Water supply system covering 95% of the municipality,</li> <li>▶ A new drinking water purification station and purification station for waste water on the River Bregalnica built.</li> </ul>
	<i>Sewerage system:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Sewerage system in the town and in some of the villages,</li> <li>▶ Some of the populated places are not served by the main purification station.</li> </ul>
<b>6. Environmental problems</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Problem with illegal refuse dump,</li> <li>▶ Problems related to fires</li> </ul>
<b>7. Inter-institutional cooperation in the municipality</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ The cooperation of the municipality with all the relevant stakeholders is assessed as good, except with the private sector, which is underdeveloped</li> </ul>

\* Clone kindergarten - regional branches of a central kindergarten

## 8. Social protection

*By the municipality:*

- ▶ No separate unit on social protection; the competencies fall under the Unit for Local Development, International Cooperation and Public Affairs,
- ▶ No social worker employed,
- ▶ No action plan or strategy for social development prepared,
- ▶ Local Employment Action Plan for Berovo and Pehcevo 2009-2011 was prepared,
- ▶ Manual for dealing with homeless persons was prepared,
- ▶ The maximum amount of the one-off financial assistance is 50.000 denars, and the budget item is 300.000 denars,

*By SWC:*

- ▶ Beneficiaries of SFA: 182 households,
- ▶ Beneficiaries of PFA: 25 households,
- ▶ Beneficiaries of CACAP– Compensation for Assistance and Care from Another Person - 344 persons,
- ▶ Beneficiaries of OTA: 20 persons,
- ▶ Extra-institutional protection: 15 beneficiaries in the daily centre for special needs persons, 5 beneficiaries in the small group home, a community kitchen in Berovo,
- ▶ Institutional protection: 14 beneficiaries (2 - 11 Oktomvri\* ; 9 - COC village; 2 - Spa Bansko ; 1 – Demir Kapija\*\* )

## 7.2. Recommendations

Area	Focus area	Recommendations to overcome problems and improve the conditions
1. Dominant activities		▶ The development potentials are mainly seen in the development of tourism, in the development of small, light and environment-friendly food industry, and planned used of forest resources. There are possibilities for using the natural resources found in the municipality (kaolinite clay, quartz, coal, iron and other ore forms)
	<i>Education:</i>	▶ To improve the conditions of the school buildings in order to improve the teaching process. ▶ Constructing energy-efficient buildings in the public sector.
2. Institutional capacities	<i>Health:</i>	▶ Improving the conditions for functioning of the ambulance, ▶ Opening ambulances in all the villages,

\* Name of home for children without parents

\*\* Institution for persons with mental disorders

	<i>Social issues:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To improve the network of social institutions in the municipality,</li> <li>▶ To improve the technical resources for better functioning of the Social Work Centre,</li> <li>▶ To assess needs for opening daily centres for different categories of users</li> <li>▶ To open centres and nursing homes</li> </ul>
	<i>Culture/ Sport/ Leisure:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To make the cinema functional,</li> <li>▶ To promote the development of the civil sector</li> <li>▶ Building a theatre,</li> <li>▶ Promote the development of media in the municipality</li> </ul>
	<i>Economic entities:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To stimulate growth of large economic capacities that would be able to absorb large proportion of the workforce.</li> </ul>
<b>3. Social problems</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To promote programs for employment of social protection beneficiaries,</li> <li>▶ To assess the possibilities for stimulating employment of social protection beneficiaries through legal measures for creating favourable conditions and direct support (paying insurance and pension contributions for longer period of time),</li> <li>▶ To improve the targeting of active employment measures for long-term unemployed and effectiveness of the employment of social protection beneficiaries,</li> <li>▶ To carry out prevention programs to deter family violence and substance use,</li> <li>▶ To improve counselling and professional work with the households affected by these problems</li> </ul>
	<i>Socially vulnerable groups:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To improve the social services network for the elderly: to asses possibilities for offering social services at home and in daily centres,</li> <li>▶ To assess the possibility for developing the form of 'foster' families,</li> <li>▶ To assess the possibility for offering services at home</li> </ul>
<b>5. Infrastructural problems</b>	<i>Roads:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To improve the local road infrastructure (asphalting of local roads)</li> </ul>
	<i>Water supply:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ /</li> </ul>
	<i>Sewerage system:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To build sewerage system in all the populated places,</li> <li>▶ To build collection waste water system and purification stations for all populated places not covered by the main purification station.</li> </ul>
<b>6. Environmental problems</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To find solution for organised disposal of solid waste in order to solve the problem with illegal waste dumps</li> </ul>

## 7. Inter-institutional cooperation in the municipality

- ▶ Improving the cooperation with the municipality of Berovo and the neighbouring municipalities,
- ▶ Improving the cooperation between the municipality, SWC and the Employment Centre through intensive and more efficient implementation of community works, active employment measures for social beneficiaries, membership in joint bodies, education and training for the possible forms of cooperation in the area of social protection, as well as implementation of joint projects.
- ▶ Improving the cooperation of the municipality with the private sector and the religious organisations through their partnership involvement in realisation of social protection programs.

## 8. Social protection

*By the municipality:*

- ▶ Hiring a social worker in the municipality,
- ▶ Training of the employees in the Unit for various opportunities and forms of developing social-protection functions of the municipality,
- ▶ Training in strategic planning and preparation of programs in the area of social protection,
- ▶ Extending the forms of social protection realised by the municipality (mainly financial form) with new forms of social services,
- ▶ Increasing the budget item for social protection and more detailed and systematic planning of those finances,
- ▶ Developing a network of local social services through public-private partnership,
- ▶ Initiating social responsibility among the private sector.

*By SWC:*

- ▶ Decrease the number of the beneficiaries of social financial assistance by intensifying activities for their employment, in cooperation with the Employment Centre,
- ▶ Analysis of the possibilities to extend the coverage of households, social beneficiaries, by offering the services of the 'community kitchen'
- ▶ Developing a network of institutional and extra-institutional protection in the municipality.



# **MUNICIPALITY OF LIPKOVO**



## 1. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF LIPKOVO

The municipality of Lipkovo belongs to the group of mid-small, rural municipalities in the Republic of Macedonia. It is located in the north part of the country, and covers an area of 270km<sup>2</sup>. The geographical configuration of the terrain is dominantly hilly and mountainous, and the greater part of the territory belongs to the basin regions of Lipkovska, Lojanska and Vackinska River. It borders Kosovo and Serbia at its north side; on the east side it borders the municipality of Kumanovo, on its south side it borders Aracinovo, and it borders Skopje on the west side. The municipality has 22 populated places, and all of them are defined as rural communities<sup>14</sup>. The average altitude is 365m, which is below the country's average. The average density of the population is 110 citizens per 1km<sup>2</sup>. The density is higher in the flat areas, compared with the hilly and mountainous regions that cover larger territories, but have lower number of residents. The administrative centre of the municipality is the village of Lipkovo, which has 2644 residents, towards which the other villages gravitate. The largest populated settlement in the municipality is the village of Slupcane, with 3789 residents.

According to the last census in 2002, the population of the municipality of Lipkovo is 27.049 citizens. The number of citizens has been increasing steadily since 1948, when the first official population census was carried out. In comparison with the previous census, of 1994, the number of citizens in the municipality has risen for 2801. However, in the mountainous regions there is a trend of moving out to the lower, flat, village areas of this region, but also in the cities of Skopje and Kumanovo. A great number of citizens emigrated to Turkey. There are 3599 households in the municipality, and 5790 apartments. The average number of household members is 6.4 members. From the overall figure of municipal residents, 13701 (52%) are male, while 13348 (48%) are female. According to ethnicity, the structure of the population is as follows: 26360 (96,13%) declared as Albanians, 370 (1,77%) as Serbs, 169 (0,62%) are Macedonians and others.

The municipality is rich in natural resources. The forest and lake potential are most important. The main economic activity is the agriculture, in which 95% of the population participates. Agricultural activities are performed at an area of 22.599 hectares, of which 8256 hectares, or 36.5% are irrigated by the Lipkovo hydro-system. The pastures cover an area of 4375 hectares, while the forests cover 9968 hectares. One of the major characteristics of this municipality are the two artificial lakes. Lipkovsko Lake is used for irrigation and drinking water supply to the residents of the municipality of Kumanovo, and the Lake Glaznja is mainly used for irrigation and fishing.

Minerals and ores are very important for the development of the municipality. There is antimony and arsenic in Lojane mine, and there are marble and granite in the populated places Matejce and Nikustak. The development potentials are mainly seen in the development of tourism, the use of fertile land (for agriculture and animal husbandry) and rational exploitation of ore resources.

<sup>14</sup> Месни заедници

## 2. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES

**Education:** The primary education is organised in six central and seven dispersed schools, from the regular, compulsory schooling. Two of them are connected to a central heating system. The conditions in the schools in the hilly areas are good, though the schools in the mountainous regions are in a bad shape. There is a new school building in Nikustak. In the municipality Lipkovo there is one secondary school, and it is in the municipal centre Lipkovo. There is no secondary vocational and special school. The number of students in the primary and secondary education is increasing.

**Health:** The health services at the territory of the municipality are provided by private health organisations; there are 11 private GP offices and a dental clinic. A decision of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia foresees an establishment of a health station, and for this activity finances were allocated. There are two pharmacies in the municipality. There is no private gynaecologist office. In the larger villages in the hilly areas, there are outpatient clinics providing primary health services. There are no outpatient clinics in the higher mountainous villages. There is no ambulance. In the municipality of Lipkovo there is neither policlinic, nor specialist clinic, and the residents of the municipality travel to Kumanovo or Skopje to receive such health services.

**Social institutions:** There are no pre-school education facilities (kindergartens) in the municipality of Lipkovo. Furthermore, there is neither public, nor private old people's home.

**Cultural institutions:** In the municipality of Lipkovo there are no institutions to meet the basic cultural needs of the citizens. The network of cultural institutions at local level is underdeveloped. There is no theatre, no cinema, neither a museum. Some of the central schools have libraries, though there is no central, municipal library. There used to be a Cultural Centre in Matejce, but after the armed conflict in 2011 it was demolished. At the moment, there is an ongoing procedure for building a new culture centre, and there are finances allocated for this purpose by the Ministry of Culture.

**Sports buildings:** There is one gym in the municipality, in the village of Slupcane, and six sports fields. There are six sports clubs, of which the most active is one of the football clubs.

**Media:** There is no local radio station, no local TV station, neither a local newspaper published in the municipality of Lipkovo.

**Citizens' associations:** In the municipality of Lipkovo there are 10 citizens' associations registered, however only few are active: 'Natira', Association of the Albanian Woman- branch Lipkovo, Association 'Baran', Association of Intellectual Albanian Women. Their focus areas are human rights, emancipation of women and environmental issues.

**Economic entities:** In the central economic registry, there are 900 economic subjects registered in the municipality of Lipkovo, of which 400 are active. Of them 37 are enterprises, 56% are trade companies, and 7% are other types of

economic subjects. The most developed industries are the flour milling industry, followed by the furniture industry and carpentry. Part of the industrial capacities employs large number of the citizens in the municipality (and partly from the neighbouring municipality of Kumanovo). The rest are in a process of liquidation or insolvency: CIK Kumanovo, Kozara (leather industry), Tobacco Company Kumanovo, Agriculture Association Nikustak etc. In the municipality of Lipkovo, the agriculture is a traditional economic branch, as there are excellent agro-technical conditions for development, and the largest part of the territory is arable land irrigated by the waters of Lipkovo's hydro-system. The data from the last census of the State Statistical Office of the Republic of Macedonia shows that in the municipality of Lipkovo there are 2 agricultural companies, 3450 individual farmers (agricultural workers), and an agricultural area of 8256 hectares.

### 3. DOMINANT PROBLEMS IN THE MUNICIPALITY

**Social problems:** Most important social problems in the municipality are the problems related to social development, such as: unemployment, poverty, and social exclusion. The employment rate in the municipality of Lipkovo is 11%. With regards to economic entities, the largest proportion of the employed workforce is employed by the economic entities with over 25 employees, while a small number work in economic entities employing 6 to 8 people. A large number of the workforce is employed in the public administration, the majority of whom, in the education sector. The gray economy is present in the municipality. According to the data of the Employment Agency, there are 4702 unemployed persons registered in the municipality. Of them, 1675 i.e. 35.6% are women. The analysis of the number of the unemployed according to education level indicates that most of them, 3742 (73.8%) are unqualified workforce, and only small proportion (2.1%) have completed post-secondary or higher education. Although there is no considerable difference between the age groups, still, the number of unemployed persons at the age of 20 to 24 is largest (798) as well as, at the age of 25 to 29 (613 persons), which is 30% of the overall figure of the unemployed. One third of the unemployed are unemployed for eight or more years. Most endangered group of the unemployed are the ones having low education levels. The employment centre offering services to the municipality of Lipkovo is located in Kumanovo. The centre employs 27 people, of which 18 have completed higher education, seven have completed secondary education and two persons have completed primary education. The Centre, as an institution working in the area of reducing the unemployment, carries out active unemployment measures, such as: subventions for employment, self-employment, employing disabled people and people from certain vulnerable groups. Training for foreign languages and professional orientation are delivered in the work clubs. The municipality has contacted the beneficiaries of social protection to carry out community works only once.

To a smaller extent, the residents of the municipality face other types of

social problems, such as substance use, as well as antisocial behaviour among children.

Socially most endangered group is the population living in the high mountainous regions of the municipality. Bearing in mind the poor communication network, as well as the lack of institutional network necessary for meeting basic needs, the citizens of these areas are entirely cut off from the main societal activities. In the municipality of Lipkovo there is a group of citizens not entered into the Registry of Birth, therefore they have no personal identification documents and are not able to use social or any other allowances. From the municipality of Lipkovo, a group of citizens went to the European member states to seek asylum after the visa liberalisation regime came into force.

**Infrastructure problems:** The municipality of Lipkovo faces huge problems with the infrastructure. One of the most serious problems is the lack of good quality drinking water. There is almost no water supply system. Neither of the villages is connected to a water supply system, and usually they use water from wells and springs from the hilly and mountainous regions. This problem was particularly emphasised at the focus groups: *'The dam is at the territory of our municipality, however the water supply system goes around...'* Certain settlements (but not villages) within five villages in the lower part of Lipkovo have inconsistent low quality water supply system and water of poor quality. There is sewerage system only in two villages, i.e. most of the villages have no sewerage system, and use septic holes. Because of this, waste waters are a huge problem as they pollute the subterranean waters i.e. the individual wells, springs, the ground, the gardens etc.

The settlements in the lower, flat areas are linked with asphalt roads, and the main road is Lipkovo- Kumanovo. A huge problem is the access to the mountainous villages, especially during the winter. Within the villages there are dirt roads.

**Environmental problems:** The major environmental problem in the municipality of Lipkovo is the quality of the drinking water, especially the problem with the drinking water in the lower, flat areas, as they are polluted with arsenic, chrome and antimony concentrate and other solid metals, by the faecal waters etc. The water is not controlled by sanitary and health institutions. In the municipality there is another problem, which is the illegal refuse dump. The public waste company services only 11 villages in the hilly area and has only 10 employees.

#### 4. SOCIAL PROTECTION

**Municipal administration:** There is no separate unit on social protection within the municipal administration, thus the competencies and the responsibilities are performed by one employee from the Unit on Legal and Public Affairs. 19 persons from the municipal administration are civil servants. There is no social worker employed. A significant document prepared by the municipality in the area of social protection is the Strategy for Local Development 2009/2011 where the social development is determined as one of the basic pillars of the local

development. Strategic social objectives of the municipality are: strengthening the capacity of the residents of the municipality by training and courses, strengthening the capacities of the NGOs, building social apartments and activities for improving the wellbeing of children.

The cooperation with the citizens is mainly through forums and citizens' assemblies, by sharing information through the local TV station in Kumanovo and through the info centre of the municipality. The municipality allocates one-off (single) financial assistance to socially endangered citizens and this is a competence of the Mayor. The overall municipal budget is 270.000 EUR (without the targeted allocations from the Government of the Republic of Macedonia), and the annual item for allocating financial assistance upon request is 3.000 to 4.000 EUR.

**Social Work Centre:** The Social Work Centre in Kumanovo serves the citizens from the municipality of Lipkovo. In Lipkovo there is only one office to deliver the various forms of social financial assistance, such as permanent financial assistance or one-off assistance. The number of professional staff in the SWC office is 4; their occupations are the following: a lawyer, a pedagogue, a sociologist and a teacher of Albanian literature. The office has suitable space, however poor technical facilities. Although there are computers, they have no access to the internet. The office does not own any vehicles and they are sent from Kumanovo, however they also are in poor condition.

The office for handing out financial assistance, overall, has poor cooperation with the NGO sector, the private sector and the religious organisations. It carries out mutual activities with the municipality and they are assessed as good. Bearing in mind that the regional SWC office is responsible for the administrative procedure for financial assistance, it does not cooperate with the schools and the health organisations. The cooperation with the local Employment Centre is judged as poor, mainly due to the physical remoteness.

Most significant problems that the office for handing out financial assistance faces are the lack of vehicles, the lack of office equipment, huge workload of the professional staff who deal with large number of cases. The majority of the problems appear as a result of lack of documents for certain category of citizens. These citizens cannot exercise their social protection rights due to the fact that they have not been registered into the Registry of Birth.

In the municipality of Lipkovo there is a need for opening a Social Work Centre or, at least, increasing the scope of the competencies and the responsibilities of the office for dispensing the assistance. With this, the access to the right to social protection would improve. The situation, as it is now, makes the citizens travel to Kumanovo when they need to make use of a right related to institutional or extra-institutional protection, as well as the rights to social financial assistance, which cannot be exercised fully in the office for dispensing financial assistance.

Number and structure of beneficiaries of social protection measures and services: The analysis of the structure of beneficiaries of social financial assistance, at the territory of the municipality of Lipkovo, reveals that 2.300 households are beneficiaries of the right to social financial assistance, and 80 families use

permanent financial assistance. The one-off, single financial assistance is usually approved for covering medical expenses, however from March this year, such assistance ceased to be paid out.<sup>15</sup>

Most often, the applicants are denied the right to social financial assistance when they are owners of a vehicle. Furthermore, the procedure is very complex due to the amount of documents requested from the applicant. First of all, activities should be taken to simplify the forms and the procedures. In this light, the officer from the office for handing out the financial assistance noted: *'In order for the applicant to make use of his/her the right to social financial assistance, he/she should put down his personal identity number at seven different places'*

In the municipality of Lipkovo there is no established network for social services. With regards to the extra-institutional protection, it has to be noted that there is no centre for daily or temporary housing of users, no foster families, no small group home. There is no functioning community kitchen, neither an entity offering extra-institutional protection.

## **5. COOPERATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY WITH LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS**

The municipality has good cooperation with ZELS<sup>16</sup>. To a great extent, the cooperation is based on consultations prior to a law related to municipalities' work is adopted, as well as cooperation based on technical assistance.

There are no obstacles to the cooperation of the municipality with the central government when joint activities are carried out. In general, the cooperation with the Employment Service Agency is assessed as good. There is no continuous cooperation, but it is a project-based cooperation. It has been two years now that the citizens have not been contracted to carry out community work.

The municipality cooperates with the citizens' associations mainly to coordinate the activities. The cooperation with the religious organisations is informal.

The cooperation with the private sector is underdeveloped, however it is noted that the social responsibility of the private companies is increasing. The company that received the concession for the quarry (stone pit), asphalted the roads in that part of the municipality.

## **6. RESULTS FROM THE HOUSEHOLD SURVEY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LIPKOVO**

100 households were surveyed in the municipality of Lipkovo; all of them rural households of Albanian ethnicity. The structure of the surveyed households,

<sup>15</sup> The same situation was established in all the municipalities where the research was conducted.

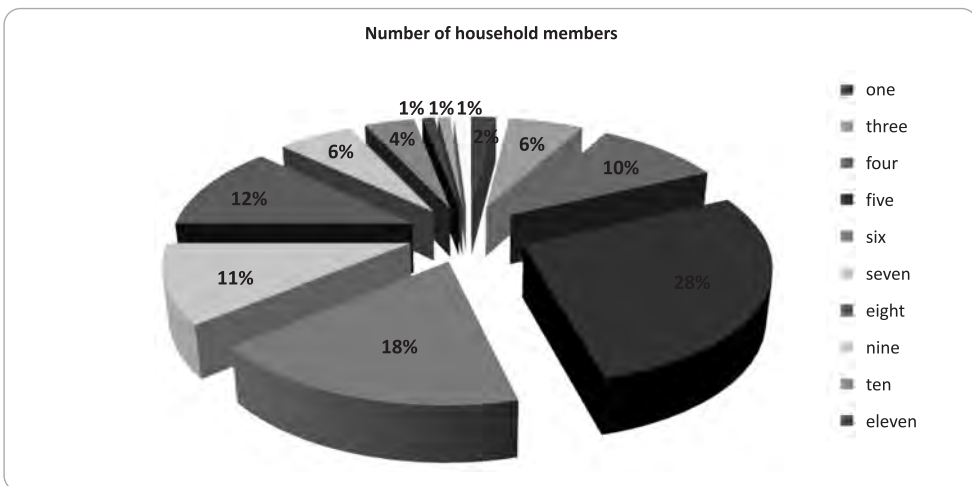
<sup>16</sup> Association of the Units of Local Self-Government in the Republic of Macedonia

according to household type, shows that the majority households are mixed type (57%), (26%) are non-agricultural households, followed by agricultural ones (13%), while 4% of the responded have not revealed their household type.

According to age, the household is as follows: in most cases the household head is at the age of 50-59 (46%), while in 36% the household head is at the age of 40 to 49, in 14% of the cases the household head is over 60 years of age, and in 4% the household head is at the age of 30 to 39.

The largest proportion are five-members households (28%) and six-members households (18%). In 92 households the head is male, and in 8 households the head is female.

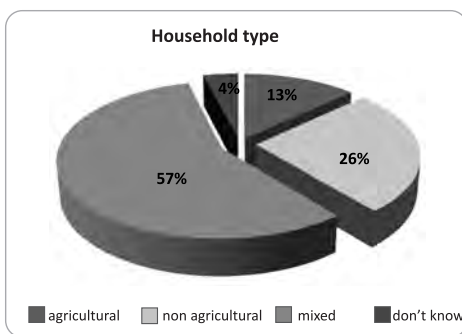
Graph 1.



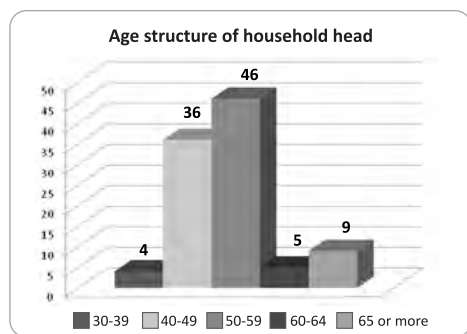
With regards to the number of household members, the families where the head of the household is female are, in most part, eight-members households (37.5%), and five-members households (25.0%).

In most of the cases, the household head is married (94%), in 3% they are unmarried, while in 3% they are widowed.

Graph 2.

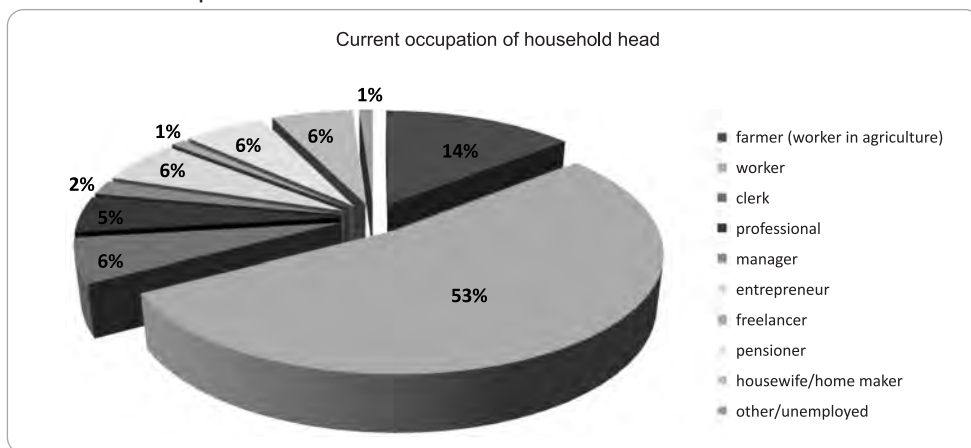


Graph 3.



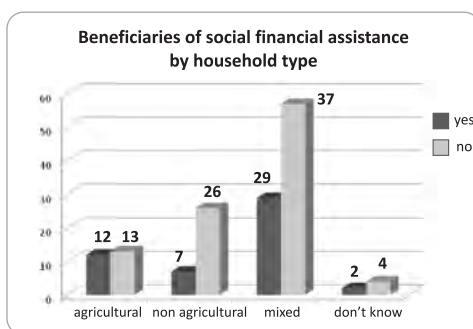
Although, 96% of the respondents are literate, 4% have not completed primary education, a large number have completed primary education (62%), 22% have completed secondary education, 6% have completed post-secondary education. Only 4 persons have completed higher education and 1 person has completed post-graduate education. The household head predominantly is a worker (53%), then a farmer (14%), a professional (5%), a manager (2%), while 6% encompass clerks, private entrepreneurs, pensioners and a housewife.

Graph 4.

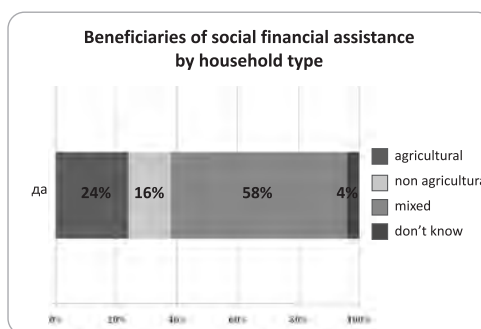


Approximately half of the respondents stated that they were beneficiaries of social financial assistance (51). It should be noted that in 47 households there is no person employed, and in 15 households one member only is employed. According to household type, there is relative equitable distribution of the beneficiaries of social financial assistance, thus, 24.0% are agricultural families, non-agricultural are 14.0% and 58.0% are mixed households.

Graph 5.



Graph 6.

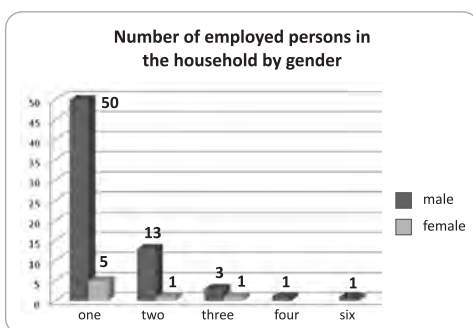


## 6.2. Employment

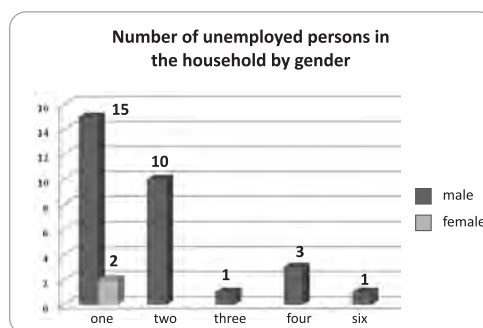
From the overall number of households surveyed, in 47% of the households there is no person employed. 31 households have only one unemployed member, of which 17 are male, and 14 are female. In 23 households two persons are unemployed, of which 10 are male and 13 are female. Three families have three unemployed members (one male and two females).

In 47 households, there is one employed member; in 16 households two members are employed, and in 12 households, three persons are employed. The fact that there are 95 employed males compared to only 10 females is worrying.

Graph 7.



Graph 8.

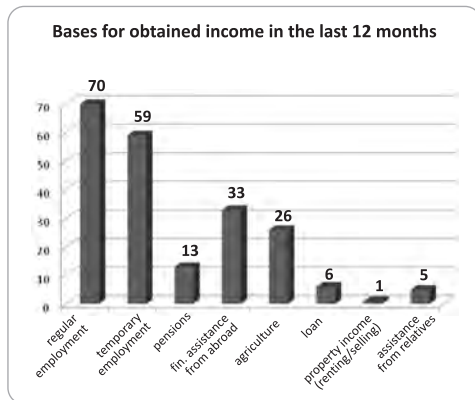


## 6.3. Living Standard

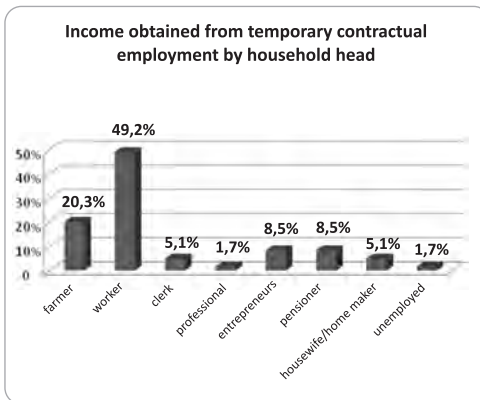
The data analysis reveals that 30 households have not received any income from employment for the last 12 months. The majority of the households that have obtained income from regular employment are workers' households (64.3%), and the rest, according to household head, are as follows: clerk (7.1%), private entrepreneur (7.1%) professional (7.1%), (4.3%) housewife, (2.9%) manager, (2.9%) farmer, and 1.4% pensioner, freelancer and unemployed person. From the overall number of 50 households, beneficiaries of social financial assistance, 22 have obtained income from employment in the past 12 months.

The fact that in the municipality of Lipkovo 68% of the households, beneficiaries of social financial assistance, have received income from temporary contractual employment draws one's attention. Of them, 49.2% are workers households, 20.3% agricultural, in 8.5% the head is a pensioner. The same applies to the households where the head is private entrepreneur (8.5%), 5.1% clerk, 5.1% housewife, and 1.7% professional, as well as in 1.7% the household head is unemployed. Two thirds i.e. 68% of the households, beneficiaries of social assistance obtained income from temporary contractual employment.

Graph 9.



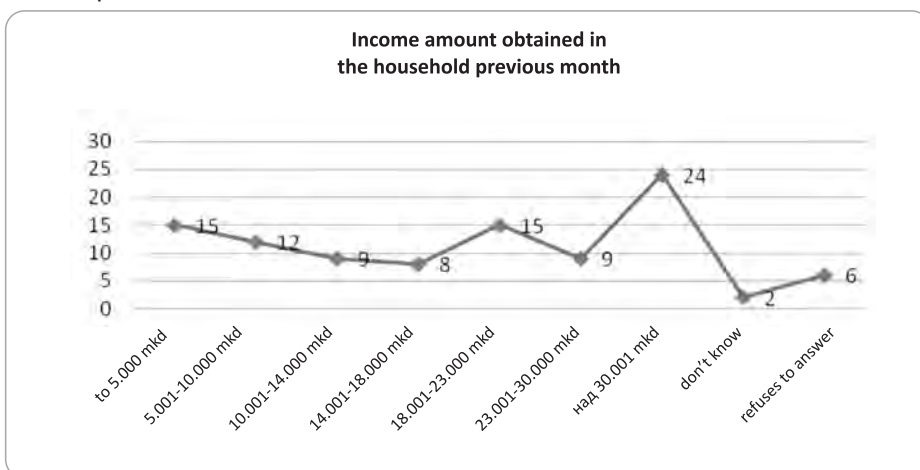
Graph 10.



It is interesting to note that 40% of the beneficiaries of social financial assistance have obtained incomes from agricultural activities. The fact that 33 households have received income from abroad draws our attention. Of them, in 51.5% the household head is a worker, and 12.1% are agricultural households. The majority of the households (24%) in the last month, obtained income of over 30.001 MKD; of them 45% being workers' households, and in 12.5% the head is clerk, private entrepreneur, housewife and professional, and in 4.2% the household head is a freelancer.

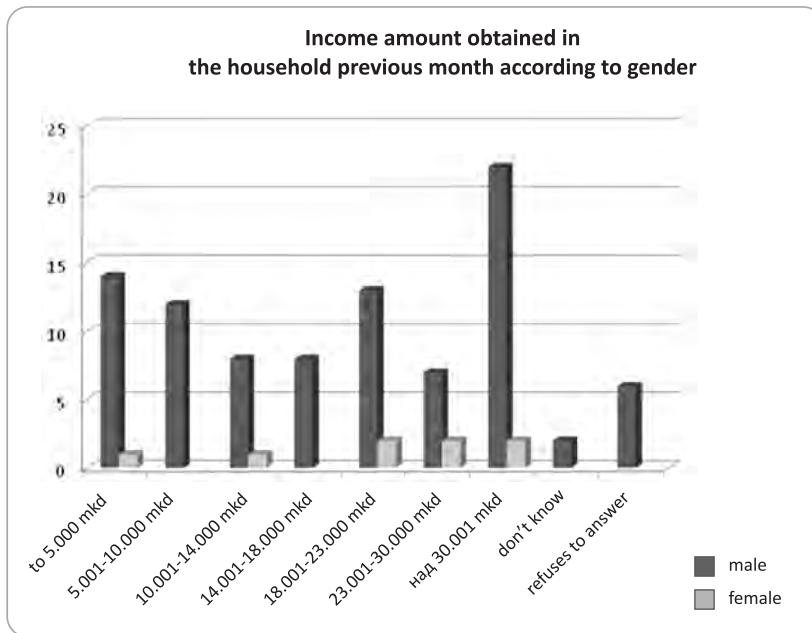
The fact that 15% of the households have obtained an income up to 5.000 MKD is worrying. 73% of them are beneficiaries of social financial assistance. The distribution of the answers in the interval of income up to 5.000MKD indicates that there are 9 households where the head is a worker, 5 are agricultural households, and in one, the head is a housewife. Furthermore, within this category there are four households that are not beneficiaries of social financial assistance. Two thirds of the beneficiaries of social financial assistance obtained an income between 5.001 MKD to 10.000 MKD. 12% of the surveyed households fall under this category.

Graph 11.



8% of the households received income of 14.001 MKD to 18.0001 MKD, while 15% had income of 18.0001 to 23.000 MKD.

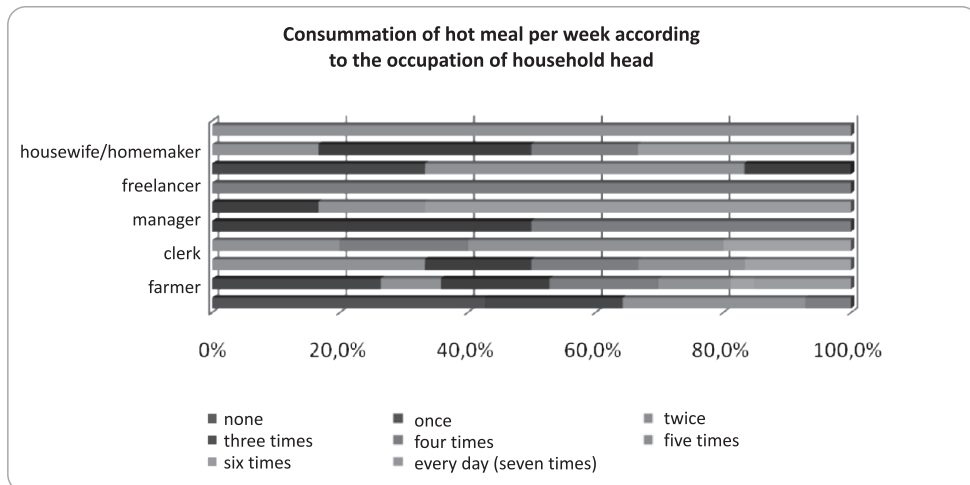
Graph 12.



The data analysis of households where the head is unmarried or is widowed shows that 33% of them obtained income lower than 5.000 MKD.

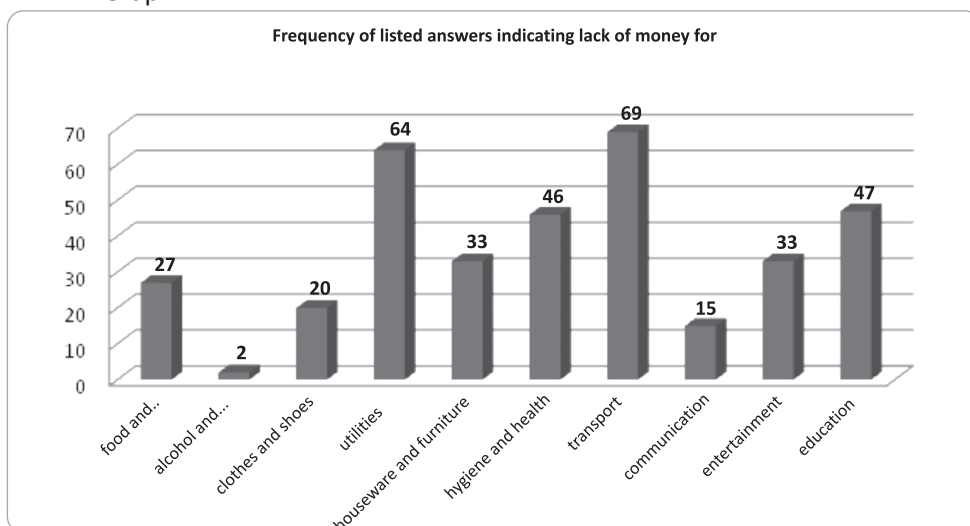
With regards to the question about the frequency of warm meal with meat consumed in the households, the responses are as follows: the dominant answer is that such meal is prepared once a week (19% ), followed by households preparing meat twice a week (17%), three times per week (15%) and four times a week (15%). 28% of the households consume meat five and more than five times per week. It is important to mention that 6% of the households, all of them agricultural families, do not consume warm meal with meat neither once in the week.

Graph 13.



From the category- beneficiaries of social financial assistance, 12.0% responded that they consumed warm meal with meat less than once in the week, 28.0% consumed meat once per week, 24% twice per week, 10% three times per week. It is surprising that 26.0% of the respondents from this groups consume meat more than three times per week. The distribution of the answers according to household head shows similar trend, thus, the largest proportion of households where the head is male consume warm meal with meat once a week (20.7%); 37.5% of the households where the head is female consume meat three times a week, and the same percentage consume meat seven times a week.

Graph 14.

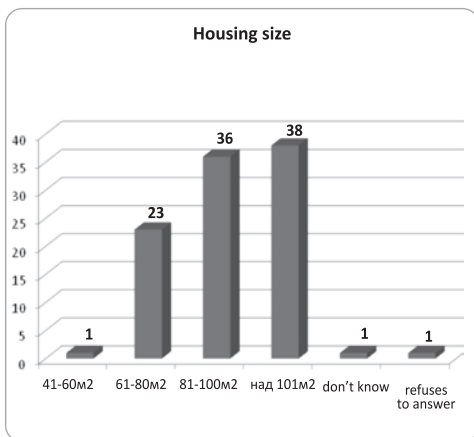


The majority of the respondents have stated that they lack money for transportation costs (69%), utilities (64%), education (47%), hygiene and health (46%) as well as, for homeware and recreation (33%). The number of responses indicating that households lack money for food and non-alcoholic beverages is considerably lower (27) and for communication (15). Two respondents only stated that they lacked money for alcohol and cigarettes.

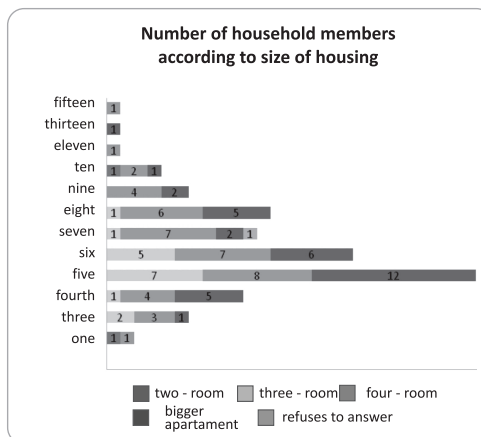
The analysis shows that 62.5% of the households lacking finances for utilities are beneficiaries of social financial assistance. The same proportion applies in the distribution of answers for the lack of finances for transportation (60.9%), hygiene and health (65.2%) and education (61.7%). It is significant to note that the majority of the respondents (42), beneficiaries of social financial assistance, have lack of money for transportation, and that 40 of them lack money to cover their utilities.

The majority of the households live in housing built by solid materials, and one family only lives in pre-fabricated housing of low-quality material. The majority of the households live in four-room apartments (44%), and larger space (35%), while 17% live in a three-room apartment, and a very small proportion, 2% only, live in two-room apartment. In other words, 38 of the households live in housing larger than 100 m<sup>2</sup>, and 36 households live in housing with a size of 80 to 100 m<sup>2</sup>.

Graph 15.

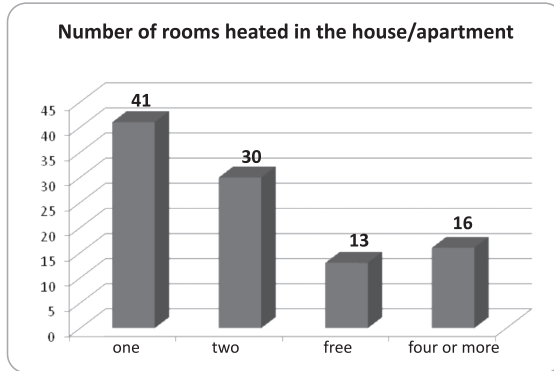


Graph 16.



With regards to heating type the household uses, a high percentage of the households use solid fuel stoves i.e. 90 use wood. A small number (6) have own heating system, two have central heating system, and one uses electric stove. The data on how many rooms are heated in the winter reveals the following: the largest proportion of the households (41%) heat only one room in the home, 30% heat two rooms, and 26% of the households heat three or more rooms.

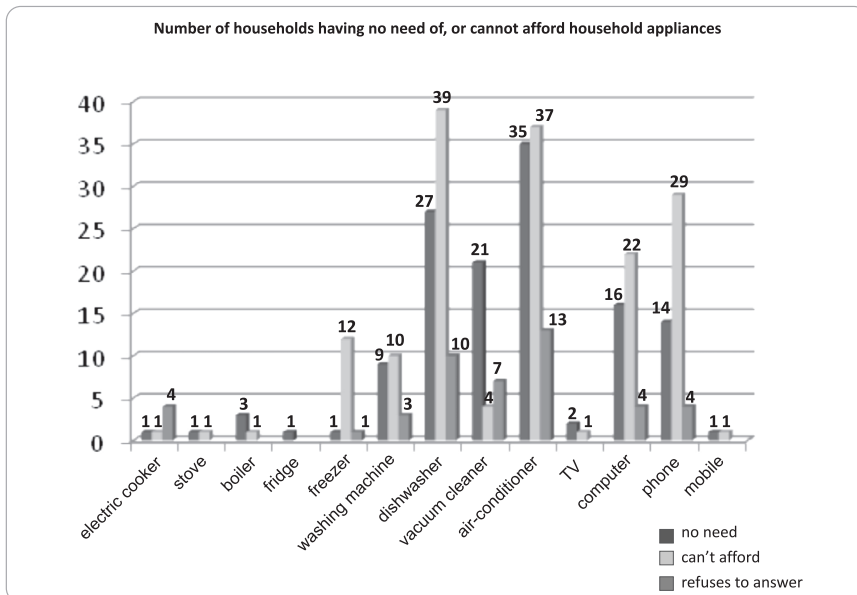
Graph 17.



The majority of the households (99) are connected to the sewerage system. The same applies for the beneficiaries of social financial assistance<sup>17</sup>. The number of households having toilet and a bath in the home is high, i.e. 92 households. 23 households have toilet in the garden, and toilet in the residence have 4 households only.

The results also reveal that the majority have tap water in the home (95 households), as well as 97 which have tap in the garden. 3 households have no boiler, while part of the surveyed households lack basic appliances such as a freezer (13 households). A large number of the households have no computer (38), of which 22 cannot afford it, while 16 have no need for it. 72 households cannot afford air-conditioning. 37 households do not own a vehicle, of which 25 cannot afford it.

Graph 18.

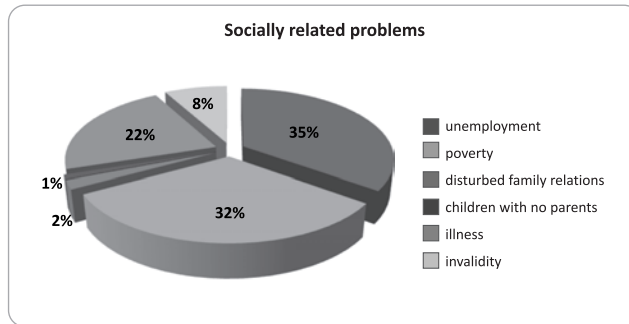


<sup>17</sup> This data comes as a result from the fact that the survey was carried out in the municipal centre Lipkovo, where there is sewerage system existing.

#### 6.4. Social Problems and Social Protection

The analysis of the data in light of the social problems reveals that most important social problems are the unemployment (38), the poverty (43) and ill health (40). Some of the households have listed disturbed family relations as a significant problem (4), invalidity (14), and in one case only, there is a child with no parents or parental care. 38% of the respondents mentioned problems related to the environment and nature, such as earthquakes. 27 respondents listed floods as a problem, and in 13 cases the respondents listed draught as natural, environmental problem.

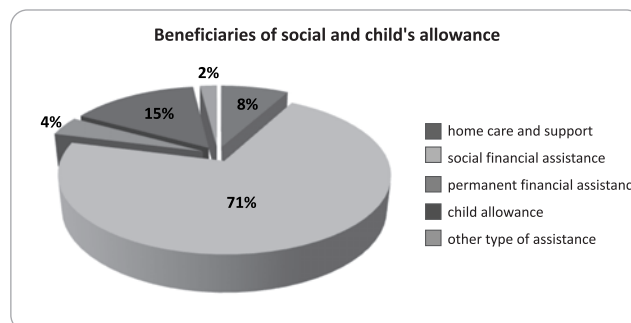
Graph 19.



The largest number of the surveyed households have exercised the right to social assistance; 51 households are beneficiaries of social financial assistance, and three households are beneficiaries of permanent financial assistance. Among the beneficiaries of social financial assistance, 43.1% are workers households, 27.5% are agricultural, 5.9% have clerk as head, 2% professional, 11.8% are pensioners households and 7.8% which have housewife/ homemaker as head.

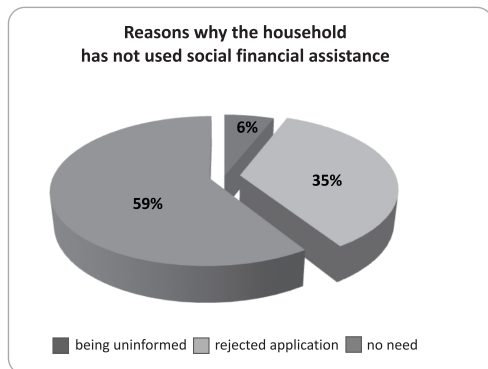
There is almost equitable distribution of the responses according to gender of the household head. In the households where the head is male, 53.3% are beneficiaries of social financial assistance and 3.3% are users of permanent financial assistance. In the households where the head is female, 25% are beneficiaries of social financial assistance and there are no households which are beneficiaries of permanent financial assistance.

Graph 20.

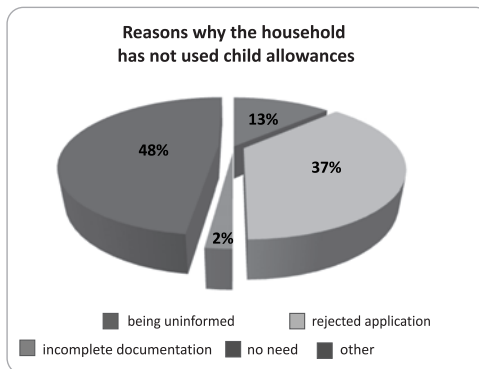


Most dominant form of child protection are child allowances, i.e. 11 respondents stated that they had used child allowances, while none of them used special child allowances.

Graph 21.



Graph 22.



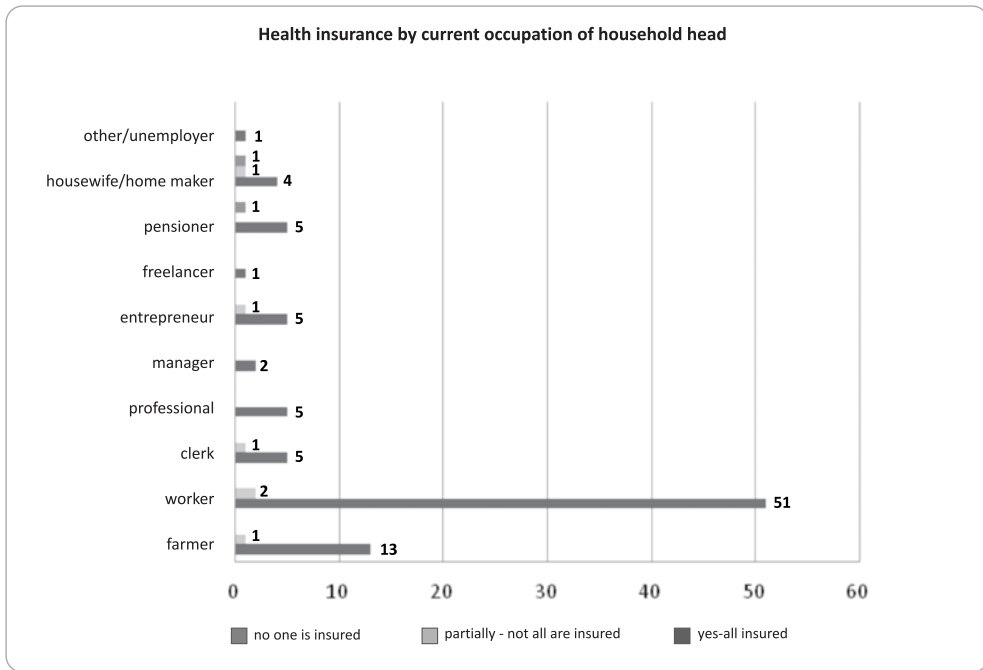
The analysis reveals that 59.0% of the households not exercising the right to social financial assistance had no need of it; 35.0% of the households were rejected, and 6% have not exercised this right as they were uninformed about it.

Similar trend is registered with regards to exercise of rights to child protection. Namely, the percentage of respondents having no need to exercise child protection rights was 46.0%, while 37% households were rejected. The fact that a large proportion of the households (14%) have not exercised the right to child allowances because they were uninformed is worrying. Only 2% of the households did not succeed to exercise this right because their application was rejected as incomplete. With regards to using institutional and extra –institutional protection, the majority of the respondents stated that they had no need of it, 37% were rejected, 13% were uninformed and 2% did not have the necessary documents.

## 6.5. Health and Nutrition

92% of the respondents stated that all of their family members had health insurance. It is worrying that in 6% of the households, not every member has health insurance, while in 2% of the households there is not any member having health insurance. The analysis reveals that from the households not having health insurance one is a pensioner’s household, and the other has a housewife/homemaker as head. All of the households with no member insured are beneficiaries of social financial assistance.

Graph 23.



In 75% of the households where the head is female, all the household members have health insurance. One family only is not fully insured or none of the members has health insurance. It was registered that there was only one household where none of the members had health insurance, and in five households the members had partial insurance. From the overall number of households, 51% use public health services in case of illness (use the services of public health organisation and buy drugs covered by the Health Insurance Fund). 45% use public health services, though pay fully for the drugs (not covered by the Health Insurance Fund). Only a small proportion of the respondents, (2%) do not use medical services, and use alternative ways to cure illnesses. Furthermore, 2% of the families use private health services fully.

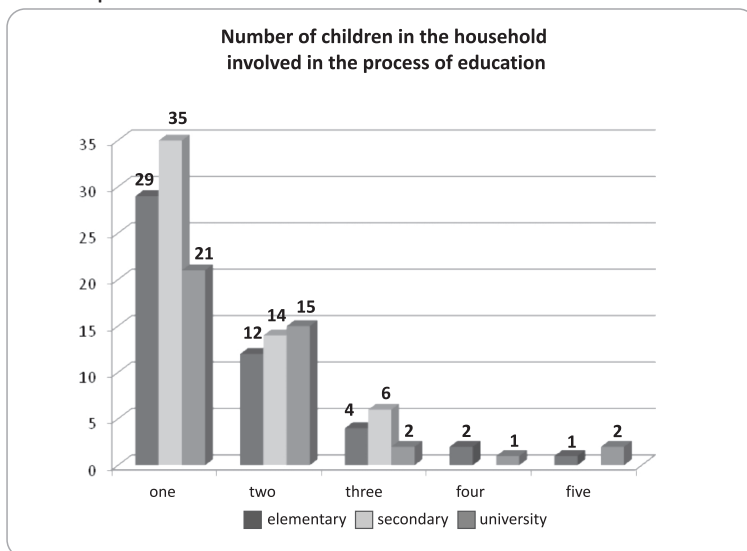
## 6.6. Education

From all the households involved in this research, in 89 there are children at the age of six or over, i.e. children involved in the education process. Of them, 29 have one child attending primary school. It is important to mention that there is one family with two children at a school age not attending school. Furthermore, 12 households have two children in primary school, 4 households have three children, and three households have 4 or more than 4 children in primary school. There are 36 households having one child in a secondary school, 13 households having two children in secondary school, while six households have three children in secondary

school. It is important to mention that 41 households have children enrolled at the University.

Large number of the households (18) live within a kilometre from a school, 9% live within a distance of 1.01 to 2km from a school, and 3% live within a distance of 2.01 to 4km from a school. It is a significant fact that 15% of the households live at a distance of over 4km from a school.

Graph 24.



Of the overall figure of households having children at a school age, 46 are beneficiaries of social financial assistance. Of them 33 have children in primary education, 29 have children in secondary, and 21 have children at the University. The distribution of responses according to occupation of the household head shows that: 15.7% of the agricultural households have children in the education process, 52.8% of the workers households, 6.7% from the clerks households, 5.6% of the households where the heads are professionals, pensioners or entrepreneurs, 4.5% where the head is housewife, 2.2% where the head is a manager, and one household where the head is a freelancer.

From all the households having children in primary school, 14 have exercised the right to free transport, of them 12 are beneficiaries of social financial assistance. Among the households having children in secondary education, nine have exercised the right to free transport, of them 8 are beneficiaries of social financial assistance. Other forms of educational assistance have not been used by the households. From all the forms of assistance for higher education, only seven household were awarded scholarships; of them five are beneficiaries of social financial assistance, while four have enrolled University under the state minority quotas.

## 6.7. Sports, leisure, culture

The respondents from the municipality of Lipkovo state that in their populated place there are sports fields (89), playgrounds (5), a coffee bar (71), a library (57)<sup>18</sup>, a restaurant (96), markets (94) and an internet coffee and sports betting office (89). 37 households said that none of their members have used the internet. In 53% of the households that have used internet, the respondents used personal computer, and only nine of them visited internet coffee.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 7.1. Conclusions

Area	Focus Area	State/ problems
<b>1. Dominant activities</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Main economic activity is agriculture, in which 95% of the population is engaged;</li> <li>▶ Flour milling industry, furniture production industry and carpentry.</li> </ul>
<b>2. Institutional Capacities</b>	<i>Education:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 6 central schools</li> <li>▶ 7 dispersed schools</li> <li>▶ 1 secondary school</li> </ul>
	<i>Health:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 11 GPs (General Practitioners offices)</li> <li>▶ 1 dental clinic</li> <li>▶ 2 pharmacies</li> <li>▶ No ambulance</li> <li>▶ No gynaecologist office</li> <li>▶ No outpatient clinic in mountainous villages</li> </ul>
	<i>Social issues:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Regional office of the Social Work Centre Kumanovo, for handing out social financial assistance</li> <li>▶ Not network of social institutions developed: no kindergarten, no old people's home</li> <li>▶ no daily centre for daily or temporary shelter of users</li> <li>▶ no foster families,</li> <li>▶ no small group home.</li> <li>▶ No community kitchen</li> <li>▶ No organisation for institutional protection.</li> </ul>
	<i>Culture: Sports/ leisure:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ No network of cultural institutions at local developed</li> <li>▶ One gym and six sports terrains</li> <li>▶ No local media</li> <li>▶ Ten citizens' associations</li> </ul>
	<i>Economic entities:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 900 economic entities registered at the territory of the municipality of Lipkovo, but only 400 are active. Of them 37% are enterprises, 56% are trade companies, and 7% are other types of entities.</li> </ul>

<sup>18</sup> There is no central library in the municipality, there are only libraries in the primary schools in the municipality

<b>3. Social problems</b>	<i>Socially vulnerable groups:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Dominant problems: poverty, unemployment and social exclusion.</li> <li>▶ 4702 unemployed are registered at the Employment Centre, of which 35.6% are women.</li> <li>▶ The majority of the unemployed are unqualified workforce (73.8%), and only a small proportion (2.1%) has completed post-secondary or higher education.</li> <li>▶ 30% of the overall figure of the unemployed are at the age of 20 to 29.</li> <li>▶ One third of the unemployed are unemployed for 8 or over 8 years.</li> <li>▶ To a small extent, the problem of drug use and other psychotropic substances appear, as well as antisocial behaviour among children</li> <li>▶ The population in the high mountainous areas of the municipality</li> <li>▶ Old people,</li> <li>▶ Persons with disabilities (no social facilities or services are offered in the municipality)</li> <li>▶ Persons not registered in the Registry of Birth</li> <li>▶ Single-parent families</li> </ul>
<b>5. Infrastructure problems</b>	<i>Roads:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ The settlement in the low, flat areas are connected with asphalt roads,</li> <li>▶ Poor access to mountain villages, especially over the winter period.</li> </ul>
	<i>Water supply: Sewerage system:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ No water supply system</li> <li>▶ Sewerage system in two villages only</li> <li>▶ The rest use septic holes</li> </ul>
<b>6. Environment problems</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Problem with illegal refuse dumps</li> <li>▶ Polluted sub-terrain waters, i.e. pollution of springs by waste waters</li> </ul>
<b>7. Inter-institutional cooperation in the municipality</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Overall, good cooperation with all relevant stakeholders,</li> <li>▶ No continuous and constant cooperation, but one based on realisation of projects,</li> <li>▶ Poor cooperation with the private sector,</li> <li>▶ Informal cooperation with religious organisations.</li> </ul>
<b>8. Social protection</b>	<i>By the municipality:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ No separate Social Protection Unit, but one officer in the Unit for Legal and Public Affairs is competent for this issue,</li> <li>▶ No social worker employed</li> <li>▶ No Strategy for Local Development 2009-2011 is prepared</li> <li>▶ The municipality allocates one-off financial assistance for the citizens when needed,</li> <li>▶ For this type of social protection, the municipality allocates 1.3% of the budget,</li> </ul>
	<i>By SWC:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Beneficiaries of SFA*: 2300 households</li> <li>▶ Beneficiaries of PFA**: 80 households</li> </ul>

\* SFA- Social Financial Assistance

\*\* PFA- Permanent Financial Assistance

## 7.2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Area	Focus area	Recommendations to overcome problems and
<b>improve conditions</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ The development potentials are mainly seen in the development of tourism, in the use of fertile, arable land (for agriculture and animal husbandry), and the use of the natural resources and ores found in the municipality (antimony, arsenic, marble, granite)</li> </ul>
	<i>Education:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To enlarge the network of central and dispersed schools,</li> <li>▶ To decrease education exclusion of children from the mountain villages by improving the access and open school dormitories,</li> <li>▶ To build laboratories and gyms in the primary schools</li> </ul>
<b>2. Institutional capacities</b>	<i>Health:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To increase the offer of health services at local level, most of all, by opening larger number of specialist health offices and pharmacies,</li> <li>▶ Special focus to be placed on opening outpatient clinics in mountain villages,</li> <li>▶ To establish ambulance,</li> <li>▶ Opening health care centres</li> </ul>
	<i>Social issues:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To develop the network of social services in the municipality,</li> <li>▶ To open a Social Work Centre or, to increase the scope of the social protection rights that could be exercised through the office in the municipal centre Lipkovo,</li> <li>▶ To improve the technical facilities of the office, by acquiring a vehicle, internet access and other necessary work equipment,</li> <li>▶ To open daily centres for special needs persons and the elderly,</li> <li>▶ to open kindergartens (daily centres) in the places where there is large number of children,</li> <li>▶ to open nursing homes,</li> </ul>
	<i>Culture: Sports/leisure</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To establish basic cultural institutions in the municipality: cinema, theatre, museum and library.</li> <li>▶ To promote media development in the municipality (opening radio station, TV station, and printed media)</li> <li>▶ To promote the development of the civil sector and to form new citizens' associations,</li> <li>▶ To build larger number of sports' fields,</li> </ul>
	<i>Economic subjects:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To stimulate the development of larger economic entities that could absorb the larger part of the workforce.</li> </ul>
<b>3. Social problems:</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To promote programs for employment of the beneficiaries of social protection,</li> <li>▶ To improve the targeting of active employment measures for the long-term unemployed and the effectiveness related to employment of the beneficiaries of social protection,</li> <li>▶ To focus the employment measures, to offer re-training or training for the shortage occupations in the municipality,</li> <li>▶ To carry out preventive programs for deterring social problems arising from deviant behaviour,</li> <li>▶ To strengthen the professional counselling work with the households affected by these problems,</li> </ul>

	<i>Socially vulnerable groups:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To strengthen the network of social services for old people: to analyse possibilities for offering social services for home care, daily centres, small group homes.</li> <li>▶ To establish daily centres for special needs persons (children and adults),</li> <li>▶ to asses possibilities for offering services for home care,</li> <li>▶ To undertake measures to decrease social exclusion of person from mountainous villages</li> <li>▶ Finding ways to register persons in the Birth Registry, so they can exercise their social protection rights.</li> </ul>
<b>5. infrastructure problems</b>	<i>Roads:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To improve local road infrastructure (asphalting local roads)</li> <li>▶ To improve access to mountainous villages</li> <li>▶ To repair the regional road Kumanovo- Lipkovo- Aracinovo</li> </ul>
	<i>Water supply:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To connect the municipality to water supply system</li> <li>▶ To find mechanisms for regular control of the water in all the populated places</li> </ul>
	<i>Sewerage system:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To build a sewerage system in all the populated places</li> </ul>
<b>6. Environmental problems</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To find solution for organised disposal of solid waste in order to solve the problem with illegal waste dumps and polluted waters.</li> </ul>
<b>7. Inter-institutional support in the municipality</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Improving the cooperation of the municipality with the neighbouring municipalities,</li> <li>▶ Improving the cooperation between the municipality, SWC and the Employment Centre through intensified and efficient implementation of community works, implementing active employment measures for beneficiaries of social financial assistance, membership in joint bodies, education for the possibilities and forms of cooperation in the social protection area, as well as practical implementation of joint projects.</li> <li>▶ Improving the cooperation of the municipality with the private and the NGO sector through partnership in implementation of programs from the social protection area.</li> </ul>
<b>8. Social protection</b>	<i>By the municipality:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Strengthening the capacities of the Unit for Legal and Public Affairs by Hiring a social worker</li> <li>▶ Training the employees in the Unit for the various possibilities and forms of developing social-protection functions of the municipality</li> <li>▶ Training in strategic planning and preparation of programs in the area of social protection</li> <li>▶ Extending the forms of social protection realised by the municipality (mainly financial assistance) with new forms of social services</li> <li>▶ Increasing the budget item for social protection and more detailed and systematic planning and spending of the finances</li> </ul>
	<i>By SWC:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Decreasing the number of beneficiaries of social financial assistance by intensifying activities for their employment, in cooperation with the Employment Centre</li> <li>▶ Developing a network of institutional and extra-institutional protection in the municipality.</li> <li>▶ Assessing the possibilities to simplify the forms and the procedures to ease the access to social protection rights.</li> </ul>



# **MUNICIPALITY OF RADOVIS**



## **1. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF RADOVIS**

This municipality is located in the South-Eastern part of the Republic of Macedonia, occupying the North-Western part of the Radovis-Strumica basin. Its area of 608 km<sup>2</sup> places it among the middle-sized municipalities with a population density of 41.5 inhabitants per 1 km<sup>2</sup>. The municipality has good contacts and functional links with the surrounding municipalities. The town of Radovis is the municipal administrative centre with a good geographical situation for development of the economy, situated in the central part of the municipality, at an altitude of 380m. Being the administrative centre, the town of Radovis also serves the residents of the municipality of Konche given that all state institutions acting on regional level are based in Radovis.

The municipality of Radovis features 1 town, 22 rural settlements and 27 neighbourhood communities. The total population is 28.244, with 7184 households. 66.14% of the total population live in urban and 33.86% in rural areas. Only two rural settlements have more than 1000 population (Injevo and Oraovica), and the rest of the rural settlements have between 300 and 1000 population. Less than 50 residents live in five rural settlements. Demographic trends in the municipality of Radovis have resulted in full abandonment of a number of villages: Ali Lobasi, Drzani, Durutlija, Karalobosi, Karadzalar, Novo Selo, Papavnica, Sarigjol, Kjoselija, Cheshme Maale, Shaintash, and Shipkovica. 51.3% of the population in the municipality of Radovis are men, and 48.7% are women. The ethnic structure of the population is as follows: 82% Macedonians, 16.2% Turks, 0.05% Albanians, 0.08% Vlachs, 1% Roma, and 0.67% other. According to the age structure, 51.06% of the population belong to the age group 0-14; 39.7% to the age group 15-64; and 9.24% to the age group of 65 and over. The process of ageing of the population can be noticed through a small decline of the share of the population below 14 years of age, and increased share of the elderly population. The educational structure of the population points to the conclusion that this municipality suffers from a low educational level of its population. Namely, as many as 45.7% of the population have not completed their primary education; 27.4% have completed only primary education; 9.8% have graduated from a secondary vocational school; 11% have graduated from a secondary general school; 0.5% have started but not completed higher education; and 5.6% have graduated from University.

This municipality is rich in natural resources: water (rivers and thermal water springs), forests, ore (copper, gold, iron, silver, zinc), as well as decorative stones for construction, quartz, and clay. Economic activities that are developed in this municipality include: mining, textile industry, agriculture (tobacco growing, viticulture, gardening, fruit-growing) and stock breeding (preserved primarily in ethnic Turkish villages).

The municipality has significant development potentials. There is a need to increase the investments in agriculture and stock breeding. Despite the absence of large industrial complexes in these businesses, a large portion of the population

(including both the employed and the unemployed) engages in these business activities. Mountain tourism should be also developed. There is no single hotel in the whole municipality, with just one motel (motel Panorama). Investing in innovative technologies aimed at utilising the thermo-mineral water would boost the development of this municipality.

## 2. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES

**Education:** There are two central primary schools in the town of Radovis. Three central primary schools are located in villages (Injevo, Podaresh and Oraovica). Twelve villages have primary schools with grades 1-4. After completing grade 4, the children from these villages go to the central primary schools in the neighbouring villages. The town of Radovis is the host of one secondary general school and a detached Electro-Technical Faculty under the University based in Shtip. Rural children who continue their education after the primary school usually commute to the town of Radovis everyday because there are not any secondary schools in the villages. The municipal Commission for Culture, Education and Sports has developed the Education Development Strategy for the municipality of Radovis.

**Health:** The situation concerning the health care institutions is alarming with regard to the coverage of villages. There is one health care centre in the town of Radovis and 7 outpatient clinics, with no such clinics available in the villages. There are also 4 specialist doctor's clinics and 7 pharmacies, all of them in the town as mentioned before. There are 15 doctor's offices and 8 specialist doctor's clinics that belong to the private health sector.

**Social institutions:** The municipality lacks a developed network of social institutions. There are only 3 state kindergartens and no home for the elderly. The municipality of Radovis has a functioning Intermunicipal Centre for Social Work, which is responsible for enabling the fulfilment of the social security rights by the residents of the municipalities of Radovis and Konche.

**Cultural institutions:** Two cultural institutions are active in the municipality of Radovis: the cultural centre 'Aco Karamanov' which features a cinema and a theatre hall, and the people's library 'Brakja Miladinovci'. There is also an ethnology museum. The folklore ensembles 'Buchim' and 'Aco Karamanov' are quite famous, and there also 3 amateur drama studios. Several cultural events take place in Radovis throughout the year: Radovis Cultural Summer, a child folklore festival, and poetic meetings. Several churches and archaeological sites are among the cultural and historical values of the municipalities of Radovis and Konche, such as the old monastery in the village of Damjan, the locality Markova Kula in Podaresh, the fortress Isarot, etc.

**Sport facilities:** Radovis boasts 7 active sport clubs: football, wrestling, handball, shooting, cycling, motorcycling, and alpinism. Radovis also has a number of sport facilities: the sports arena '25 Maj' with 1.500 seats; the sport and

recreation compound 'Champion' featuring an olympic size swimming pool; city football stadium; several courts for football, handball, volleyball and one tennis court. The municipality has only two playgrounds for children, which are quite dilapidated.

**Media:** Two local TV stations (TV Cobra and TV Emi) are active in the municipality, as well as two local radio stations (radio Alpha and radio Radovis) and two cable TV operators. There are not any local printed media.

Civil society organizations: 70 citizen associations (including sport and folklore clubs that are active on an ongoing basis) are registered in the municipality of Radovis. Among the others, the following associations are active on an ongoing basis: 4 for local development; 3 for disabled individuals; 2 environmental associations; 1 for protection of women's rights; 1 for the Roma; and 1 for Macedonian-Russian cooperation.

**Business entities:** 1230 small-sized business entities, 15 medium-sized and 1 large business entity are registered and functioning. Among the large business entities, 'Jaka Tabak AD' is out of operation. The following economic sectors are most important in the municipality of Radovis: construction industry and industry for construction materials; wood processing industry; metal processing industry; machine-tool and non-metal processing industries; ferrous and non-ferrous metal processing industries; mining; cosmetics and pharmaceutical industry; agriculture; hunting and fishing; tourism; textile, food and tobacco industries; trade; transport; banking; public services. There is developed private sector in the following economic branches: mining; hotel/restaurant management; textile; forestry; meat processing industry; bulk and retail trade; craftsmanship; food canning industry; dairy industry; non-metals; tobacco industry; cosmetic and pharmaceutical industry; processing of gold and silver. Private businesses are predominant and make up 90% of the total economy in the municipality.

### 3. PREVAILING PROBLEMS IN THE MUNICIPALITY

**Social problems:** The predominant social problems in the municipality are the following: unemployment; increased rates of dysfunctional families and divorces; as well as increase in deviant behaviours among the youth: delinquency, alcoholism, drug addiction, and games of chance (sports betting). The elderly people and the members of the Turkish ethnic group are among the socially most vulnerable categories of population.

Similar to the general situation with regards to unemployment in the Republic of Macedonia, this problem is prevailing in the municipality of Radovis as well. Of the total population (28.244), 17.956 persons are at the age of 15 and above. 11.071 are economically active among them (59.39% of the persons aged 15+). Among the economically active persons, 8701 persons follow an occupation (or 76.46% of the active population). The share of the people following an occupation among the population aged over 15 is 45.41%.

4861 persons are employed (27% of the people aged over 15), of whom 4011 work in the economic and 850 in non-economic sectors; 6210 are unemployed (34.6% of the persons aged 15+). The majority of the employed population is concentrated in the textile industry, mining, construction, metal processing and electrical industries.

According to the latest data obtained from the Radovis Employment Centre, the number of the unemployed as of 31 October 2010 was 5812, of whom the majority was women (58.12%). According to the ethnic breakdown, the largest group are Macedonians (4699), Turks (1154), Roma (21), Serbs (11), Vlachs (1), Albanians (1) and other (25). Highest concentration of the unemployed can be found in the 25-29 age group (759), of whom 316 are women. Of the total number of unemployed, the majority have been waiting for employment for 8 or more years (1777, out of whom 486 are women). Occupations deficient on the labour market include: English language philologists, IT specialists, and electrical and mechanical engineers.

The Employment Centre has carried out a number of active labour market measures in cooperation with UNDP and in accordance with the Operational Plans of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, aimed at curbing unemployment: computer and foreign language courses; retraining; additional training; self-employment and support for small businesses; subsidised employment of young people; individuals whose employment was terminated due to bankruptcy or liquidation; senior people aged 55-64; children with special needs; single parents; married couples with many children; victims of domestic violence; parentless children. Nonetheless, employing beneficiaries of social security faces lots of difficulties primarily because of their low qualifications. The most vulnerable group from the aspect of unemployment are senior people without any qualifications, who are especially difficult to be included in the labour market.

The Employment Centre cooperates with the Centre for Social Work in the implementation of the active measures, and this cooperation primarily consists in exchanging data about the vulnerable groups to be included in the active measures. With regards to the active measures, the Employment Centre also cooperates with private sector employers. The cooperation with the municipality is limited and mainly consists in public works, which are rarely performed as it was already mentioned above. The cooperation with the schools is reduced to the intermediary role of the Employment Centre when teaching staff is recruited; the Employment Centre does not have any active role with regard to the professional orientation of the students regarding the selection of their profession.

In a situation of high unemployment, the grey economy is still persisting, but according to the information from the field it is falling. Another problem that was raised during the focus group discussions was the issue of the lack of security of tenure and the violations of the rights of workers by their employers. In this regard, one of the focus group participants said the following:

*“There is no chance to find a secure employment in this municipality. Even employment is politicised. Even in those cases when I would find some kind of a job,*

*they would not pay me per diems, or they would report my salary at a minimum amount to the competent authorities, or would not register me at the Employment Centre and would not pay the contributions in addition to salary at all...”*

Realistically speaking, there are possibilities in the municipality to curb unemployment by stimulating the growth of private businesses and small-sized enterprises, by utilising and renewing the potentials for agriculture and stock breeding (this sector suffered, inter alia, from the crisis in ‘Svedmilk’), as well as by providing incentives for the individual farmers to register their business.

**Infrastructure problems:** Regarding the infrastructure in the municipality of Radovis, around 90% of the streets in the town are asphalted (although quite damaged and in need for reconstruction); in the villages, except for the regional roads, nearly 80% are dirt roads. Approximately 40% of the streets do not have any street lighting. There are several parks in the town of Radovis, which are not in a good shape. Due to the floods, the bridges have also been damaged and are in need for reconstruction.

Of the total number of households, 90% are connected to the city water supply system. The drinking water is of high quality, but the water supply issue is not resolved permanently and there are problems with it, especially in the summer period. There is problem with the drinking water in some of the hilly-mountainous villages, which is in short supply during the summer months due to the problems with the pumps because of the high elevation. The sewerage coverage issue is not fully resolved, with the coverage being 90% in urban and 60% in rural areas. Only 7 villages have sewerage network, and these are primarily the larger and more populated villages. The biggest problem is linked with the parallel sewerage network that hosts both the collector for wastewater and the collector for rain water, which need to be separated one from the other.

**Environmental problems:** The municipality of Radovis is faced with several environmental problems. The key environmental problem lies in the illegal landfills which are emerging around the town and which exist in all the villages. The reason for this is the fact that the organized waste collection service is provided only in the town, and for this purpose the municipality has established two public enterprises. The other problem is with the waste water which is one of the most serious polluters of the environment. Due to the lack of sewerage network in the majority of the villages that would drain the household wastewater in an organised manner, the latter is predominantly collected in septic tanks, which is a situation that poses a danger of contamination of the drinking water from the artery wells. The river pollution was overcome with the prevention of the pollution of the rivers Topolnichka and Madenska by the Buchim mine. However, these rivers still feature noticeable traces and sediment from the long-term pollution. There are several places in the municipality that are faced with land erosion problems, especially the ones between the villages of Podaresh and Oraovica and along the rivers Radoviska, Inevska, Oravichka and Sushica.

## 4. SOCIAL PROTECTION IN THE MUNICIPALITY

**Municipal administration:** A separate social security unit has not yet been established in the municipality of Radovis. The municipal functions with regard to social security are carried out by the municipal unit for public activities and general affairs. Out of the total annual budget of the municipality (120.000.000 denars), only 0.02% is dedicated for the purposes of the citizens' social security.

The municipality of Radovis has not developed any strategic document in the area of social security so far. The interventions by the municipality in the area of social security are reduced to interventions by request of affected citizens who found themselves in a situation of social risk and are thus asking for assistance. This is usually financial assistance for citizens after they had suffered some environmental disaster.

Decentralisation in the social security area is seen by the municipality with second thoughts due to the uncertainty associated with the transfer of powers in a situation of shortage of human, technical and financial resources. In this regard, the need for the municipal staff to be trained was highlighted and the forthcoming challenges which decentralisation is bound to bring.

**Centre for Social Work:** the citizens exercise their social security rights through the Inter-municipal Centre for Social Work based in Radovis, which covers the municipality of Konche as well.

Social assistance is the most commonly used measure under social security. There are 695 beneficiaries of social financial assistance (9.7% of the total number of households in Radovis - 7184); 73 beneficiaries of permanent financial assistance; 260 beneficiaries of a financial compensation for assistance and care by another person. The participants in the focus group discussion highlighted the very low amount of the financial compensations, which is insufficient to cover even the basic existential needs of the households. In addition, the administrative requirements associated with the obligation to report on a monthly basis and the renewal of the documents is a great difficulty for the beneficiary families. Because of these requirements, the beneficiaries are exposed to significant financial expenses and to problems associated with the inefficiency and the inaccessibility of the institutions which they have to approach in order to obtain the necessary documents (Ministry of Interior, the Cadastre etc.).

The measures for out-of-institution social care are used by 8 persons: 4 persons are placed in a foster family; 3 persons in a small group home; 1 person in a housing unit (independent living with support). A total of 23 persons are users of institution-based care and they are living in: Novo Selo near Strumica; the Institute in Demir Kapija; in Bansko; in Chicino Selo; in the home for elderly 'Zafir Sajto' and the home for elderly in Prilep.

The network of social services is underdeveloped in the municipality. There is only one daily centre 'Poraka' for persons with intellectual disability. There is a great need for developing this network with additional day centres and other types of social services.

The Centre for Social Work in Radovis used to work according to the territorial principle until June 2010, and then it took a combined approach:

territorial and category approach. A total of 9 professionals are employed in the Centre for Social Services (4 social workers, 1 pedagogue, 1 psychologist, 2 lawyers, and 1 sociologist). The SWC has 8 offices (200-250 m<sup>2</sup>) equipped with a computer for every professional, plus 1 vehicle that is used for making field inspections of households, which is in a bad shape and technically malfunctioning. The Centre often has no telephone line, no full time cleaning lady, and there is lack of funds to cover the ongoing expenditures which makes its work difficult.

The SWC has poor cooperation with the non-governmental sector with the exception of the NGO 'Poraka'. It rarely cooperates with the municipalities, and when it does it is with regard to community works which have not been used in 2010 (the number of people hired for public works was 26 beneficiaries of social financial assistance in 2009, and no such persons in 2010). The cooperation of the CSW with the schools is related to the children at social risk; the cooperation with the health care institutions is usually with regard to newborns and children; the cooperation with the Employment Centre is related to the implementation of the active labour market measures for social security beneficiaries. There is no cooperation with either the private sector or religious organizations.

## **5. COOPERATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY WITH LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS**

The municipality of Radovis cooperates mostly with the neighbouring municipality of Konche which it borders in the South-West, whereas its regional cooperation involves all of the following municipalities: Berovo in the East, Vasilevo in the South, Stip in the North-West, and Karbinici and Vinica in the North. Together with the Bregalnica and Strumica regions, this region has established an Association for Regional Economic Development of these municipalities.

The municipality has solid cooperation and information exchange with both, the central government and ZELS<sup>19</sup>; representatives of the municipality, usually the Mayor, regularly attend the meetings organised by ZELS. The cooperation of the municipality with the SWC is very weak. The implementation of community works in cooperation with the SWC, which used to be performed more in the past, is now stagnant. Only until 2 years ago, the municipality was issuing *family certificates* for the needs of the social security beneficiaries, but it no longer has this competence. The cooperation with the local Employment Centre is somewhat better. These institutions cooperate each year in the implementation of projects associated with active labour market measures (self-employment, business plans). The cooperation with the NGOs that are active in the municipality is satisfactory. This cooperation is usually with the Red Cross, although the social security beneficiaries are not satisfied by it and can hardly remember the last time when they received aid from this organization. The municipality cooperates with the other NGOs through its Unit for Local Economic Development via direct information-giving, delivery of assistance when applying with project proposals, training and partnerships when applying jointly with project proposals.

<sup>19</sup> ZELS- Abbreviation stands for Association of Units of Local Self- Government

The cooperation with the private sector is missing in the field of social security; instead, it is reduced to contacts for the sake of obtaining donations for the needs of the municipality (the municipality has solid cooperation in this domain with 'Buchim', 'Alba Engineering', 'Best Food', and the textile companies 'Super Hit' and 'Mardi'). The cooperation with the religious organizations is insufficient, which is also at times reduced to requests for donations or issuance of permits that have nothing to do with satisfying the social security needs of the citizens of the municipality of Radovis. The municipality of Radovis involves its residents, usually in the process of strategic planning, through public hearings about urban planning issues, as well as through public announcements and information about existing training events, workshops and programs.

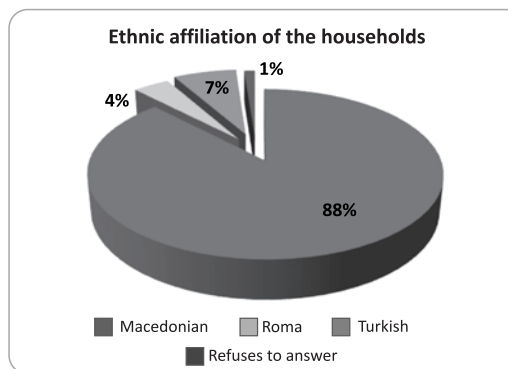
## 6. HOUSEHOLD SURVEY FINDINGS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF RADOVIS

### 6.1. General data about the surveyed households

The empirical survey included a total of 100 households from the municipality of Radovis. 65% were urban and 35% rural; 50% were beneficiaries of social assistance and the other half of the households were not beneficiaries of social assistance.

According to the ethnic structure, 88% of the surveyed households belong to the Macedonian ethnic group; 7% to the Turkish; 4% to the Roma; and 1% refused to disclose their ethnic affiliation (Graph 1).

Graph 1.



Of the total number of households, the head of the household is male in 94% of the cases; the head is a female in 5% of the cases (none of these women was a head of a farmer's household), and 1% refused to say who the head of the household was. One half of the heads of the households belong to the age group 40-59 (50%); 20% belong to the age group 30-39; 24% belong to the age group of 60 and over 60.

The head of the household is married in 89% of the households, and in 11%

of the cases the marital status is different than married (single - 4%, wedlock - 1%, divorced - 3%, widow/er - 3%). The vast majority of the heads of households are literate (97%).

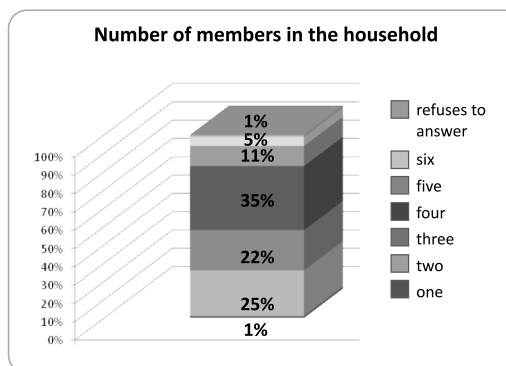
According to the formal degree of education, 11% have incomplete primary education; 32% have completed primary education; 42% have completed secondary education; and 7% have post-secondary and higher education each (1% gave no answer).

The breakdown according to the occupation is such that the majority of them are workers and pensioners: 23% workers, 18% pensioners, 14% farmers, 6% clerks, 4% houseman/housewife, 4% private entrepreneurs; the rest belong to other occupations (soldiers/policemen, student/university student, manager etc.).

## 6.2. Employment

Of the total number of households, the majority or 35% have 4 members; 25% have 2 members; 22% have 3 members; 16% have 5-6 members (1% is just with one member and 1% gave no answer) (Graph 2). Among the households with 5-6 members (16=100%), the head of the household in the majority of them have incomplete primary education or have primary education only (62.5%).

Graph 2.



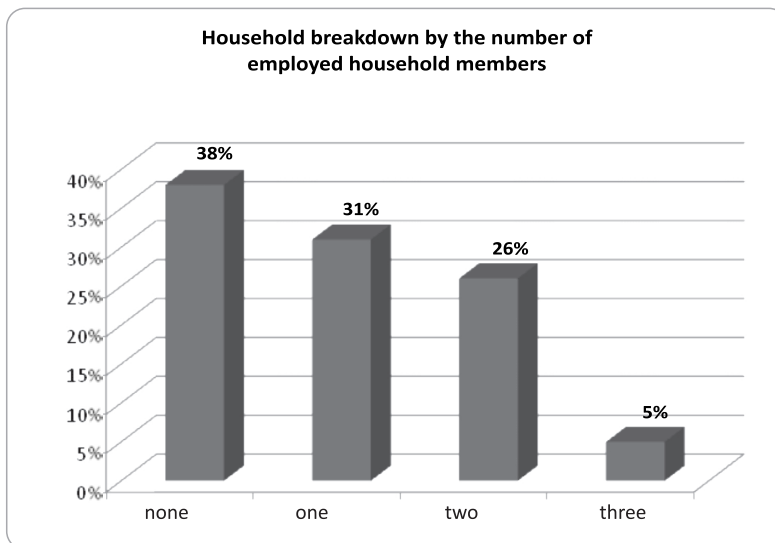
The majority of the households in the sample are non-agricultural households - 48% (out of those 48=100%, 77.1% are in urban areas); 35% are mixed households; 9% are agricultural households; 8% are unknown type of households. As far as the ethnic affiliation is concerned, 47.7% of the Macedonian households are non-agricultural; 71.5% of the Turkish households are involved in agriculture; Roma households are non-agricultural households.

The structure of the households from the aspect of the educational status of the household head shows that out of the total number of agricultural households (9=100%), the majority or 88.9% have incomplete primary education or primary education only; among the mixed households (35=100%), a large portion of the households have also incomplete primary education or primary education only (48.6%); in the case of non-agricultural households, one can notice a higher educational status of the household head: in the majority of these households (48=100%), the head has secondary education or higher than secondary education

degree (68.7%).

The structure of the households with regards to the employment status indicates the severity of this problem. Of the total number of households, the majority does not have even one employed member (38%). 31% of the households have only one member who is employed; 26% have two employed members; and 5% have three such members (Graph 3)

Graph 3.



The analysis with regards to employment status by sex shows a better situation with the employment of women in comparison with men. 60% of the households do not have a single employed male member; 35% of the households have one employed male member; 4% have two employed male members; only one household (1%) has three employed male members (a total of 46 employed men). As regards women, 50% of the households do not have a single employed woman; 48% of the households have one employed woman; 2% of the households have two employed women (a total of 52 employed women).

The unemployment situation is as follows: the majority of the households (47%) do not have any unemployed member; 25% of the households have one unemployed member; 19% have two unemployed members; 9% of the households have 3-4 unemployed members. There are 11 household members who are redundancies due to technological reasons, of whom 4 are men, and 7 are women.

Regarding the inactive population in the households, 28% of the households have one or two pensioners; 59% have children/students/University students; 7% of the households have houseman/housewife (the majority are women); only 1% of the households have members that are incapable of working.

### 6.3. Living standard

The majority of the households (61%) have generated income from regular employment in the past 12 months. The situation regarding income from regular employment is the most favourable among Macedonian households, where 68.2% of these households generated such income; the situation is the least favourable among the Turkish households, where no household has generated income from regular employment in the past 12 months (Table 1).

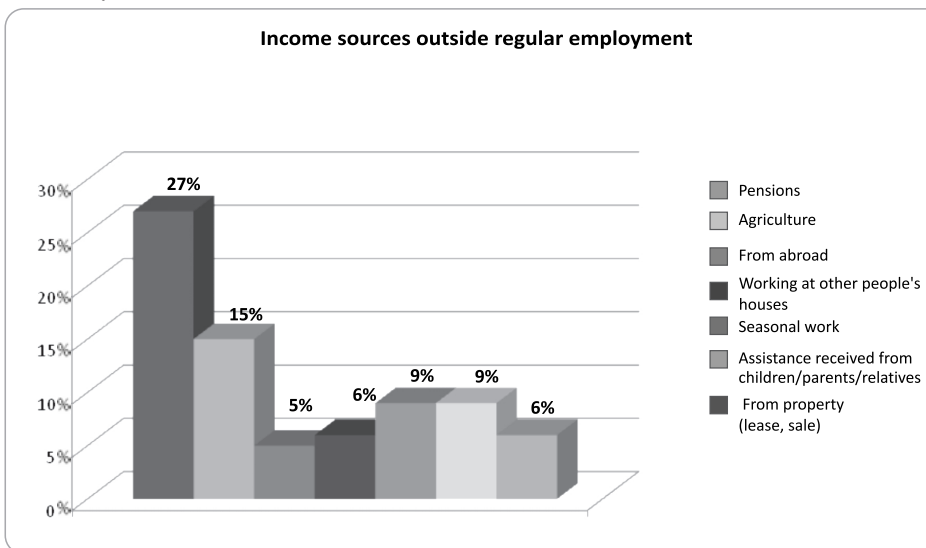
Table 1.

**Income from regular employment in the past 12 months?**  
Have you or anybody else from your household received income from regular employment over the last 12 months?

			No	Yes	Total
Ethnicity of the head of the household:	Macedonian	Count	28	60	88
		% within the ethnic group of the head of the household:	31,8%	68,2%	100,0%
		% of Total	28,0%	60,0%	88,0%
	Roma	Count	3	1	4
		% within the ethnic group of the head of the household:	75,0%	25,0%	100,0%
		% of Total	3,0%	1,0%	4,0%
	Turk	Count	7	0	7
		% within the ethnic group of the head of the household:	100,0%	0%	100,0%
		% of Total	7,0%	0%	7,0%
	Refuses to answer	Count	1	0%	1
		% within the ethnic group of the head of the household:	100,0%	0%	100%
		% of Total	1,0%	0%	1,0%
Total	Count	39	61	100	
	% within the ethnic group of the head of the household:	39,0%	61,0%	100,0%	

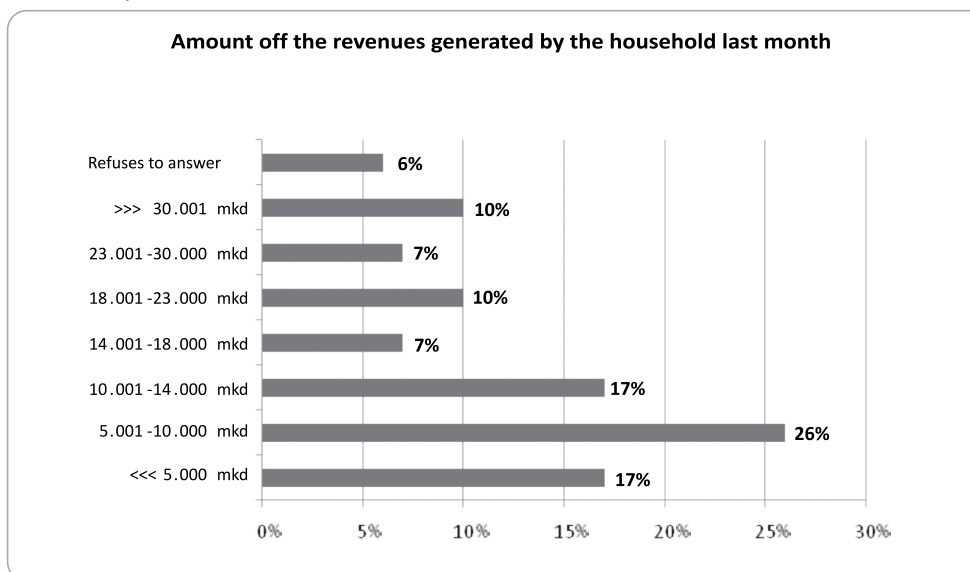
Among the households' sources of income outside regular employment, pensions are predominant income i.e. 27% of the households, followed by the income from agriculture which was generated by 15% of the households, as well as income in the form of assistance from children/parents/relatives and seasonal work income which was generated by 9% of the households (Graph 4). The head of the household is male in all the households generating additional income from seasonal work.

Graph 4.



Regarding the amount of the monthly income (Graph 5), the situation of the households is not alarming. The majority of the households (26%) generate a monthly income of 5.001-10.000 denars. 17% of the households generate income amounting to up to 5.000 denars, and another 17% between 10.001 and 14.000 denars. The rest generates income higher than 14.001 denars (34% of the households in total).

Graph 5.



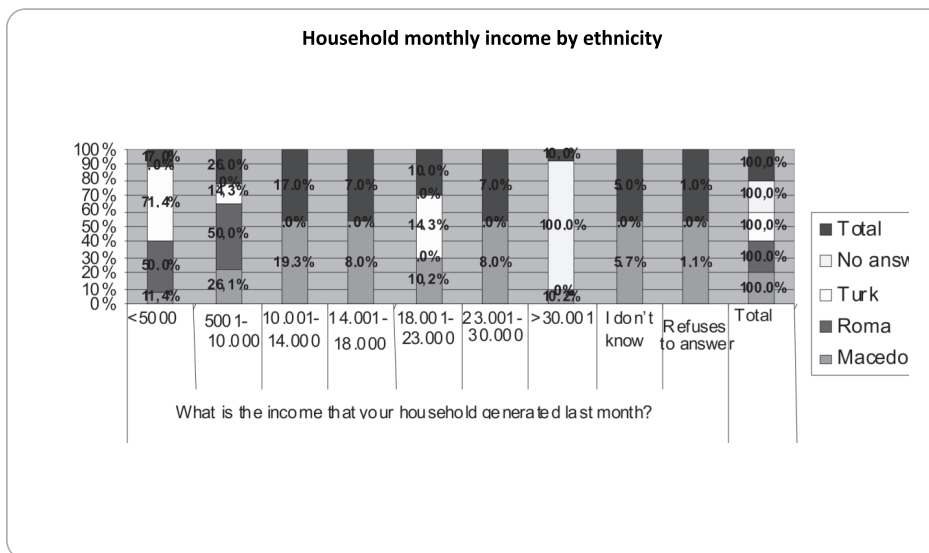
All of the households whose income is up to 5.000 denars (17=100%) are beneficiaries of social assistance, which is indicative of their dire financial situation. Out of the total number of households that are beneficiaries of social assistance (50=100%), the majority (52%) have monthly income of 5.001-10.000 denars; 34% have income of up to 5.000 denars; and only 14% have income exceeding 10.000 denars. The situation with regards to monthly income is much more favourable among households that are not beneficiaries of social assistance. No household's income is below 10.000 denars; 30% of the households have income of 10.001-14.000 denars; significant number of households have income exceeding 30.000 denars (20%) (Table 2).

Table 2. Monthly income broken down by the status of beneficiary/non-beneficiary of social Assistance

User/Not user of SA	Income of the household made in the last month									Total
	Up to 5000 denars	5001 – 10000 denars	10001 – 14 000 denars	14001 – 18 000 denars	18001 – 23 000 denars	23001 – 30 000 denars	Ower 30000 denars	Don't know	Refuses to Answer	
Yes										
Count	17	26	2	1	1	1	0	1	1	50
% from user	34,0%	52,0%	4,0%	2,0%	2,0%	2,0%	0,0%	2,0%	2,0%	100,0%
% of income	100,0%	100,0%	11,8%	14,3%	10,0%	14,3%	0%	20,0%	100,0%	50,0%
% of Count	17,0%	26,0%	2,0%	1,0%	1,0%	1,0%	0,0%	1,0%	1,0	50,0%
He										
Count	0	0	15	6	9	6	10	4	0	50
% from user	0,0%	0,0%	30,0%	12,0%	18,0%	12,0%	20,0%	8,0%	0,0%	100,0%
% of income	0,0%	0,0%	88,2%	85,7%	90,0%	85,7%	100,0%	80,0%	0,0%	50,0%
% of Count	0,0%	0,0%	15,0%	6,0%	9,0	6,0%	10,0%	4,0%	0,0%	50,0%
Count	17	26	17	7	10	7	10	5	1	100
% from user	17,0%	26,0%	17,0%	7,0%	10,0%	7,0%	10,0%	5,0%	1,0%	100,0%
% of income	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%

The analysis of the monthly income per ethnic group indicates that the Turkish ethnic group is under the highest risk. Namely, the majority of the Turkish households have income of up to 5.000 – as many as 71.4%. All Roma households are with monthly income of up to 10.000 denars (50% are in the category of up to 5.000 denars, and the other 50% are in the category of 5.001-10.000 denars). In the Macedonian ethnic campus, the majority of households have monthly income of 5.001-10.000 denars (26.1%); 19.3% have income between 10.001-14.000 denars; 8% have income of 14.001-18.000 denars; and additional 8% between 23.001-30.000 denars (Graph 6).

Graph 6.



The majority of the households live in solid construction homes (92%); 7% live in dilapidated and prefabricated housing; 1% live in improvised constructions. The majority of the households (32%) live in a two-room apartment, and a significant number live in a four-room apartment (30%). Eighteen households live in a studio or in a one-bedroom apartment (5% in a studio; 13% in a one-bedroom apartment).

Of the households living in a studio or in a one-bedroom apartment (18=100%), the majority are beneficiaries of social assistance (83.3%). The majority (20% or 40%) of the non-beneficiaries of social assistance (50=100%) live in four-room or bigger apartments, which indicates their more favourable housing situation. Regarding marital status, it is worth noting that among the households where the head of the household is married (89=100%), the majority live in only two-room apartments (33.7%).

The majority of the households live in a housing area of 61-80m<sup>2</sup> (26%); 20% live in a housing area of 41-60m<sup>2</sup>; 24% live in a housing area of over 80m<sup>2</sup>; 28% live in a housing area of up to 40m<sup>2</sup> (2% of the households refused to answer this question). Of the households in which the head of the household is married (89=100%), 48.3% live in a housing area of up to 60m<sup>2</sup>; 41.6% live in a housing area of 61-100m<sup>2</sup>, and only 10.1% live in homes with an area of more than 100m<sup>2</sup> (2.2% of these households refused to answer this question).

As regards the sanitation conditions, 79% of the households have toilet with a bath in the home (the majority of them or 59.5% are not beneficiaries of social assistance). The situation with regard to sewerage and water supply is satisfactory. Out of the total number of households, 96% have sewerage, and 98% have a tap in

the home. The most common way of heating is with a stove burning solid fuels – this is the case with 79% of the households. 11% of the population use electric stove for heating; 7% have their own steam heating (3% did not answer this question). During the winter months, the majority of the households (51%) heat only one room; 29% heat two rooms; 20% heat three and more rooms. The majority of the households that heat only one room (51=100%) are beneficiaries of social assistance - 72.5%. From the aspect of ethnicity, only one room is usually heated in all households regardless of their ethnicity: 46.6% among the Macedonian households; 100% among the Roma households; and 85.7% among the Turkish households (Table 3).

Table 3. Number of rooms that are heated during the winter months by ethnicity

Ethnicity		Hoe many rooms in your home are heated?					Total
		One	Two	Three	Four +	Don't know	
Macedonian	Count	41	28	13	3	3	88
	% within ethnicity	46,6%	31,8%	14,8%	3,4%	3,4%	100,0%
Roma	Count	4	0	0	0	0	4
	% within ethnicity	100,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	100,0%
Turk	Count	6	1	0	0	0	7
	% within ethnicity	88,7%	14,3%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	100,0%
Refuses to answer	Count	0	0	0	1	0	1
	% within ethnicity	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	100,0%	0,0%	100,0%
Total	Count	51	29	13	4	3	100
	% within ethnicity	51,0%	29,0%	13,0%	4,0%	3,0%	100,0%

Regarding clothes, what is missing the most are warm winter clothes (jackets, sweaters), which was mentioned by 43% of the households; shoes come next (14%); formal clothes (1%); underwear (1%); 14% of the households said that they did not lack any clothes (64.3% of the households not lacking clothes are not beneficiaries of social assistance). There are certain differences with regard to the clothes that different ethnicity households are missing: the Macedonian households lack winter clothes the most (44.3%); Roma households lack shoes the most (75%); Turkish households lack warm winter clothes the most (57.1%).

The situation with regard to the possession of household appliances is shown in Review 1 below. Despite the fact that up to 20% of the households did not want to say if they possessed certain appliances due to the sensitivity of this question (primarily for the social welfare beneficiaries), the tendency is that more than 90% of the households do own basic home appliances such as: refrigerator (100%); TV set (100%); stove burning solid fuel (95%); electric stove (96%); boiler (93%); washing machine (93%); vacuum cleaner (91%); mobile phone (91%). Less than 20% possess: video camera (12%); motorbike (18%); and agricultural machinery (11%).

## Review 1. Possession of home appliances

Home appliances	The household has it	The household does not need it	The household can't afford it	Refuses to answer	Total
solid fuel cooker	95	5	/	/	100
electric cooker	96	3	1	/	100
stove	76	16	8	/	100
boiler	93	4	3	/	100
refrigerator	100	/	/	/	100
deep freezer	77	17	1	/	100
washing machine	93	3	3	1	100
dish washer	21	46	16	17	100
vacuum cleaner	91	7	1	1	100
Air-conditioner	20	47	14	19	100
radio/CD player/tape player	83	11	/	6	100
TV set	100	/	/	/	100
video camera	12	58	10	20	100
video recorder/DVD	61	27	2	10	100
camera	38	43	6	13	100
computer	43	28	14	15	100
telephone	39	39	3	19	100
mobile phone	91	5	2	2	100
bicycle	65	23	3	9	100
motor bike	18	52	13	17	100
car	43	33	9	15	100
tractor/agr. machinery	11	61	10	18	100
			Σ=119		

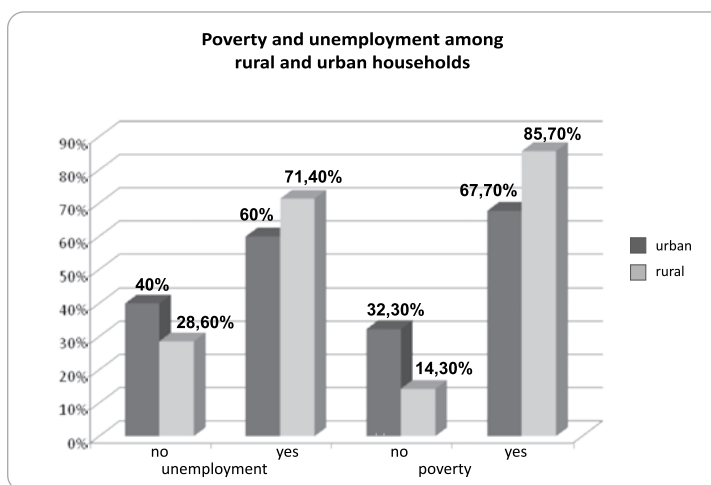
It is important to emphasize that out of the total number of respondents stating that the household was unable to purchase some of the abovementioned home appliances (119 cases when they cannot afford to buy a certain appliance), the majority are beneficiaries of social assistance (79 cases or 66%).

### 6.4. Social Problems and Social Security

Among the social problems, the most acute first of all, is the problem of poverty, which was indicated by 74% of the households, and the problem of unemployment indicated by 64% of the households. Among other problems, illnesses were mentioned by 18% of the households; domestic violence among 6%; divorces among 5%; conflicting family relations among 4%; and disability was a problem in 4% of the households. Problems with deviant behaviours and natural disasters are underrepresented (2% and 1%, respectively).

Data about how urban and rural households are affected by the problems of poverty and unemployment indicate that the rural populations are more affected by these problems than urban population: 71.4% of the rural households stated that they were faced with the problem of unemployment, and 85.7% with the problem of poverty. Of the urban households, 60% faced the problem of unemployment, and 67.7% the problem of poverty (Graph 7).

Graph 7.



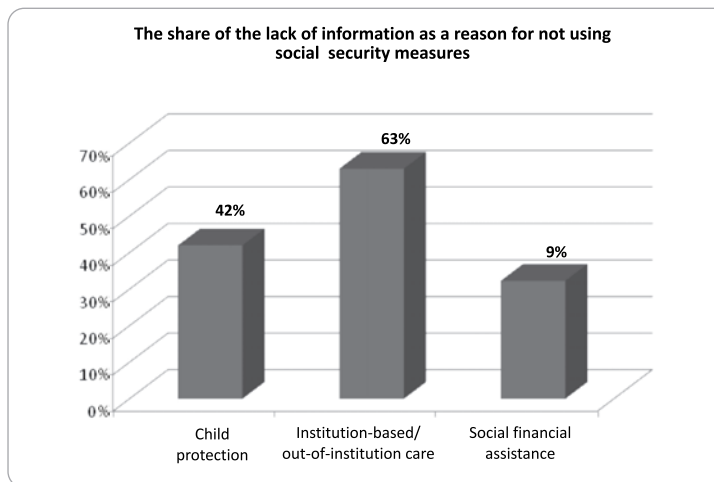
The use of social security measures is at a very low level (with the exception of the social financial assistance). Only 6% of the households make use of the extra-institutional forms of care (2% use the forms of information-giving, consultations, advice and counselling, and 4% use the form of professional assistance for resolving marital and family crises). 3% of the households used institution-based care in terms of training for a job/production activity. Regarding financial allowances, in addition to 50% that are beneficiaries of social financial assistance, there are additional 2% of the households that are beneficiaries of each of the following measures: permanent financial assistance; financial compensation for assistance and care by another person; and one-time financial assistance. Regarding the child care measures, the most used measure was the one-time financial assistance for a newborn - 16%; 2% of the families used or are now using child allowance; 2% of the families are beneficiaries of a special child allowance which is awarded for care for a disabled child.

It should be noted that the lack of information about the possibility to use these legal rights is among the prevailing reasons for failing to use the measures of social and child care (Graph 8). To illustrate, the most common reason for not using the financial assistances under the social security umbrella is rejection of the application (15%), followed by lack of information (9%), the failure to fulfil the requirements (4%), incomplete documentation (3%), and shame (2%); the rest of the households belongs to the category of those who did not have any need for this kind of assistance.

With regards to the use of the child care measures, as many as 42% of the households did not use them due to the lack of information about their rights; 7%

were rejected; 2% did not fulfil the requirements; 1% did not have the complete documentation; 1% felt shame (the rest didn't have any need for these measures). The situation is similar with regards to the lack of information among the citizens about the existing rights to institutional and extra-institutional forms of social security: more than half of the households (63%) did not use their rights due to lack of information; 4% were rejected; 3% due to shame; 3% because they did not fulfil the requirements; 1% due to incomplete documentation (the rest includes households that did not need these measures).

Graph 8.



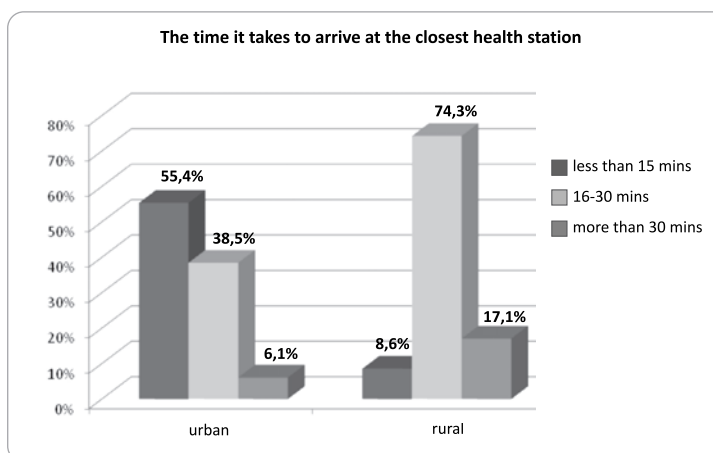
## 6.5. Health and Nutrition

The situation with regards to health insurance in the households is good. The majority are households where all the members have health insurance (93%), whereas the rest of the families have partial health insurance (not all members are insured).

In case of disease (except for hospitalisation), the majority of the households are treated in the public health sector i.e. they go to a public doctor and take drugs on prescription (85%); 11% are treated entirely in the private health sector (63.6% of them are not beneficiaries of social assistance); this situation is unknown for 4% of the households. There are no registered cases of treatment with alternative medicine. This data, however, points to the low living standard of the population, due to which the majority of the households cannot afford private treatment.

Regarding the distance to the closest health centre, more than half of the households (51%) take 16-30 minutes to get there; 39% take 15 minutes; 10% take more than 30 minutes. There are differences between rural and urban households with regard to the access to health care institutions. Notably, the majority of the urban households are able to arrive at the closest health station in less than 15 minutes (55.4%), whereas the majority of rural households (74.3%) take 16-30 minutes to get to the closest health station. This data is indicative of the disadvantaged situation of the rural population regarding the access to health care institutions (Graph 9).

Graph 9.



Situation with regard to cooking and eating food rich in meat is also satisfactory. Most of the households (33%) cook a hot meal with meat twice a week; 26% three times a week; 24% once a week; 11% four and more times a week; only 5% not even a single time. However, data is as follows from the aspect of ethnic background: Macedonians usually cook a hot meal with meat twice a week (37.5%); Roma usually once a week (75%); Turks usually once a week as well (57.1%).

Among the needs for which the households lack money, food and soft drinks rank first, whereas hygiene and health (the need for drugs and aids) rank fourth (Review 2). It is worth noting that a large proportion of the households (26%) mentioned alcoholic drinks and tobacco as a need which they lack money for, thus this need precedes the needs for education, communication, recreation and culture. When it comes to the shortage of funds for hygiene and health (drugs and aids), this shortage is more prevalent among rural than among urban households: 78% of the rural vs. 48% of the urban households highlighted that they lacked funds for satisfying these needs.

#### Review 2. List of household needs which households lack money for

Needs of the household	Number of households that indicated shortage of funds
1. Food and soft drinks	98
2. Housing, water, electricity, fuels	93
3. Clothes and shoes	83
4. Hygiene and health (drugs and aids)	63
5. Household furnishings and furniture	43
6. Traffic (transport/car)	33
7. Alcoholic drinks and tobacco	26
8. Education	24
9. Communication (telephone, Internet)	17
10. Recreation and culture (newspapers, books, travels, entertainment)	10

## 6.6. Education

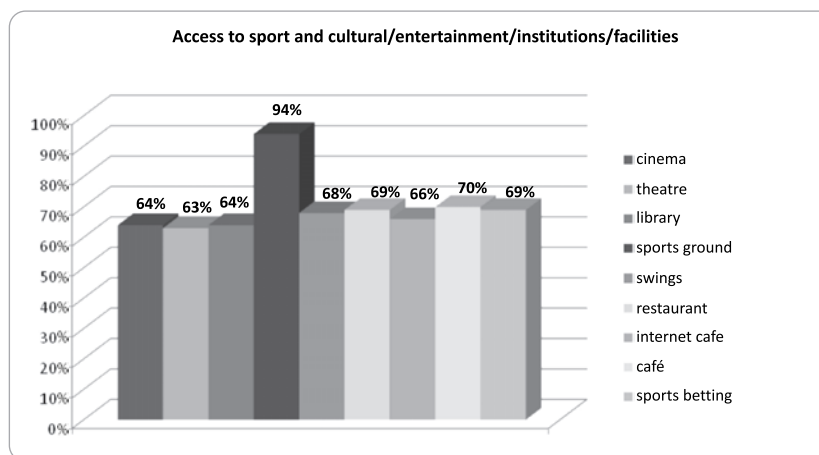
49% of the households have children at a school age (6+ years old). 32% of the households have children attending primary school; the primary school is at a distance of up to 1km for 14% of the households; 1.01 km-2km for 8%; 2.01-4km for 7% households (3% of the households did not answer this question). The majority of the households that live at a distance of 2.01-4km from the school (7=100%) belong to the group of rural households (71.4%), whereas as many as 92.9% of the households who live at a distance of up to 1km from the school (14=100%) are urban households. 18% of the households have children that attend secondary school, and 12% of the households have children attending higher education. No problem with regular attendance of the children at school has been noted.

The assistance received by households related to the education of their children it is at a low level. Out of 39 households with children at a primary school age, 9 use free transport and 1 uses the free meals entitlements. Out of 18 households with children at secondary school age, 5 use free transport to the secondary schools. Among the 12 households with children attending higher education, 3 households used scholarships, 2 households used credits, and additional 2 households used quota-based enrolment.

## 6.7. Sports, Entertainment, Culture

Regarding the access to sport and cultural/entertainment institutions and facilities, the households are in a relatively good situation bearing in mind that the access to all the listed institutions/facilities is higher than 60%. The highest level of access is the one to sport fields - 94% of the households noted that they had some kind of a sport ground in their vicinity; the lowest levels of access were said to be the ones to theatre, cinema and library (63%, 64% and 64%, respectively) (Graph 10).

Graph 10.



Most of the households do not use Internet at all (42%). However, there are significant shares of those that use the Internet from a home computer (34%) and

from an internet café (19%); 1% of the households use the Internet at the work place; the situation is unknown for 5% of the households. Regarding the rural/urban breakdown, the majority (58.5%) of the urban households use Internet, whereas the situation is quite the opposite with rural households where the majority does not use Internet at all (48.6%).

## 7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 7.1. Conclusions

AREA	Core area	STATUS/PROBLEMS
<b>1.Predominant activities</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Mining, textile industries.</li> <li>▶ Private businesses are prevailing (90% of the total economy)</li> </ul>
<b>2.Institutional capacities</b>	<i>Education:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 2 central primary schools in the town.</li> <li>▶ 3 central primary schools in the villages.</li> <li>▶ 12 dispersed primary schools (grades 1-4) in the villages.</li> <li>▶ 1 secondary general school in the town.</li> <li>▶ 1 detached electro-technical faculty.</li> </ul>
	<i>Health:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 1 health care centre .</li> <li>▶ 7 outpatient clinics.</li> <li>▶ 7 pharmacies.</li> <li>▶ 4 specialist doctor’s clinics.</li> <li>▶ 15 private doctor’s offices.</li> <li>▶ 8 private specialist doctor’s clinics.</li> <li>▶ There are no health care institutions in the villages.</li> </ul>
	<i>Welfare:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 3 kindergartens.</li> <li>▶ 1 day centre for disabled individuals (‘Poraka’).</li> <li>▶ Intermunicipal Centre for Social Work.</li> <li>▶ There are no homes for the elderly.</li> <li>▶ Underdeveloped network of social institutions.</li> </ul>
	<i>Culture, Sports, Entertainment:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 1 centre of culture (with a cinema and a theatre hall).</li> <li>▶ 1 people’s library.</li> <li>▶ 2 folklore ensembles.</li> <li>▶ 3 amateur drama studios.</li> <li>▶ 1 sports arena.</li> <li>▶ 1 sports/recreation compound.</li> <li>▶ 2 playgrounds for children.</li> <li>▶ 7 sport clubs.</li> <li>▶ 2 TV stations, 2 radio stations, 2 cable TV operators, no print media.</li> <li>▶ 7 sport clubs.</li> <li>▶ 70 registered citizen associations.</li> </ul>
	<i>Business entities:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 1230 small-sized business entities, 15 medium-sized and 1 large business entities are registered.</li> </ul>

### 3. Social problems

- ▶ Most acute: unemployment, dysfunctional families, divorces, increase in delinquency, alcoholism, drug addiction, games of chance (sports betting).
- ▶ Unemployment: 5812 persons are unemployed (58.12% are women).
- ▶ The majority of the unemployed are waiting for a job for 8 and more years.
- ▶ Active measures are implemented every year as per the MLSP operational plans (subsidised employments, small businesses, work clubs).
- ▶ There were no public works in 2010; 26 beneficiaries of social financial assistance were engaged in public works in 2009.
- ▶ The elderly.
- ▶ Turkish ethnic group.

*Socially vulnerable groups*

### 5. Infrastructure problems

*Roads*

- ▶ 90% of the streets in the town are asphalted.
- ▶ Non-asphalted local roads (only 20% are asphalted).
- ▶ 40% of the streets have no lighting.

*Waterworks*

- ▶ 90% are connected to the city waterworks.
- ▶ There is problem with the water supply during the summer, especially in the higher elevation settlements.

*Sewerage*

- ▶ 90% coverage in the town; 60% in the rural areas.
- ▶ Only 7 rural settlements have sewerage.
- ▶ There is problem with the parallelism in the sewerage network where there are collectors for both waste water and rain water.
- ▶ The rest of the households are using septic tanks.

### 6. Environmental problems

- ▶ Illegal landfills for solid waste (organized waste collection service is provided only in the town).
- ▶ Rivers polluted by solid waste and waste water (from the villages without sewerage network), and pollution residues in the rivers from the Buchim mine.
- ▶ Land erosion.

### 7. Interinstitutional cooperation in the municipality

- ▶ Solid cooperation between the municipality and the central government, ZELS, NGOs.
- ▶ Cooperation primarily with the neighbouring municipality of Konche; together with the Bregalnica and Strumica regions, a joint Association for Regional Economic Development was established.
- ▶ Poor cooperation between the municipality, the SWC and the Employment Centre.
- ▶ Poor cooperation with the private sector and the religious organizations.

<b>8. Social care</b>	<i>By the municipality:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Underdeveloped social security functions.</li> <li>▶ There is no social security department.</li> <li>▶ There is no social worker among the staff.</li> <li>▶ There are no programs on social security or strategic documents in this area.</li> <li>▶ There are no developed forms of social security for the vulnerable groups (except for the occasional financial assistance).</li> <li>▶ Minimal 0.02% of the municipal budget is dedicated to social security.</li> </ul>
	<i>By CSW:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Beneficiaries of SFA: 695 (9.7% of the total number of households).</li> <li>▶ Beneficiaries of PFA: 73.</li> <li>▶ Beneficiaries of care/assistance by another person: 260.</li> <li>▶ Out-of-institution care: 8 persons (4 in a foster family; 3 in a small group home; 1 in a housing unit (independent living with support)).</li> <li>▶ Institution-based care: 23 persons in total, placed in: Novo Selo near Strumica; Demir Kapija; Banskó; Chichino Selo; the home for elderly 'Zafir Sajto' and the home for elderly in Prilep.</li> </ul>

## 7.2. Recommendations

Area	Core area	Recommendations for overcoming the problems and improving the situation
<b>1. Predominant activities</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ The municipality has a significant development potential. Increased investments in agriculture and stock breeding are needed. Mountain tourism should also be developed. There is no single hotel in the whole municipality, just one motel (motel Panorama). Investing in innovative technologies for utilizing thermo-mineral water (and other raw materials) would boost the development of this municipality.</li> </ul>
<b>2. Institutional capacities</b>	<i>Education:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Analyse the possibilities for opening one additional secondary school.</li> </ul>
	<i>Health:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Make a proper needs assessment, and open outpatient clinics (general medicine and dentistry) in the villages.</li> <li>▶ Open pharmacies in the rural areas.</li> </ul>
	<i>Welfare:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Enlarge the network of social institutions in the municipality.</li> <li>▶ Increase the number of kindergartens.</li> <li>▶ Open homes for the elderly.</li> <li>▶ Establish day centres for youth with deviant behaviours.</li> </ul>
	<i>Culture/ Sports/ Entertainment:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Increase the number of playgrounds for children.</li> <li>▶ Establish a print medium.</li> <li>▶ Enrich the sport/cultural/entertainment offer in the villages with new elements.</li> </ul>

	<i>Business entities:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Stimulate the development of larger business entities that would be able to absorb more workers.</li> </ul>
<b>3. Social problems</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Contribute to curbing unemployment by stimulating the growth of private businesses and small-sized enterprises by utilizing and renewing the potential of agriculture and stock breeding, as well as by providing incentives to individual farmers to register their business.</li> <li>▶ Promote programs for employing social security beneficiaries, and improve the targeting of the active labour market measures. Implement programs aimed at preventing the emergence of deviant behaviours among the youth and of family dysfunctions.</li> <li>▶ Open counselling departments for youth as well as for families.</li> </ul>
	<i>Socially vulnerable groups</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Enlarge the network of social services for the elderly: analyze the possibilities for opening social services for assistance in the home, day centres, small group homes.</li> <li>▶ Assess the needs and the problems of the ethnic Turkish population, and make efforts to establish measures and programs to improve the situation of this ethnic group.</li> </ul>
<b>5. Infrastructure problems</b>	<i>Roads</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Improve the local road infrastructure (lay asphalt on the local roads)</li> <li>▶ Invest in full street lighting.</li> </ul>
	<i>Waterworks</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Make an analysis and a preliminary design for resolving the issue with the water supply during the summer.</li> </ul>
	<i>Sewerage</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Put in place sewerage in all settlements.</li> </ul>
<b>6. Environmental problems</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Find a solution for an organised solid waste management in the villages in order to solve the problem of illegal landfills and polluted rivers.</li> <li>▶ Make an assessment of the magnitude of the problem and develop a preliminary design for a long-term resolution for the land erosion problem.</li> </ul>
<b>7. Interinstitutional cooperation in the municipality</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Improve the cooperation between the municipality, the SWC and the Employment Centre through: intensified and more efficient implementation of public works; active measures for employing social security beneficiaries; membership in joint bodies; education about the possibilities and possible forms of their cooperation in the social security arena; as well as practical implementation of joint projects.</li> <li>▶ Improve the cooperation of the municipality with the private sector and the religious organisations by involving them as partners in the implementation of programs in the social security area.</li> </ul>

<b>8. Social care</b>	<i>By the municipality:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Develop the social security functions of the municipality by educating its staff.</li> <li>▶ Open a social security unit.</li> <li>▶ Hire a social worker.</li> <li>▶ Increase the capacities of the municipality for strategic planning and for developing programs in the area of social security through education.</li> <li>▶ Enlarge the forms of social security implemented by the municipality (predominantly financial assistance) with new forms of social services.</li> <li>▶ Increase the share in the budget dedicated to social security, and plan the spending of these budgetary funds in a more detailed and more systematic manner.</li> </ul>
	<i>By SWC:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Decrease the number of beneficiaries of social financial assistance by intensifying the activities for employing them in cooperation with the Employment Centre.</li> <li>▶ Develop the overall network of institution-based and extra-institutional care within the municipality.</li> </ul>





# **MUNICIPALITY OF CASCA**



## 1. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF CASKA

Caska municipality is a rural municipality situated in the central part of the Republic of Macedonia, covering an area of 852 km<sup>2</sup>, which makes it one of the major municipalities in the country. It is, still, a municipality with a small population density of 6 residents per km<sup>2</sup>.

A total number of 29 local communities function on the territory of Caska municipality, comprising of 42 populated places. In Caska municipality there is depopulation of populated places by young people, but also immigration/populated place of elderly people, i.e. dispeopling of rural areas.

In only 4 populated places, the number of residents is greater than 700 (Gorno and Dolno Jabolciste, Caska and Melnica), in 2 populated places there are 400-500 residents (Bogomila and Izvor), in 8 populated places there are 100-300 residents, in 8 there are up to 10 residents whereas 4 populated places are without any residents. In all of the remaining populated places the number of residents ranges between 10 and 100. The centre of the municipality is the Caska populated place that in the last fifty years has dictated the rhythm of the economic and political life in the municipality and is today considerably urbanized.

There is a total number of 7673 residents in the municipality living in 2185 households. Out of the overall number of residents 4017 (52.3%) are male and 3656 (47.7%) are female. The ethnic structure of the population is the following: Macedonians 57%, Albanians 35%, Turks 5%, Serbs 1%, Bosniacs 1% and other 1%. Out of the total population, 1935 (25.2%) belong to the age group 0-14, 4588 (59.8%) to the age group 15-64, 1150 (15%) to the age group above 65. Caska municipality is one of the municipalities with intensified demographic aging of the population, which is supported by the fact that as much as 36% of the population of the age group over 65 years is actually older than 75. In terms of the educational structure of the population over 10 years of age (6410), 3338 are male, out of whom 97% are literate and 3% illiterate, and 3072 are women, out of whom 87% are literate and as much as 13% illiterate. An indicator of the low educational level in the municipality is the educational structure of the population 15+ (5738), out of which 8.9% have no education, 45% have incomplete primary education, 30% have completed primary education, 14.6% have completed secondary education, 0.8% have completed postsecondary education, 0.4% have completed higher education and 0.2% are still in the process of completing primary education.

The municipality has an attractive geographical position and disposes of good natural resources. Its territory includes the attractive scenery of the Jakupica, Dautica and Babuna mountains in the west, Klepa in the east, Karadzica I Golesnica in the north-west, as well as the rivers Babuna and Topolka, which are surrounded by very fertile land. The municipality is also rich in natural raw materials, such as marble, quartz and clay. There is also a newly built dam Lisice, which is of particular importance for the water supply of the municipality and the town of Veles. However, Caska municipality is currently not supplied with water from the dam, which in the future can be used for water supply of part of the populated places in

the municipality. The total arable agricultural area is 476km<sup>2</sup> and 48.97km<sup>2</sup> belong to pastures.

Therefore, development potential of the municipality should be seen in the development of agriculture (the conditions are especially favourable for the greenhouse production, tobacco production, production of rice, which has resulted in an increased number of rice producers along the Topolka river, as well as in the production of high quality mountain-bred potato) and cattle breeding (currently not well developed, only part of the population in mountainous villages is breeding sheep), in the mountain and rural tourism, the construction of small hydroelectric plants and the exploitation of the natural resources of the municipality.

## 2. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES

**Education:** Primary education in the Caska municipality is realized in 3 central primary schools (in Caska, Bogomila and Gorno Jabolciste) and 6 dispersed schools (there is a dispersed school of the Central Primary School of Caska in Melnica; there are dispersed schools of the Central Primary School of Gorno Jabolciste in Dolno Jabolciste and Gorno Vranovci; there are dispersed schools of the Central Primary School of Bogomila in Orese, Izvor, Teovo and Sogle).

Students from nearby villages that gravitate around Caska are provided accommodation in a student dorm. The others are provided free transportation from the place of residence to the nearest school. The dorm has a maximum capacity to accommodate 60 students, who are provided with free food. According to the information received, after the introduction of free transportation of students to school, the dorm accommodation is much less used. There are no secondary schools in the municipality, and students who continue their education after primary school usually attend a secondary school in Veles, where dorm accommodation is also provided.

**Health care:** The network of health care institutions in the municipality is not sufficiently developed. There are only 6 outpatient clinics in the following populated places: Caska, Melnica, Izvor, Bogomila, Gorno Jabolciste and Dolno Jabolciste, 2 dental clinics in Caska and Gorno Jabolciste and 1 specialist clinic for lung diseases within the Ministry of Health - Jasenovo that is also used as an outpatient clinic. The outpatient clinics work in 2 shifts, but the population is not provided with primary health care at night and on weekends. There is also no emergency medical treatment/ambulance service with home treatment or 24/7 medical service, and instead, the population uses the Veles services. Still, the remoteness of the populated places from the town of Veles prevents the timely functioning of the health care institutions.

**Social institutions:** The social institutions' network is even less developed. There is not even one kindergarten or a nursing home. Even less developed is the network of social institutions. There is no kindergarten or a nursing home. There are only two day care centres for the elderly in Caska and Bogomila, which according

to statements of the focus group participants are not attracting sufficient interest from the elderly people in the municipality since they are open only during the day, and are therefore, not sufficiently visited.

**Cultural institutions:** There are 2 museums in Caska municipality, one in Bogomila and one in Gorno Vranovci. There is one library within the Bogomila Museum, functioning as a dispersed library of the Goce Delcev Library from Veles. There are no cinemas, theatres or functional cultural centres. There are 6 buildings which housed the former cultural centres, located in the bigger populated places that are currently empty and ruined.

Several archaeological sites are located in the municipality (near Caska, Golozinci, Izvor, Otistino), as well as numerous cultural monuments, protected by the Ministry of Culture: 2 churches, 1 mosque- former partisan hospital, a stone bridge from the Roman period at the Babuna river, 1 village - Gorno Vranovci as a whole, 3 houses which used to be centres of the ASNOM Presidency, the main headquarters with the printing house and the Central Committee in of GornoVranovci, and 1 the house of Peter Pop Arsov in Bogomila.

**Sports facilities:** There are 9 sports grounds in the larger populated places, mostly football fields. The Caska one is a big, new stadium. . There are also 5 sports clubs. There are no other sports facilities and clubs.

**Media:** There is no medium in the municipality, printed or electronic.

**Civil organizations:** There is also small number of citizens' organizations on the territory of the municipality. The following are most active: the Citizens' Association of Citizens "Galebi (Seagulls)", the Association for Multiethnic Coexistence and Human Rights "Mozaik (Mosaic)", the recently established Environmental Association "Ambientalisti (Environmentalists)", Celarnica and Plavnik. There are also a number of other associations and foundations, which despite being registered on a national level or in the neighbouring municipality of Veles, implement a large part of their activities on the territory of Caska municipality.

**Economic entities:** In 2005 a total number of 170 businesses were registered in Caska municipality, which is a significant increase compared to 2003 when 73 were registered. Out of 170 businesses, 19 are enterprises, 35 trade companies, 53 individual tradesmen and 63 others. The biggest active economic entities are Kanet Agro (greenhouse production) and Kame Komerc (quartz production), which currently absorb a good portion of the labour force. In addition to them, some farms have been established and are functioning in the municipality (pig farms, poultry farms, mushroom production farm, snail production farm). Several businesses, which in the past employed a significant portion of the population of this municipality, are now shut down; these include the milk production facility "Napredok", the greenhouse production facility "Lozar", the "Kiro Cucuk" factory for brick and construction material production, the "Porcelanka" facility from Veles and the silk production facility, also from Veles.

### 3. DOMINANT PROBLEMS IN THE MUNICIPALITY

**Social problems:** The most bitter social problems in the community include the high rate unemployment and poverty that is resulting in a great number of social assistance beneficiaries. Increasing problems in the municipality include juvenile delinquency, domestic violence and juvenile marriages (especially present among the Albanian population). The old, financially weak population receiving no pension or minimal pension, is mostly disadvantaged, especially in the populated places with high share of old population in the total population (Bogomila). Disabled people are also in an unfavourable social position (29) as there are no social services for them in the municipality. According to the information obtained from the municipality, they are in a process of concluding an agreement with the MLSP for the opening of a day centre for the disabled on the territory of the municipality.

The Employment Centre located in Veles is responsible for dealing with the problem of unemployment in Caska municipality. There are 17 employees in the Centre (7 with completed higher education, 4 with completed postsecondary education and 6 with completed secondary education). Out of the total population at the age 15 and above (5553, of which 2799 are male and 2754 female), 33.4% were economically active and 66.6% inactive population. Out of the economically active population (1857), 1078 are employed (87.4% male and only 12.6% female) and 779 are unemployed (62.2% male and 37.8% female).

According to the latest data received from the Employment Centre, as of 31.10.2010, there are 1965 registered unemployed people, out of which 851 (43.3%) are female and 1114 (56.7%) are male. The structure of registered unemployed persons by level of education is as follows: 1643 (83.6%) of the unemployed are unskilled and semi-skilled, 127 (6.5%) are skilled, 188 (9.6%) have completed secondary education, 1(0.05%) has completed postsecondary education and 6 (0.3%) have completed higher education. The structure of the registered unemployed persons by age is as follows: 619(31.5%) are up to 29 years of age, 525 (26.7%) are in the age group of 30-39, 399 (20.3%) are in the age group of 40-49 and 422 (21.5%) are over 50 years of age. These data indicate that the young population is most common among the unemployed, but that there is a high percentage (21.5%) of unemployed among the older population over 50 years of age. In terms of the waiting time prior to the first employment, the structure is as follows: 264 (13.4%) of the unemployed have been waiting for employment up to 11 months, 602 (30.6%) from 1-3 years, 1099 (55.9%) 4 or more years. This piece of data indicates that more than half of the unemployed are waiting for employment for 4 years or more and this is really alarming. The deficient occupations in the municipality include: construction workers, doctors, dentists and nurses whereas the dominant activities include agriculture and cattle breeding. When it comes to unemployment, the situation is most unfavourable for the unskilled and semi-skilled people that due to their low qualifications and long-term absence from the labour market are having difficulties in the inclusion on the market as active job seekers. On the other hand, there is little demand by the employers for this

category of unemployed persons.

The Employment Centre implements a number of active measures in the fight against unemployment, including: subsidized employment of vulnerable population groups, small business start ups, job clubs, retraining, qualification, further training and etc. Public works were more frequent in 2009 when, in accordance with the Operational Plan for Active Programs and Employment Measures, 38 registered unemployed persons from Caska municipality were engaged in public works referring to the maintenance and refurbishing of public infrastructure and environmental maintenance and protection. The contact and cooperation with employers from the private sector is crucial in the implementation of active measures. Still, the cooperation with the Centre for Social Work and the municipality should be improved, in terms of providing employment for the social assistance beneficiaries. For the time being, it primarily comes down to the exchange of information on beneficiaries or on the economic and social situation in the municipality.

In a situation of high unemployment and lack of employment opportunities in the municipality (there is not a sufficient number of companies and enterprises, except the greenhouse facility, which is private), almost every family makes a living through tobacco production. The fact that many of them do not have their own land poses a difficulty to them. That is why they work in other villages on rented land or use land illegally. As one of the participants in focus group discussions asked:

*«What shall we do?? The land of the Lozar facility is given to a few people only. Many of us have come from nearby villages in Caska. We do not own land, so we go to neighbouring villages to plant tobacco... «*

**Infrastructural problems:** There is good traffic infrastructure in the municipality. The municipality is linked to the town of Veles by a regional road. The railway line Skopje-Bitola also passes through its territory. It is planned to connect the municipality to the main road Veles-Prilep-Bitola, which will further enhance the territorial connection of the municipality with the other parts of the country. However, the problem of local unasphalted roads and outdated infrastructure of regional and local roads remains. The local road network is 126.7km long, out of which 38.9km is paved in asphalt and 87.8km is not (sand and unpaved road).

The citizens of Caska municipality are supplied with water through the water supply system (built with citizens' self-contribution and voluntary work in 1976), their own wells and village water fountains. 22 (out of 42) populated places are supplied with drinking water through the water supply network whereas the other populated places are supplied with drinking water through village water fountains and wells. The water is provided from the rivers of Babuna and Topolka. The Public Communal Enterprise Topolka has been established in Caska, with 16 employees, out of which 4 are full time employees and 12 are employed on a contractual basis to perform communal activities of public interest. This enterprise is financed by the revenue it collects from the provision of services for the beneficiaries. The Topolka enterprise manages only 5 water supply lines (Caska, Bogomila, Izvor, Omorani and Teovo). The other lines, , with a decision of the Municipal Council, have, been given for use and management to the local communities of those

populated places. In larger populated places, the water quality is controlled 2 times a month (i.e. in populated places in which Topolka has undertaken the water supply line) whereas in smaller places it is controlled 2 times a year. Since this is a service for the provision of which a fee is charged, the water is being controlled in only 5 villages.

The disposal of the communal waste water from the households and the other consumers in the municipality is carried out through the sewerage network (built in 1986) that exists in only 7 populated places (Caska, Izvor, Teovo, Bogomila, the weekend resort in Gorno Vranovi, Melnica, Martolci) whereas the waste water from the other populated places is discharged directly into the rivers Babuna and Topolka. There is a purification station in the village of Teovo.

**Environmental problems:** Caska municipality is considered an environmentally clean municipality with high quality, clean air. Still, since the Public Communal Enterprise “Topolka” does not manage most of the water supply and waste management systems, there are improvised landfills and pollution of the rivers by dumped solid waste and waste waters. The solid waste landfill for Caska is located in Gliniste, in the area of the Rakovec village. The other rural communities are facing a series of problems with waste collection, particularly in those where it is not collected in an organized manner.

#### 4. SOCIAL PROTECTION IN THE MUNICIPALITY

**Municipal administration:** Caska municipality Caska is one of the municipalities in which attention is paid on the social protection functions that the municipality should perform. In the municipality there is a Unit for Education, Culture, Health Care, Social Protection, Sport and Cooperation with Citizens’ Associations and Foundations. There is no social worker in this Unit, only a lawyer and a pedagogue.

Several programs have been developed by this Unit, including: the Program for Development of Education, Sport, Culture, Health Care and Social Protection of Caska Municipality for the period 2009-2013, the Draft Activity Program of Caska Municipality in the Area of Social Protection in 2011 and the Program for the Activities of Primary Schools in the Area of Social Protection in 2011.

Although the social protection related programs should be expanded in the part referring to the protection of the vulnerable population groups through different social services, such as supplementing the financial assistance and the assistance in kind, still, the initiatives of the municipality regarding the development of the social protection at a local level should serve as an example to others and should be welcomed.

Good results have been achieved also in the practical implementation of the various types of social protection. So far, the municipality has intervened in cases of accommodation of socially disadvantaged families in municipal facilities (30 socially disadvantaged families have been accommodated in the municipal building); provision of one-term financial assistance to citizens who have submitted

an application to the municipality for such assistance (in 2009, 140,000 denars of financial assistance were awarded); giving New Year's gifts to children with special needs and children from single parent families; coverage of the transportation costs for students from the municipality to the Veles secondary schools, etc.

The municipal representatives are sceptical as far as the decentralization of social protection is concerned due to the insufficient number of employees in the municipality and the poor financial base for take up the given responsibilities. Out of the total budget of the municipality, which in 2010 was 33,895,963 denars, 300.000 denars, or about 1%, were allocated for social protection.

**Centre for Social Work:** The realization of the social protection rights for the population from Caska municipality is within the competence of the Intermunicipal Centre for Social Work in Veles, which also covers the municipalities of Veles and Gradsko.

According to the data for social protection beneficiaries in Caska municipality, the largest in number are the beneficiaries of social financial assistance 267 (or 12.2% of the total number of households - 2185). Most of the households are beneficiaries from the village of Gorno Jabolciste, with predominantly Albanian population - 89 (or 33.3% of the total number of beneficiaries), and from the village of Amelnica, in which 32 (or 12% of beneficiaries) are Macedonian Muslims ). The rest of the beneficiaries (146) are from the other populated places. There are 33 beneficiaries of permanent financial assistance and 51 beneficiary of financial compensation for assistance and care from another person. The payment of the one-time financial assistance has been cut off from April 2010 due to the restrictive policy of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy in relation to this kind of social assistance. Generally speaking, , there is dissatisfaction among the beneficiaries with the amount of the financial compensations/benefits that is insufficient to cover the most basic living expenses. The remoteness of the Centre for Social Work is a great obstacle for the social assistance beneficiaries from Caska municipality. Taking into consideration that they have to report on a monthly basis to the Centre they must travel to Veles at least once a month under circumstances in which there is public transport only from Caska. This is the biggest problem for the beneficiaries from remote villages.

From the different types of institutional care, only 1 juvenile of Albanian nationality is placed in a foster family. There are also 2 clubs for the elderly in Caska and Bogomil, in which according to the Centre for Social Work, there are 160 elderly people from Caska and 105 elderly people from Bogomila. There is a community kitchen within the primary school. According to information from the field, the community kitchen is not used only by beneficiaries of permanent financial assistance, but also by beneficiaries of social financial assistance. The fact that the community kitchen cannot be used by all socially disadvantaged citizens in the municipality causes discontent among the citizens that feel excluded because of it. Within the focus group discussion on this issue, one of the beneficiaries said:

*"I am a widower, sick, single parent with 3 daughters. You have no idea how much it would mean to me to have at least one meal a day ... and so far I have not used the community kitchen ... If I am not eligible, who is?"*

A total number of 9 citizens of the municipality use the different types of institutional care: 2 are beneficiaries of the “ independent living with provided support” in Negotino, 1 is accommodated at the SOS Children's Village, 2 are accommodated at the Institute for Rehabilitation of Children and Young People in Skopje and 4 are accommodated in the Institute for People with Moderate and Heavy Disability in Demir Kapija.

The network of municipal social services is not satisfactory both for institutional and extra-institutional protection. In the municipality there are facilities that could be used for the opening of small homes for the elderly, shelter care centres for victims of domestic violence and day care centres for disabled people.

The Centre for Social Work works according to the category principle, but working conditions are difficult. The professional staff consists of 3 lawyers, 2 sociologists, 12 social workers, 2 psychologists, 1 teacher and 1 speech pathologist. Offices are being shared between two employees which is inconvenient in terms of contacts with the beneficiaries. The Centre for Social Work has only one old vehicle in bad shape that is being used for field work – family visits in the three municipalities, and hence, does not satisfy the needs in cases of increased workload.

The Centre for Social Work in Veles cooperates mainly with the Red Cross, which has a dispersed unit in Caska, but the citizens are not satisfied with its operation. The cooperation is good with the Central Primary School in Caska. The cooperation is also good with the outpatient clinic. The physician, who works in the Caska outpatient clinic, with the assistance of the Centre for Social Work, occasionally provides services for the elderly people in the clubs (measuring their blood pressure, providing health education, etc.). The cooperation with the employment centres for employment is very weak. The Caska Club for the Elderly was built 2 years ago through public work, but the implementation of public works is not going well in recent years. The Centre for Social Work has no cooperation with the private sector and the religious organizations

## **5. COOPERATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY WITH LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS**

Caska municipality is bordered by the municipalities of Veles and Gradsko in the east, Zelenikovo and Studenicani in the north, Makedonski Brod and Dolneni in the west and Prilep and Kavadarci in the south. The municipality has the strongest intermunicipal cooperation with Veles due to the existing administrative links. It has concluded a joint administration contract with Veles (for the hiring of an auditor, accountant, construction inspector and traffic inspector). It has no cooperation in terms of social protection with the neighbouring municipalities.

The municipality has good cooperation with the central government. The cooperation with the Association of the Local Self-Government Units (ZELS) is good, and consists of regular contacts, participation in workshops, preparation of an info bulletin, consulting on laws, participation in meetings and other similar activities.

The cooperation with the Intermunicipal Centre for Social Work from Veles actually comes down to exchange of data on social protection beneficiaries, primarily in relation to the community kitchen that has been established in the primary school of Caska. There is almost no cooperation with the Employment Centre. The public works in the municipality which are usually the subject of the cooperation between these institutions in the past were implemented more often; however, lately they are not implemented due to the dissatisfaction of the social protection beneficiaries and their revolt arising from the fact that they were not compensated for their travel and food expenses when they were previously engaged in these activities.

The cooperation with the NGO sector is good, despite the fact that there is a small number of active NGOs in this municipality, and concerns mostly support for implementation of projects. Unlike the non-governmental sector, the cooperation with the private and the religious sector in the field of social protection is inexistent. The municipality has good contacts with the citizens. It cooperates with the citizens through their involvement in public debates related to the adoption of the budget as well as through implementation of various projects.

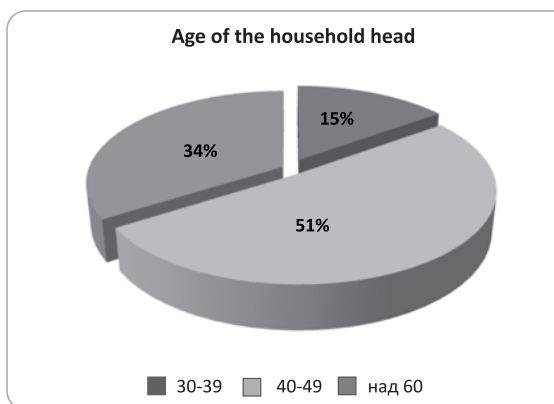
## 6. SURVEY RESULTS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CASKA

### 6.1. General data on the surveyed households

The empirical research comprised a total of 100 households from the Caska municipality. Out of these, 47% are social assistance beneficiaries and 53% are not.

According to the ethnic structure, 96% of the surveyed households are Macedonian, 1% is Albanian, 1% is Turkish and 2% are Serbian. Out of the total number of households, 90% are households in which the household head is male and 10% are households in which the household head is a female (out of these 10 households in which the head of the household is female, 8 are non-agricultural). The majority of household heads belong to the age group 40-59 years (51%), 15% to the age group 30-39, and it is worth noting that a high percentage of household heads belong to the age group of 60 and above (34%) (Graph1).

Graph 1.



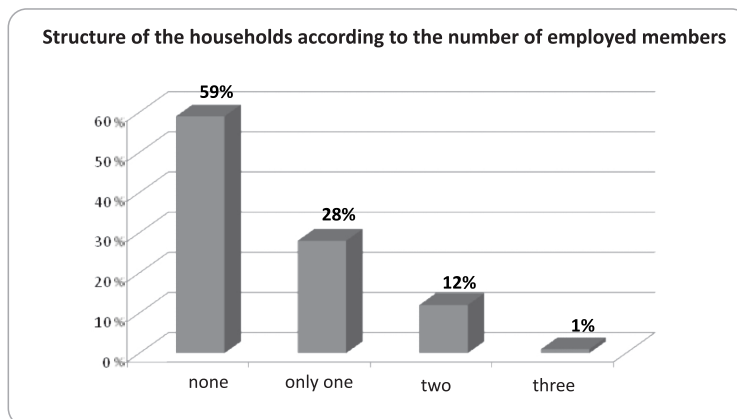
In 85% of the households, the head of the household is married and in 9% a widow/er. The majority of household heads are literate (96%). According to the formal level of education, 15% have not completed primary education, 38% have completed primary education, 42% have completed secondary education and 5% have completed a 2-year college or higher education. The occupation structure shows that most of them are workers and retired people: 34% workers, 24% retired people, 11% farmers, 8% homemaker/housewife, 5% clerks, 4% employees in the army/police and 14% have other occupation.

## 6.2. Employment

Out of the total number of households, 38% consist of up to 3 members, 33% of 4 members whereas a significant number (28%) of 5-6 members. The majority of households (55%) work in agriculture. 26% are agricultural households, 29% are mixed households dealing with agriculture and other activities, 40% are non-agricultural households and 5% have not provided an answer to this question. The structure of the agricultural households in terms of educational status of the household head demonstrates that out of the total number of agricultural households (26 = 100%), most (46.2%) are households in which the household head has completed primary education, 11.5% are households in which the household head has not completed primary education, 38.4% are households in which the household head has completed secondary education, 3.8% are households in which the household head has completed a two-year college and 0% are households in which the household head has completed higher education.

The structure of the households in terms of employment causes concern. In most households there is not even one employed member (59%). In 28% of the households there is only 1 employed member, in 12% two employed members and in 1% three employed members (Graph 2).

Graph 2.



The analysis in terms of employment by gender points out the unfavourable position of women. In 37% of the households there is one employed male member and only in 7% of the households there are two employed male members (total number of employed male members: 51) whereas only in 10 households there is

one employed female member (total number of employed female members:10).

In most households (56%) there is at least one unemployed member: in 25% of the households there is 1 unemployed member, in 24% 2 unemployed members and in 7% 3-4 unemployed members. It should be noted that in 15% of the households there are household members who have been made redundant (bankruptcy workers); in 12% of the households there is one member that has been made redundant/bankruptcy worker, in 2% of the households there are two such members and in 1% there are three such members (or 19 persons in total). Out of these, the majority are male (14).

Regarding the inactive population in the households, in 55% of them there are homemakers/housewives, in 33% retired people, in 61% children/students and only in 1% persons incapable of working.

### **6.3. Standard of living**

The high unemployment rate in the households of Caska municipality is reflected also in the low standard of living. This is reaffirmed by the received data according to which the majority of the households (56%) have not generated any income from regular employment in the past 12 months. Out of 47 = 100% social assistance beneficiaries, 74.5% have not generated any income from regular employment. Among the non-beneficiaries of social assistance (53 = 100%) the situation is expectedly reversed, i.e. 39.6% have not generated any income and 60.4% have generated income from regular employment in the past 12 months.

Among the sources of household income that are generated outside of regular employment, the income from agricultural activity is dominant, i.e. 46% of the households have generated such income. Out of them, (46 = 100%) more than half, or 52.2%, are beneficiaries of social protection. This means that agriculture plays an important role in the making of living for the households in a situation of poverty and high unemployment. In addition to the income generated from agriculture, a significant percentage of the households also generate income from pensions (31%). At the same time, 13% of the households are engaged in seasonal work (of which 92.3% are households in which the head of the household is a male and only 7.7% are households in which the head of the household is a female) and 7% generated an income from activities, such as loading, unloading and transfer of objects/goods.

The best indicator of low standard of living in the households is monthly income. Most households (24%) receive a monthly income in the range of 5,001 -10,000 denars and there is also a significant number of households that receive an income of up to 5,000 denars (15%). Out of the households with income of up to 5,000 denars (15 = 100%), the majority, or 86.7%, are beneficiaries of social assistance and only 3.8% are not. Out of the total number of households-beneficiaries of social assistance (47 = 100%), 59.6% have a monthly income up to 10.000 denars. The share of households that are not beneficiaries of social assistance is higher when it comes to the households whose monthly income is over 23.000 denars (out of 14 households with incomes over 23,000 denars, 11 are not

beneficiaries of social protection) (Table 1). Out of the total number of households in which the household head is female (10 = 100%), 60% are households in which the monthly income is in the range of 5,001-10,000denars, 20% are households in which the monthly income is up to 5.000 denars whereas the remaining 20% are households in which the monthly income is above 10.000 denars.

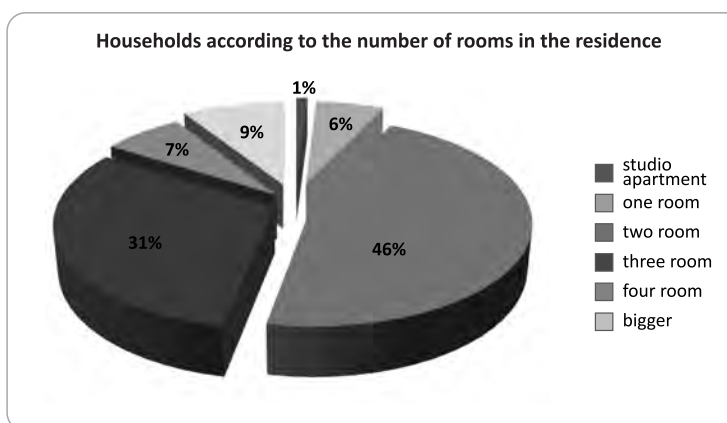
Table 1.

		Beneficiaries/non-beneficiaries of social financial assistance according to the amount of the income that the household has generated in the last month									Total
		What is the amount of the income that your household generated in the last month?									
Beneficiary of social financial assistance		Up to 5000 denars	5001 – 10000 denars	10001 – 14 000 denars	14001 – 18 000 denars	18001 – 23 000 denars	23001 – 30 000 denars	over 30001 denars	Do not know	Refused to answer	
Yes	Count,	13	15	6	4	4	1	0	2	2	47
	% within beneficiary	27,7%	31,9%	12,6%	8,5%	8,5%	2,1%	0,0%	4,3%	4,3%	100,0%
	% within amount	86,7%	62,5%	30,0%	25,0%	44,4%	12,5%	0%	66,7%	100,0%	47,0%
	% of total	13,0%	15,0%	6,0%	4,0%	4,0%	1,0%	0,0%	2,0%	2,0	47,0%
No	Count,	2	9	14	12	5	7	3	1	0	53
	% within beneficiary	3,8%	17,0%	26,4%	22,6%	9,4%	13,2%	5,7%	1,9%	0,0%	100,0%
	% within amount	13,3%	37,5%	70,0%	75,0%	55,6%	87,5%	100,0%	33,3%	0,0%	53,0%
	% of total	2,0%	9,0%	14,0%	12,0%	5,0%	7,0%	3%	1,0%	0,0%	53,0%
Count,		15	24	20	16	9	8	3	3	2	100
% within beneficiary		15,0%	24,0%	20,0%	16,0%	9,0%	7,0%	3,0%	3,0%	2,0%	100,0%
% within amount		100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%
% of total		15,0%	24,0%	20,0%	16,0%	9,0%	9,0%	3,0%	3,0%	2,0%	100,0%

Out of those households that generate an income of up to 5,000 denars (15 = 100%), most, i.e. 46.7%, are households in which the head has or has not completed primary education whereas out of the households that generate an income in the range of 5,001-10,000 denars (24 = 100%), 70.8% are households in which the head has or has not completed primary education. This situation indicates the negative impact of the low educational level on standard of living.

The housing situation does not cause concern. The buildings are of solid construction and almost half of the households live in a two-room residence(46%) (Graph 3). Of these (46 = 100%), the majority are households in which the household head is married (80.4%); 45.6% of these households have up to 3 members, 37% have 4 members and 17.4% have 5-6 members. Out of the total number of those living in a residence of 4 or more rooms (16 = 100%), most are not beneficiaries of social assistance (68.8%) which indicates that the non-beneficiaries have a somewhat better standard of living.

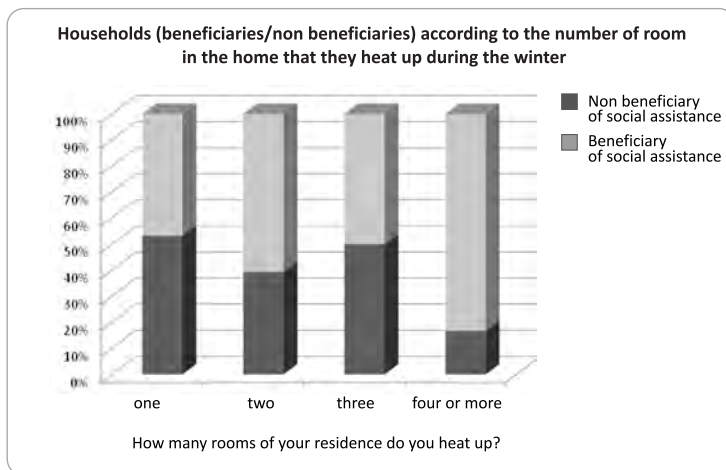
Graph 3.



The majority of the households live in a housing area of up to 60m<sup>2</sup> (39%), 29% live in a housing area of 61-80m<sup>2</sup>, another 29% live in a housing area above 80m<sup>2</sup> and for 3% of the households the housing area in which they live is unknown. Out of the households in which the household head is married (85% = 100), the majority live in a residence of more than 60m<sup>2</sup> (58.8%) in residence up to 60m<sup>2</sup> (37.6%) and for 3.5% of these households the situation is not known.

The situation with flush toilets in the residence indicates that 73% of the households have a flush toilet within the bathroom in the residence (the majority of which, or 57.5%, are not beneficiaries of social assistance). Out of the total number of households, 93% have a sewerage system and 7% use a septic tank. In terms of water supply, almost all households (96%) have tap water in the residence. The most common way of providing heating is by means of a solid fuel stove (wood, coal) used by 95% of the households, followed by central heating system used by 3%, an electric stove used by 1% and a liquid fuel stove used by 1% of the households.. In relation to the heating during the winter, the fact that more than half of the households (62%) heat up only 1 room in which most probably stay all household members during the winter, 28% of the households heat up 2 rooms and 10% of the households heat up 3 or more rooms, causes concern. Most households that heat up only one room (62 = 100%) are beneficiaries of social assistance - 53.2% (Graph 4).

Graph 4.



In terms of clothing, the lack of warm winter clothing is the greatest (jackets, sweaters) and it was stressed by 57% of the households, followed by footwear (15%), formal clothing (11%), underwear (2%), sportswear (1%), another clothing (2%) whereas 13% of the households stated that they do not lack clothing (76.9% of the households that do not lack clothing are non-beneficiaries of social assistance).

The situation with the home appliances owned by the households is shown in Overview 2 below. The overview demonstrates that more than 90% of the households have the following home appliances: solid fuel stove (99%), a television set (97%), an electric stove (92%) and washing machine (96%). Less than 20% of the households have the following: a dishwasher (3%), a video camera (9%), an air conditioner (13%) and agricultural machinery (13%).

Table 2. Owning home appliances

Home appliances	The household owns it	The household does not need it	The household cannot afford it	Refused to answer	Total
solid fuel stove	99	1	/	/	100
electric stove	92	6	2	/	100
furnace	37	38	20	5	100
boiler	89	4	6	1	100
fridge	97	1	2	/	100
freezer	81	11	8	/	100
washing machine	96	1	3	/	100
dishwasher	3	34	60	3	100
vacuum cleaner	88	3	9	/	100
air conditioner	13	33	51	3	100
radio/record player /cassette player	73	19	7	1	100
a TV set	97	3	/	/	100
video camera	9	49	39	3	100
video recorder/ DVD	50	30	18	2	100
camera	23	42	33	2	100
computer	44	22	32	2	100
telephone	77	15	8	/	100
mobile phone	85	8	5	2	100
bike	50	39	9	2	100
motorcycle	21	54	23	2	100

car	49	12	37	2	100
tractor/agricultural machines	13	53	31	3	100
			Σ=403		

It is important to emphasize that the majority, or 61%, of the total number of cases in which it was mentioned that a household cannot afford to provide some of these appliances (i.e. 403 cases that can not afford a certain home appliance), are the beneficiaries of social assistance.

#### 6.4. Social problems and social protection

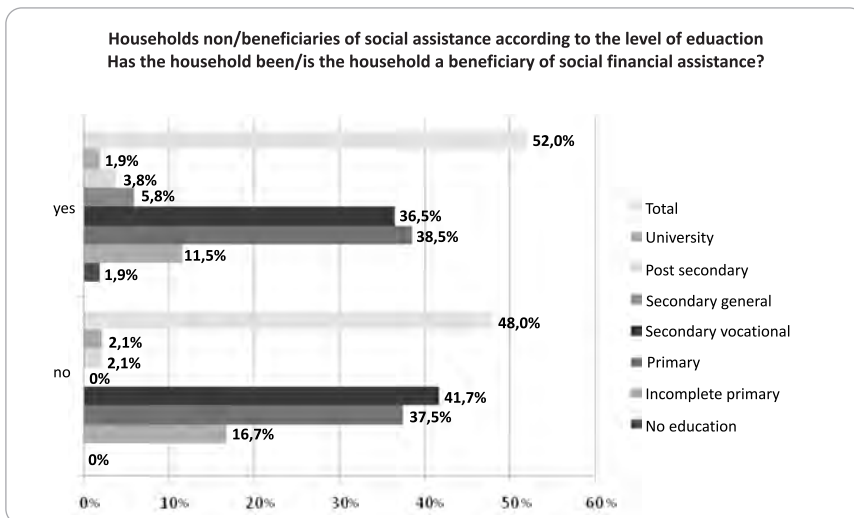
The conclusion that the dominant social problems in Caska municipality primarily include unemployment and poverty, followed by the problems associated with family dysfunction and disease (disability) has been confirmed by the undertaken empirical research. Out of the total number of households, 77% stated that they have faced or are facing problems with unemployment, 38% illness-related problems in the family and 21% problems with poverty. In 8% of the households problems associated with family dysfunction are observed whereas in 5% of the households disability of a member in the household. Problems associated with social deviations are not represented. Problems associated with natural disasters, floods and droughts, appear to a certain extent in 9% of the households.

The link between unemployment and low educational status is most evident in the fact that the importance of addressing the problem of unemployment was stressed by 100% of those households in which the household head has no education, 71.4% of those in which the household head has not completed primary education and 84.2% of those in which the household head has completed primary education. The situation is similar with the problem of poverty which was raised by 100% of the households in which the household head has no education, 85.7% of those in which the household head has not completed primary and 89.5% of those in which the head of household has completed primary education.

Despite the existing social problems in the households, the use of social protection measures is at a very low level (with the exception of the financial benefits). Out of the total number of households, 52% used or are using social financial assistance, 11% permanent financial assistance and only 2 households, home care and assistance. Out of the child protection measures, 29% of the families used or are using child's allowance, only 5% one-time financial assistance for a newborn and 3% special child's allowance which is assigned for care for a disabled child.

The educational structure of households – beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries of social financial assistance should be underlined. From Graph 5 we can see that most of the household heads of the beneficiaries of social financial assistance have completed primary education (38.5%) whereas most of the household heads of the non-beneficiaries of social financial assistance (41.7%) have completed secondary vocational education.

Graph 5.



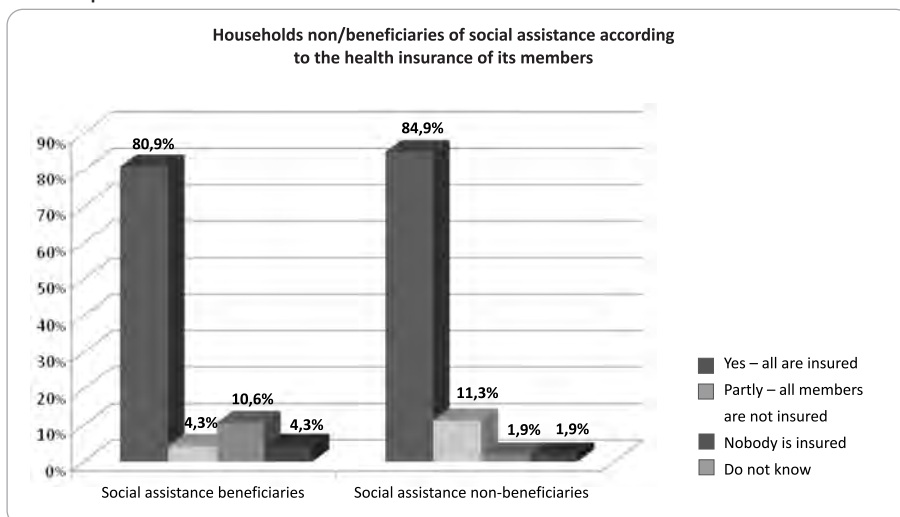
The measures of social and child protection are not used mostly due to refusal, ineligibility and lack of information. Regarding the reasons as to why the household has not used or is not using social protection financial assistance, apart from those who expressed no need for it (23%), most said that they were rejected (13%), 7% that they are ineligible, 3% that they were not informed, 2% that they were ashamed to use it and 5% for other reasons. The dominant reasons for not using child protection, apart from the 65% that expressed no need for it, include: refusal (15%), lack of information (9%), shame (2%), incomplete documentation (2%) and ineligibility (2%) and other reasons (5%).

As far as the institutional and non-institutional protection are concerned, 61% of the families stated that do not need these types of protection, 17% stated that they do not use them due to the lack of information, 14% due to the fact that they were rejected, 5% due to ineligibility, 1% due to incomplete documentation and 2% due to other reasons.

### 6.5. Health care and nutrition

The situation with the health insurance in the households is satisfactory. In most of the households all members have health insurance (83%). 8% of the households have partial health insurance (i.e. not all the members have health insurance), 6% do not have health insurance, for 3% the situation is unknown. The situation with the health insurance is somewhat less favourable in households that are beneficiaries of social assistance. In fact, 84.9% of the households-non beneficiaries are fully insured versus 80.9% of fully insured households-beneficiaries of social assistance. There is a notable difference between these two groups of households in terms of the percentage of households in which nobody has health insurance. These include 10.6% of households-beneficiaries of social protection welfare and only 1.9% of households-non beneficiaries (Graph 6).

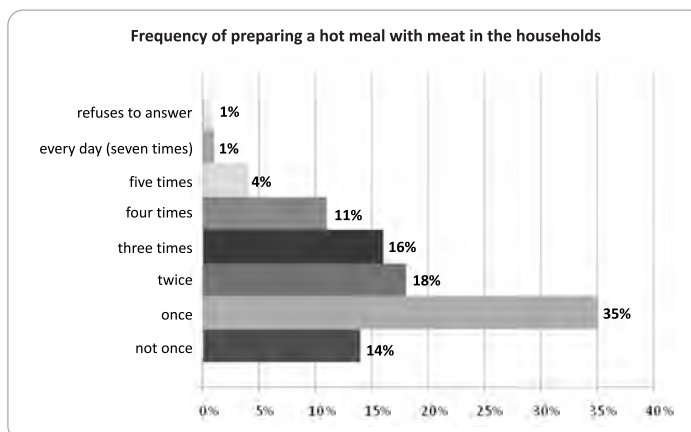
Graph 6.



Most households use public health care services, i.e. are treated in a public health care institution and buy prescription drugs - 86%, only 6% use private health care services, 5% are treated in a public health care institution but pay drugs fully 2% are not treated in a health care institution and use alternative treatment methods and 1% refused to provide an answer to this question. These data indicate the low standard of living of the population due to which households cannot afford to cover the costs of private health care services.

Regular diet of high quality rich in meat does not characterize these households. Most of them have a hot meal with meat only once a week (35%) and the percentage of those that do not have a hot meal with meat at all during the week is also significant (14%) (64.3% of which are beneficiaries of social assistance) (Graph 7).

Graph 7.



Among the needs of the household for the meeting of which there is a lack of resources, food and soft drinks come in second whereas hygiene and health (need of drugs and aids) are ranked on the high 4th place (Overview 3).. The analysis of

the household needs for the meeting of which there is a lack of resources from the perspective of the social assistance beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries deserves special attention. For 6 of the specified needs (food, clothing, housing, furniture, hygiene and health, recreation and culture), the percentage share of households-beneficiaries that stated that they lack resources is significantly higher than the percentage share of the households-non beneficiaries. The non-beneficiaries of social protection stressed greater lack of resources for the remaining 4 needs: alcoholic beverages and tobacco, traffic and transportation, communications and education. This distribution suggests that households-beneficiaries have a greater lack of funds to meet first of all their primary needs whereas households-non beneficiaries have a greater lack of funds to meet their secondary needs, assuming that their primary needs, upon which depends their biological existence, are satisfied to a greater extent.

Table 3 List of needs in the household for which there is a lack of resources

Household needs	Number of households that underlined a lack of funds	% of households that that underlined a lack of funds for the abovementioned needs	
		Social protection beneficiaries	Non-beneficiaries
1. Clothing and footwear	78	83%	73.6%
2. Food and soft drinks	75	83%	67.9%
3. Housing, water, electricity, fuels	60	63.8%	56.6%
4. Hygiene and health (drugs and aids)	59	63.8%	54.7%
5. Furniture and homeware	56	61.7%	50.9%
6. Education	28	27.7%	28.3%
7. Traffic (transportation/car)	23	19.1%	26.4%
8.Recreation and culture (newspapers, books, trips, entertainment)	10	12.8%	7.5%
9.Communication (telephone, Internet)	9	4.3%	13.2%
10. Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	5	4.3%	5.7%

## 6.6. Education

In 47% of the households there are school age children (age 6 and above). In 31% of the households there are children in primary education, in 20% of the households there are children in secondary education and only in 6% there are children in higher education. The children's regular school attendance is not a problem.

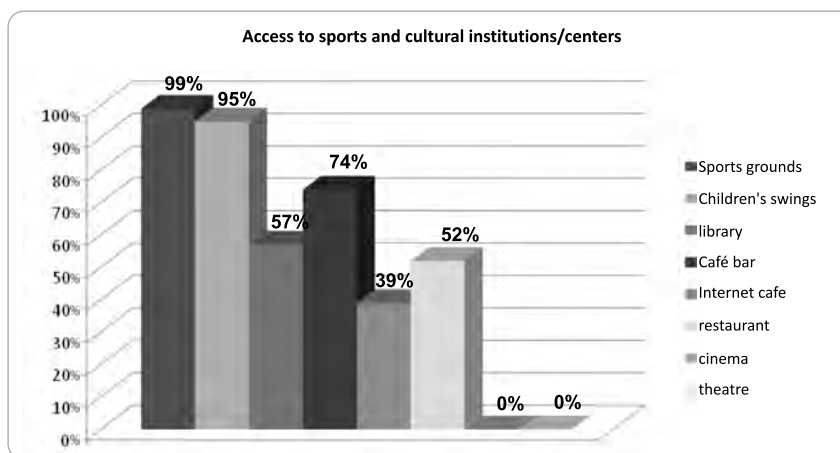
The assistance given to households for their children's education is low. Out of 31 household with children of primary school age, 8 use the free transportation benefit and 1 uses the free snack benefit. Out of 20 households with children of

secondary school age, 4 use the free transportation benefit. The households with children in higher education do not use any of the types of assistance, such as scholarships, loans or quota enrolment.

### 6.7. Sport, entertainment, culture

According to answers of the surveyed households, none of them has an access to the cinema or the theatre, primarily due to the fact that these cultural institutions do not exist in the municipality. Of the total number of households: 99% stated that they have access to sports grounds, 95% to children’s swings, 74% to coffee bars, 57% to the library, 52% to a restaurant, 39% to an Internet café (Graph 8).

Graph 8.



The majority of the households do not use Internet at all - 65%, 31% use Internet from a home computer, 2% from an internet cafe and additional 2% did not provide an answer to this question. The analysis of Internet use according to the formal education of the head of the household demonstrates that in the households where the household head has acquired a higher level of education, Internet is used more frequently. Out of 31 household that uses Internet (31 = 100%), in 20 households (65%) the head of the household has secondary or higher than secondary education. Out of the households in which the head of the household has not completed primary education, 85.7% do not use Internet at all, and out of the households in which the head of the household has primary education, 73.7% do not use Internet at all (Table 2).

Table 2. Use of Internet according to the level of formal education

Formal education		Does at least one member of your household use Internet?				Total
		Yes, mostly from a home computer	Yes, mostly from an Internet café	I do not use Internet	I do not know	
Without education	Count	0	0	1	0	1
	% within education	0,0%	0,0%	100,0%	0,0%	100,0%
Incomplete primary education	Count	2	0	12	0	14
	% within education	14,3%	0,0%	85,7%	0,0%	100,0%
Primary education	Count	9	0	28	1	38
	% within education	23,7%	0,0%	73,7%	2,6%	100,0%
Secondary vocational education	Count	16	2	20	1	39
	% within education	41,0%	5,1%	51,3%	2,6%	100,0%
Secondary general education	Count	1	0	2	0	3
	% within education	33,3%	0,0%	66,7%	0,0%	100,0%
Postsecondary education	Count	1	0	2	0	3
	% within education	33,3%	0,0%	66,7%	0,0%	100,0%
Higher education	Count	2	0	0	0	2
	% within education	100,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	100,0%
Вкупно	Count	31	2	65	2	100
	% within education	31,0%	2,0%	65,0%	2,0%	100,0%

## 7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 7.1. Conclusions

Area	Narrower area	Situation/problems
<b>1. Dominant activities</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Agriculture (greenhouse production, tobacco production and production of rice and potato),</li> <li>▶ Cattle breeding</li> </ul>
<b>2. Institutional capacities</b>	<i>Education:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 3 central primary schools</li> <li>▶ 6 dispersed schools</li> <li>▶ There is no secondary school</li> </ul>
	<i>Health care:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 6 outpatient clinics for primary health care (do not work at night and on weekends)</li> <li>▶ 2 dental clinics</li> <li>▶ 1 specialist clinic for lung diseases</li> <li>▶ There is one pharmacy</li> <li>▶ There is no ambulance service</li> </ul>
	<i>Social care:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 2 elderly people's clubs</li> <li>▶ 1 community kitchen</li> <li>▶ The social institutions network is undeveloped: there are no kindergartens, no nursing homes</li> </ul>
	<i>Culture/sport/entertainment:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 9 football sports fields</li> <li>▶ There are few active citizens' associations</li> <li>▶ There is no cinema nor a theatre</li> <li>▶ There is no media</li> </ul>

	<i>Economic entities:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 170: most of them working as tradesmen and in small trade companies</li> <li>▶ The biggest: Kanet Agro (greenhouse production) and Kame Komerac (quartz production)</li> </ul>
<b>3. Social problems</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Most bitter: unemployment and poverty (there are 1965 unemployed people, 55,9% of them have been unemployed for 4 or more years)</li> <li>▶ 83.6% of the unemployed are unskilled and semiskilled people</li> <li>▶ Active labour market measures are implemented each year, in accordance with the Operational Plans of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (subsidized employment, small businesses, work clubs, etc).</li> <li>▶ In 2010 there were almost no public activities, and in 2009 38 registered unemployed people from Caska were engaged for public activities.</li> <li>▶ Deficient occupations are: occupations in construction, dentists, medical nurses and doctors)</li> <li>▶ Juvenile delinquency, domestic violence and juvenile marriages are on the rise</li> </ul>
	<i>Socially vulnerable population groups:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Elderly people</li> <li>▶ Disabled people (there are no social services provided for them in the municipality)</li> </ul>
<b>5. Infrastructural problems</b>	<i>Roads</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Good regional road infrastructure</li> <li>▶ Unasphalted local roads (only 30% of the roads are paved in asphalt)</li> </ul>
	<i>Water supply system</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ There is a water supply system in 22 populated places</li> <li>▶ Out of 22 populated places, the Public Communal Enterprise manages the water supply system only in 5</li> <li>▶ Water undergoes regular control checks only in 5 populated places.</li> </ul>
	<i>Sewerage system</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ There is a sewerage system only in 7 out of 22 populated places.</li> <li>▶ The rest are using septic tanks.</li> </ul>
<b>6. Environmental problems</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Improvised solid waste landfills</li> <li>▶ Polluted rivers from solid waste and waste waters</li> </ul>
<b>7. Interinstitutional cooperation in the municipality</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Good cooperation among the municipality, the central government, the Association of Local Self-Government Units and the NGOs</li> <li>▶ Cooperation primarily with Veles municipality</li> <li>▶ Poor cooperation among the municipality, the Centre for Social Work and the Employment Centre</li> <li>▶ Poor cooperation with the private sector and the religious organizations</li> </ul>

## 8. Social protection

- From the municipality:*
- ▶ Well developed social protection functions
  - ▶ A Unit for Education, Culture, Health Care, Social Protection, Sport and Cooperation with Citizens' Associations and Foundations has been established.
  - ▶ There is no social worker (only a lawyer and a pedagogue)
  - ▶ 3 social protection programs have been developed.
  - ▶ There are solid social protection types for the vulnerable population groups
  - ▶ 1% of the budget is allocated for social protection
- From the Centre for Social Work:*
- ▶ Beneficiaries of social financial assistance: 267 (12.2% of the total number of households)
  - ▶ Beneficiaries of permanent financial assistance: 33 households
  - ▶ Beneficiaries of Compensation for assistance and care from another person: 51
  - ▶ Extra-institutional protection: 160 registered beneficiaries of the elderly people's club Caska; 105 registered beneficiaries of the elderly people's club Bogomila; a community kitchen in the Caska populated place
  - ▶ Institutional protection: 9 beneficiaries (2 live independently with support in Negotino; 1 in SOS Children's Village; 2 at Rehabilitation Institute for Children and Youth in Skopje; 4 in Demir Kapija)

## 7.2. Recommendations

AREA	Narrower area	Recommendations for overcoming problems and improving the situation
<b>1. Dominant activities</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ The development potentials of the municipality should be found in agriculture (greenhouse production, production of tobacco, rice and potato) as well as in cattle breeding, mountain and rural tourism, construction of small hydroelectric plants and use of the natural resources that the municipality disposes of (marble, quartz, clay)</li> </ul>
<b>2. Institutional capacities</b>	<i>Education</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To expand the network of regional schools in order to avoid providing accommodation for students in dorms and to improve the accessibility of schools</li> <li>▶ To analyse the possibilities for the opening of a secondary school</li> </ul>
	<i>Health care</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To reorganize the work of the primary health care clinics so that they could be open also at night and during weekends</li> <li>▶ To open a pharmacy in the municipality</li> </ul>
	<i>Social protection</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To expand the network of social institutions in the municipality</li> <li>▶ To conduct a needs' analysis and to open kindergartens (daily centres) in the populated places with greater number of children</li> <li>▶ To open nursing homes</li> </ul>

	<i>Culture/Sport/Entertainment:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To build other types of sports grounds in addition to football ones</li> <li>▶ To promote the development of the nongovernmental sector and establish new citizens' associations</li> <li>▶ To build a cinema and a theatre, or to refurbish some of the cultural centres within which a cinema or a theatre hall could function</li> <li>▶ To stimulate the development of media in the municipality (opening of a radio station, a TV station, a printed medium)</li> </ul>
	<i>Economic entities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To promote the development of larger economic entities that could absorb greater labour force</li> </ul>
<b>3. Social problems</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To promote programs for employment of the social protection beneficiaries</li> <li>▶ To improve the targeting of the long term unemployed people in the active labour market measures as well as the effectiveness in the employment of social protection beneficiaries</li> <li>▶ To centre the training, prequalification and further qualification measures around deficient occupations in the municipality (for the people with low qualifications toward occupations in construction)</li> <li>▶ To implement preventive programs addressing juvenile delinquency, domestic violence and juvenile marriages</li> <li>▶ To strengthen the professional advisory and counselling work with the households that are caught up in these categories of problems</li> <li>▶ To open a shelter centre for domestic violence victims in the municipality</li> </ul>
	<i>Socially vulnerable population groups</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To expand the network of social services for elderly people: to analyze the possibilities for establishing social services for home assistance, day care centres, small group homes</li> <li>▶ To revise the work of the existing elderly people clubs in Caska and Bogomila in order to expand the program activities that are being offered in these clubs and ensure that they are more used</li> <li>▶ To open day care centres for disabled people (children and adults)</li> <li>▶ To consider possibilities of opening services for home assistance</li> </ul>
<b>5. Infrastructural problems</b>	<i>Roads</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To improve the quality of the local road infrastructure (asphalt paving of the local roads)</li> </ul>
	<i>Water supply system</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To regulate the management with the water supply system in the populated places in which the Public Communal Enterprise Topolka is not managing the water supply system</li> <li>▶ To find mechanisms for regular controls of the water quality in all populated places</li> </ul>
	<i>Sewerage system</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To establish a sewerage system in all populated places</li> </ul>
<b>6. Environmental problems</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To find a solution for an organized solid waste management, so that the problem with the improvised landfills and polluted rivers could be solved.</li> </ul>

## 7. Interinstitutional cooperation in the municipality

- ▶ To promote the cooperation of Caska municipality with all neighbouring municipalities
- ▶ To promote the cooperation among the municipality, the Centre for Social Work and the Employment Centre through intensified and more efficient implementation of public works, active employment measures for social protection beneficiaries, membership in joint bodies, education on the opportunities for cooperation and forms of cooperation in the area of social protection as well as practical implementation of joint projects
- ▶ To promote the cooperation of the municipality with the private sector and the religious organizations through their partnership inclusion in the implementation of social protection-related programs

*From the municipality*

## 8. Social protection

- ▶ To strengthen the Unit for Education, Culture, Health Care, Social Protection, Sport and Cooperation with Citizens' Associations and Foundations by employing a social worker
- ▶ To train the employees in the Unit for Opportunities and Forms of Development of the Social and Protective Functions of the Municipality
- ▶ To provide training on strategic planning and development of social protection programs
- ▶ To expand the spectrum of social protection mechanisms provided by the municipality (predominantly the financial assistance mechanisms) by adding new types of social services
- ▶ To increase the budget funds allocated for social protection and to enable a more detailed and more systematic planning of these budget resources

*From the Centre for Social Work*

- ▶ To decrease the number of beneficiaries of social financial assistance through intensified activities for their employment in cooperation with the Employment Centre
- ▶ To conduct an analysis of the possibilities for expanding the scope of households that are social assistance beneficiaries by using the services of the community kitchen
- ▶ To develop a network of institutional and extra-institutional protection in the municipality
- ▶ The municipality disposes of facilities that could be used for opening of small group homes for the elderly, a shelter centre for protection of domestic violence victims and day care centres for disabled people (children and adults).



# **MUNICIPALITY OF PEÇEVO**



## 1. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF MUNICIPALITY OF PEHCEVO

The municipality of Pehcevo is located in the eastern part of the Republic of Macedonia, in the north-eastern part of the Malesevo valley, at the border with the Republic of Bulgaria. It is located between Berovo municipality in the south and Delcevo municipality in the north. Pehcevo municipality is located at an average altitude of 1000 meters above sea level and stretches on an area of 206.8 km<sup>2</sup>. The geographical configuration of the terrain is mostly mountainous with three permanent water flows. There is one urban community Pehcevo and six rural communities: Nagrevo, Umlena, Robovo, Crnik, Pancarevo, and Chiflik (which fall into the category of mountainous villages).

The total number of residents in Pehcevo municipality is 5517. Most residents live in the municipal centre Pehcevo (3237 residents) and the rest in the other rural populated places: Nagrevo (170 residents), Umlena (391 residents), Robovo (470 residents), Crnik (752 residents) and Pancarevo (467 residents). Out of the total population, 51% are male and 49% female. In terms of the ethnic structure of the population, the Macedonian population is dominant (85.86%), whereas from the other ethnic communities there are Turks (6.47%), Roma (7.07%), Vlachs (0.04%), Serbs (0.22%) and other (0.34 %). Most of the population (58.7%) lives in urban areas and a smaller number (41.3%) in rural areas. The age structure of the population demonstrates a tendency towards an aging population in the municipality. According to the 2002 census, 27.8% of the residents are at the age of 0-19 years, 52.3% are at the age of 20 to 60, and 19.9% are over 60 years of age.

The Males region and Pehcevo municipality are rich in natural resources, forest potential and clean, unpolluted environment. The development of a Detailed Urbanism Plan for the "Ramna Reka" tourist resort is in its final phase- it will be a populated place with locations for 300 tourist and recreational facilities, 2 constructed motels with fish ponds on running water and secured locations for two construction licences for hotels that will greatly improve the quality of the tourism and tourist offer in the municipality. The cooper on Kadmica mountain and the coal in the vicinity of the villages Pancarevo and Crnik are important resources that are subjected to research but not yet exploited.

The development potentials of the municipality can be seen in the exploiting of the potentials for healthy food production, wood processing, production of refractory materials, tourism, exploitation of the waters of the river Bregalnica and in the construction of four run-of-the-river hydroelectric power plants.

There are important archaeological sites on the territory of the Pehcevo municipality, which have under-explored and insufficiently protected.

## 2. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES

**Education:** In Pehcevo municipality there is one central school for primary education, the Primary School «Vanco Kitanov"-Pehcevo. Within the school there are also three local schools with classes up to grade 5 in the following villages: Crnik, Robovo and Umlena.. In the town of Pehcevo starting from the school year 2008/09 the general secondary education is provided in six dispersed classes of «Aco Ruskovski" Secondary School, Berovo. There are no secondary vocational schools and special schools.

**Health care:** The primary health care in the municipality is provided in the Pehcevo Health Centre situated in the town of Pehcevo, which offers specialist services in internal medicine, X ray and ophthalmologist services. There are about ten private health care centres territory of the municipality, i.e. four general practitioners, five dental clinics and one gynaecological clinic. In Pehcevo there are two private pharmacies and one outpatient clinic pharmacy within the Pehcevo Health Care Centre. In some of the villages there are no dispersed outpatient clinics that offer basic medical services. There is an ambulance service, but it does not dispose of a special vehicle. Within the service there are two old vehicles in relatively good condition. There is no polyclinic or a specialist clinic in Pehcevo, from which, residents in case of need, are referred to in Kocani, Stip and Skopje.

**Social institutions:** In the municipality of Pehcevo there is a public institution for preschool care and education, situated in the town of Pehcevo. Currently a dispersed kindergarten is prepared to be open in the village Crnik, with a donation of the European Commission and the Roma Education Funds. There is no private kindergarten. . In the Pehcevo municipality there is neither a public nor a private nursing home.

**Cultural institutions:** The most significant institution hosting a large part of the cultural events in Pehcevo municipality is the «Jane Sandanski» Cultural Centre. There is a library in the town of Pehcevo – the «Koco Racin" Library. There is no museum, cinema and theatre.

**Sports facilities:** There are two sports hall in Pehcevo municipality, one of which has just been opened. There are open type sports in the town and in all the villages.

**Media:** There is a private, local radio in Pehcevo municipality. There are no local newspapers or local TV station.

**Civil organizations:** A total number of 24 NGOs have been registered until 2008, but only few are active: Citizens Association 'Procrnik' in the village of Crnik, the Pehcevo Women's Organization, the Organization of Roma Women «Dajakere Cave," Citizens Association' Biomales", Pehcevo, Citizens Association «Kladenec" Pehcevo, Citizens Association "Solza" Pehcevo.

**Economic entities:** Major industries include agriculture, forestry, mining, textile industry and tourism. There are several major economic entities with over one hundred employees on the territory of Pehcevo (TC Bomeks Refraktori, Ltd Napredok Pehcevo, Fagus Pehcevo Ltd and several smaller entities and family

businesses associated with the processing of agricultural products and construction of timber, furniture parts and furniture. Most of the larger facilities are closed in the process of transformation of the state capital.

### 3. DOMINANT PROBLEMS IN THE MUNICIPALITY

**Social problems:** Dominant social problems in the community are all issues related to social development: poverty, unemployment and social exclusion. A total number of 1050 residents are unemployed, about half of which (518) are women. Taking into consideration the location of the industrial facilities and the public institutions in the municipal centre, the majority of the unemployed people are found in rural populated places. The unemployment rate is highest among persons in the age group of 50-59 years and is 26.4% (277 persons), then 22.6% (237) unemployed persons in the age group of 35-44 years and 20.8% (219 persons) in the age group of 24-34 years. The high unemployment rate of 9,4% among young people in the age group of 20-24 years, (99 people, 50 of which are female) causes particular concern. Most unemployed people are low skilled labour force (549, out of whom 265 women), followed by people with completed secondary education (229, out of whom 125 women), and the fewest in number are the unemployed people with completed postsecondary and higher education (89, out of whom 54 women) have completed college and high school. Of the total number of unemployed people, 27.5% have been unemployed for more than eight years.

On the territory of Pehcevo municipality, there is no Employment Centre, as an institution that would be responsible for handling unemployment. The Berovo Employment Centre is responsible for Pehcevo, implementing self-employment activities and programs, program and support for formalization of the existing businesses, subsidized employment (single parents, couples with three or more children, people who lost their jobs due to bankruptcy, liquidation and redundancy, people over the age of 55 and youngsters under the age of 27 years). The Employment Centre in 2009 conducted trainings for business start-ups and development of business plans, a training for economic empowerment of women - victims of domestic violence, and a survey on the necessary labour market skills and knowledge in Pehcevo municipality.

According to the estimates of the local Employment Centre, the people that have completed higher education are considered to be the most endangered category of citizens from the employment point of view. They are also willing to get a job and a position that is below their educational level, and are willing to get paid less. In regard to the social protection beneficiaries, it is necessary to consider the possibilities for stimulating their employment through legal measures enabling favourable conditions and direct support (payment of contributions for an extended period of time).

The labour force demand is small, and it cannot significantly contribute to reducing the unemployment rate. Generally speaking, all profiles and staff for

which/whom employers expressed need exist on the labour market. However, the age structure of the population is unfavourable (due to the large share of older, middle-aged labour force).

The social problems of the elderly come lately to the forefront as significant problems that are getting more serious by the day. As a result of the intensive migration from Pehcevo, a category of citizens that need assistance and protection arises on the surface. Given the fact that in Pehcevo the network of local social services for the elderly is not developed at all, this problem gets momentum.

The Roma community stands out as a separate ethnic group, largely facing social problems. Most Roma in Pehcevo municipality (80%) are situated in the village of Crnik. The ethnic structure of this village includes Roma (40%), Macedonians (30%) and Turks (30%). Most of them, about 94%, are beneficiaries of social financial assistance. The population is, to a large extent faced with the problem of social, cultural and social exclusion. Only seven Roma women under the age of 35 years have completed secondary education.

The social problems related to deviant behaviour and natural disasters are to a lesser extent present in Pehcevo municipality.

**Infrastructural problems:** Pehcevo municipality has a relatively good infrastructure network. All populated places are supplied with drinking water. Some of the villages are connected to the new regional water supply system, and others have its own water supply systems.

Waste water purification stations are being set up for the waste waters of various facilities; in other words, new systems are being built for the discharge of the waste waters in the rural populated places Umlena, Crnik, Robovo and Pancarevo, enabling the replacement of the old, overutilized asbestos pipes in Pehcevo.

In 2009 the old landfill was closed and a new landfill was built, enabling proper disposal of the communal waste. All populated places are well connected to the municipal centre. Although the access roads to and from the populated places are paved in asphalt, it should be noted that the road network is outdated and the asphalt is in a poor condition. Part of the local road network in rural populated places is sand-paved road sand and ordinary, earth, non-asphalted roads.

**Environmental problems:** The more significant environmental problems in Pehcevo municipality include the municipal waste treatment and the quality of the drinking water outside of the populated places and in some villages at certain times during the year.

#### 4. SOCIAL PROTECTION IN THE MUNICIPALITY

**Municipal administration:** Within the municipal administration, there is no separate Unit for Social Protection, but the respective competences are undertaken by the Unit for Human Resources and the Unit for Urban Planning, Communal Matters and Local Economic Development. Out of the total number of employees in the municipal administration, nine have the status of civil servants. With the new systematization of job positions, the employment of a social worker is envisaged.

The municipality has not prepared an Action Plan or a Social Development Strategy. The Book of Rules on Taking Care of Homeless People is in the phase of preparation together with the planning of the municipal budget funds for this category of citizens.. The cooperation with the citizens is most frequently realized through organization of gatherings of citizens, local radio and bulletin boards; however, far there have been neither civil initiatives nor a local referendum. As a form of assistance to the socially vulnerable population, the municipality provides one-time financial assistance in the amount of 3000-5000 denars, for the granting of which the competence lies with the Council and the mayor.

The Municipal Council made a decision according to which provides the food for the primary school children whose parents are beneficiaries of social financial assistance will be covered from the municipal budget. However, within the focus group discussions, some participants pointed out that they had no information about the possibility of having a free meal, and subsequently, they are not using this form of assistance.

**Centre for Social Work:** The Centre for Social Work, which is situated in Berovo, bears competence for Pehcevo residents. In Pehcevo there is only an Office for Material Benefits which provides social financial assistance, permanent financial assistance and assistance and care by another person. Three professional workers are employed in the Office: two social workers and a sociologist. The spatial and technical capacities of the Office are not at the satisfactory level. There are two work rooms and three computers in the Office, with an area of about 35 m<sup>2</sup>. There is no vehicle.

Office for Financial Benefits , generally speaking, has poor cooperation with the NGO sector, the religious organizations and the private sector. The municipality is involved in joint education sessions and debates. Taking into consideration that the Office is responsible for taking action in an administrative procedure, when financial benefit rights are realized , it does not cooperate with the schools and the health care centres.

The most significant problems for the functioning of the Office for Financial Benefits include lack of vehicles, lack of network connection that would facilitate the access to data, and thus the procedure itself. Most work problems occur upon rejection of a citizen to exercise a right as a result of the determination of certain factual situation, as is envisaged by the law (eg. on the basis of granted agricultural subsidies, the social financial assistance will be cut).

In Pehcevo municipality there is a need to open a Centre for Social Work, or at least, expand the powers of the existing Office for Financial Benefits that would facilitate the realization of the social protection rights.. The current situation requires that Pehcevo municipality residents travel to neighbouring Berovo in case of need to the exercise of any of the institutional and extra-institutional protection rights, as well as the social financial assistance rights that currently cannot be realized in the Office for Financial Benefits.

**Number and structure of beneficiaries of social protection measures and services:** The analysis of the structure of beneficiaries of social financial assistance

on the territory of Pehcevo municipality demonstrates that 168 households are beneficiaries of social financial assistance, 9 families are beneficiaries of permanent financial assistance, 136 persons are beneficiaries of assistance and care by another person. The right to social financial assistance most often cannot be realized as a result of ownership of agricultural area, possession of a motor vehicle and house in construction.

In Pehcevo municipality there is no day care or temporary care centre for beneficiaries, no foster families and no small group home. Three people have been institutionally accommodated, one child in the SOS Children's Village in Skopje, one person in Banja BANSKO and one in Demir Kapija.

A community kitchen, in which 50 meals per day are prepared, operates within the municipal centre Pehcevo. The functioning of the community kitchen is financially supported by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy.

In terms of the new types of subsidies aimed at alleviating the energy poverty, the following eligibility problem was raised during the focus group discussion:

*«They are asking us to provide a paid electricity bill for the previous month.. I live in a rented space, how come am I expected to provide an electricity bill in my name. I asked my landlord to switch the meter to my name, but he does not agree ...»«Who can meet the requirement for the realization of that right when none of us has paid electricity for years ...»*

## 5. COOPERATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY WITH THE LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS

The municipality cooperates with ZELS, but this cooperation does not concern social sphere related issues. Generally, it comes down to technical support and is not of great assistance for the municipality. The membership fee requirement was emphasized which would enable participation of the municipality in this organization.

Pehcevo municipality has developed regional cooperation, especially with the surrounding municipalities and Delcevo and Berovo, primarily on infrastructural projects, as well as on the development of strategic plans for reduction of social problems in the region.

The municipality cooperated with the Employment Service Agency on the preparation of the Local Action Employment Plan in Berovo and Pehcevo 2009-2011, as well as on the engagement of beneficiaries to perform public works.. In the last two years social assistance beneficiaries are no longer engaged in carrying out public works in Pehcevo municipality because they refuse to participate and their engagement would have a negative effect on the rating and popularity of the local authorities.

The municipality cooperates with citizens' associations mostly through organization of events, project partnerships and joint activities. It has good cooperation with the Women's Organization from Pehcevo, the Environmental Organization «Kladenc» and Citizens Association Bio Males»; it is also a co-financier

of some activities organized by the Roma organizations.

The cooperation with the private sector is not sufficiently developed. The municipality generally cooperates with the private sector when there are fair presentations of the economic capacities of the municipality and on issues related to urban planning, local infrastructure and encouragement of entrepreneurship

The cooperation with the central government is realized through joint projects, such as the community kitchen, as well as through different projects in education, health care, infrastructure and others. However, the decentralization process should be intensified and the financing system of the local government units should change which would result in increased revenue of municipalities.

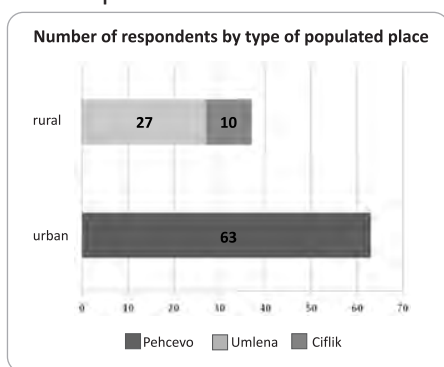
The municipality has established a Local Prevention Council, involving all relevant stakeholders at a local level. The Council holds regular meetings at which certain social issues of interest to the municipality are addressed. The implementation of this activity is financially supported by OSCE.

## 6. RESULTS FROM THE SURVEY RESEARCH OF HOUSEHOLDS IN MUNICIPALITY OF PEHCEVO

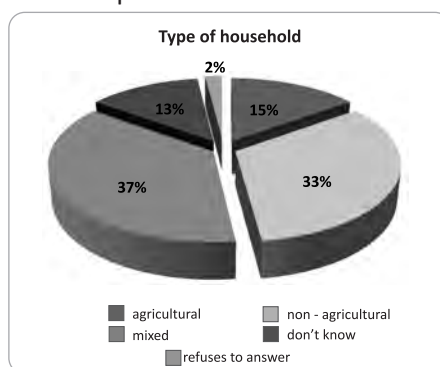
### 6.1. General data on surveyed households

A total of 100 households were surveyed in Pehcevo municipality. According to the place of residence, 63% of surveyed households live in an urban populated area and 37 in a rural populated place. The structure of the surveyed households by type of household demonstrates that most respondents are non-agricultural households (33%), followed by agricultural (15%) and mixed (37%); 13% of the respondents said they did not know what type of household is theirs and 2% refused to provide an answer to this question.

Graph 1.



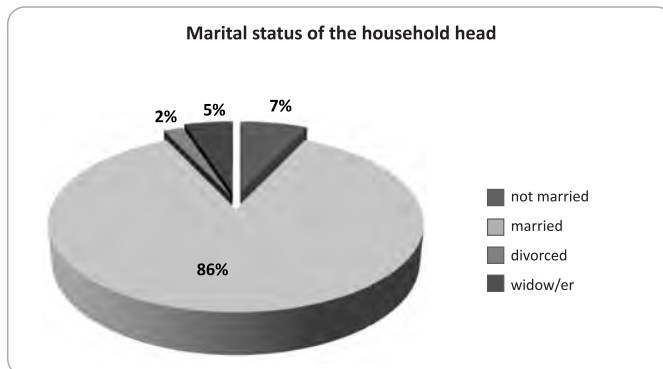
Graph 2.



The distribution of households by ethnicity demonstrates that 92 households stated that they are Macedonian, seven households stated that they are Roma and one household stated that they are Serbian. Most households are four-member (35%) households and least are the one-member households (4%). In 92 households, the household head is male, and in 7 it is female; in one case the

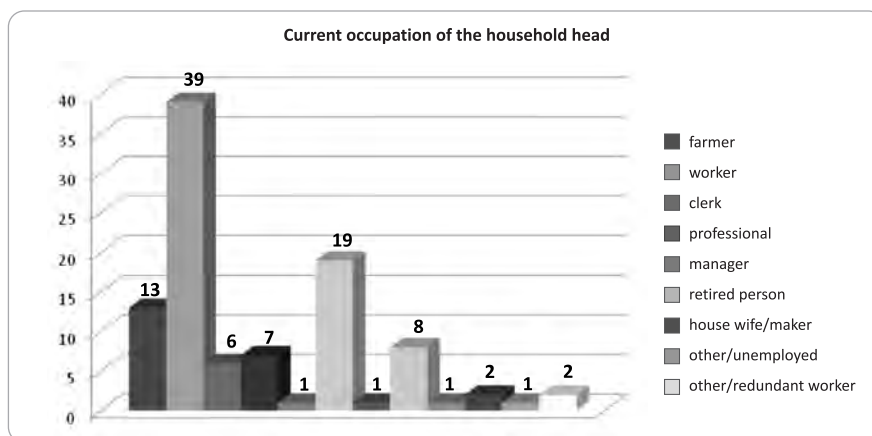
respondent refused to provide an answer. In most cases, the household head is married (86%), not married (7%), divorced (2%) and a widow/er (in 5% of the cases).

Graph 3.



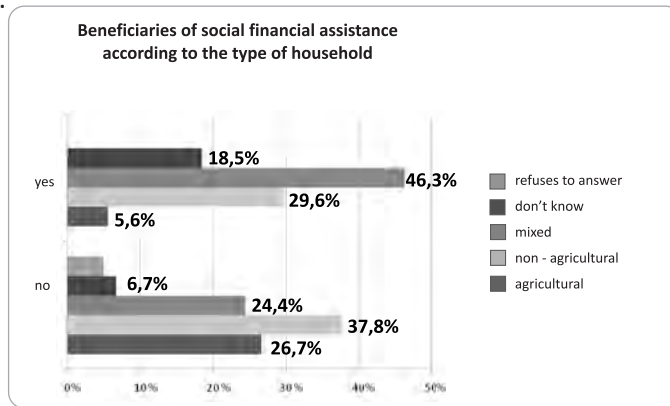
Although 96% of the respondents are literate, most of them have complete primary (27%) and secondary education (56%), without any education are 2%, and with postsecondary and higher education are 15%. In most households, the head of the household is a worker (39%), retired person (19%), farmer (13%), professional (7%), clerk (6%), homemaker (1%). It should be noted that 11% of the respondents declared to be unemployed, out of whom 1% declared to be redundant and 2% bankruptcy workers.

Graph 4.



45 respondents declared to be beneficiaries of social financial assistance. According to the type of household, there is a relatively unified distribution of beneficiaries of social financial assistance; namely, 26,7% are agricultural households, 37,8% are non-agricultural households and 24,4% are mixed households. In 80% of the households that are beneficiaries of social financial assistance, there are no employed members, in 15,6% there is one employed member whereas in 4,4% there are two employed members.

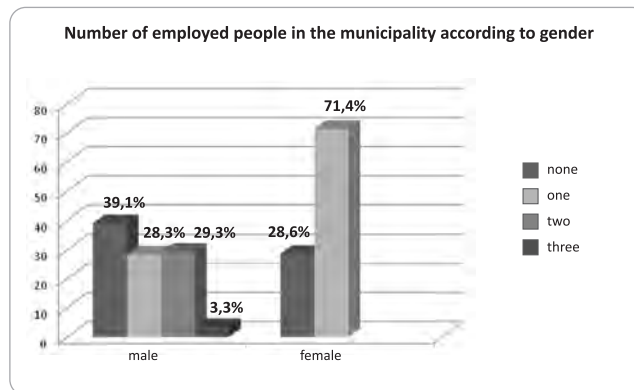
Graph 5.



## 6.2. Employment

It should be noted that in 38% of the households there are no employed members, in 32% of the households there is one employed member, in 27% two employed members, and only in three households there are three employed members.. Only in one household a self-employed member is recorded. In 39.1% of the households in which the head of the household is male, there are no employed members, in 28.3% there is one employed member, and in 29.3% there are two employed members. The tendency is different in households with female heads. Namely, in most of these households, i.e.71.4%, there is one employed member and in the remaining 28.6% there are no employed members. It is important to note that there is no household with a female head in which there is more than one employee.

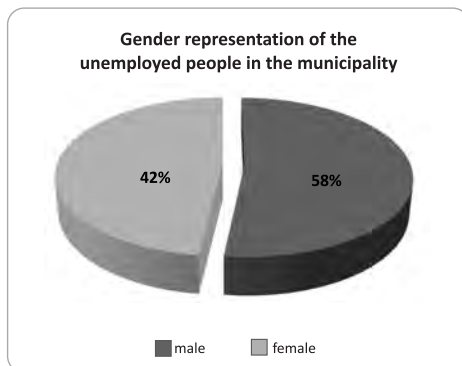
Graph 6.



Out of the total number of surveyed households, 57 are facing with the problem of unemployment. In most households there is one unemployed member (30%), in 19% there are 2 unemployed members, and in 8% of the households there are three to five unemployed members. In 7% of the households there is one member, and in 5% of the households two redundant members/bankruptcy worker members. . Out of the total number of unemployed persons, 40 are

male, of whom 38 are members of households with male head of household, and two are members of households with female head of household. The number of unemployed women is significantly greater (55), of which only one person comes from a household with a female head.

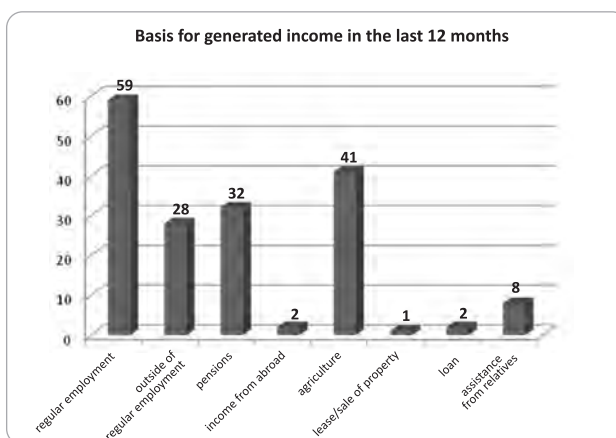
Graph 7.



### 6.3. Living standard

The analysis of the obtained data demonstrates that 41 household did not generate any income from regular employment in the past 12 months.. The percentage of households with generated income on the basis of salary is higher in households with a female head (71,4%) compared to households with a male head (57.6%). Most households that generated income from regular employment are worker's households (61.0%), followed by households of clerks and professionals(17.2%), farmers (3.4%) and retired people (5%) . Out of 45 households – beneficiaries of social financial assistance, only 8 or 17.8% of families generated income from regular employment in the past 12 months.

Graph 8.

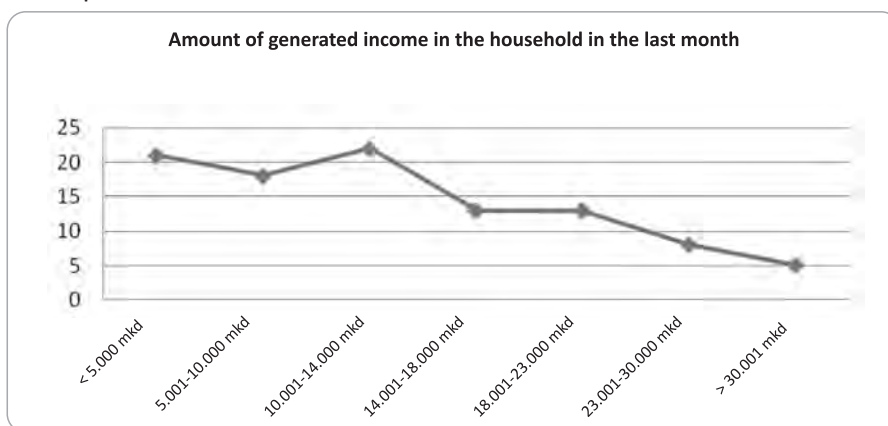


The fact that 28 households in Pehcevo municipality are generating income outside of regular employment, 16 of which beneficiaries of social financial assistance, is striking. 29,3% of the households with a male head and 14,3% of the households with a female head generated income outside of regular employment.

Of these, 35.7% are worker's households, 25.0% are agricultural and 7,1% are households in which the head is a professional. It is interesting to note that nearly half (46.7%) of the beneficiaries of social financial assistance generated income from agriculture. It is also worth noting that one third of the worker's households and two-thirds of the households in which the head is a clerk, generated income from agricultural activity. An insignificant number of households (1%) generated income from property (lease, sale). Only 8% of surveyed households, out of which 50% agricultural, 25% worker's and 12.5% households with head unemployed person/professional received assistance from a close relative. There is small percentage of solidarity among beneficiaries of social financial assistance.

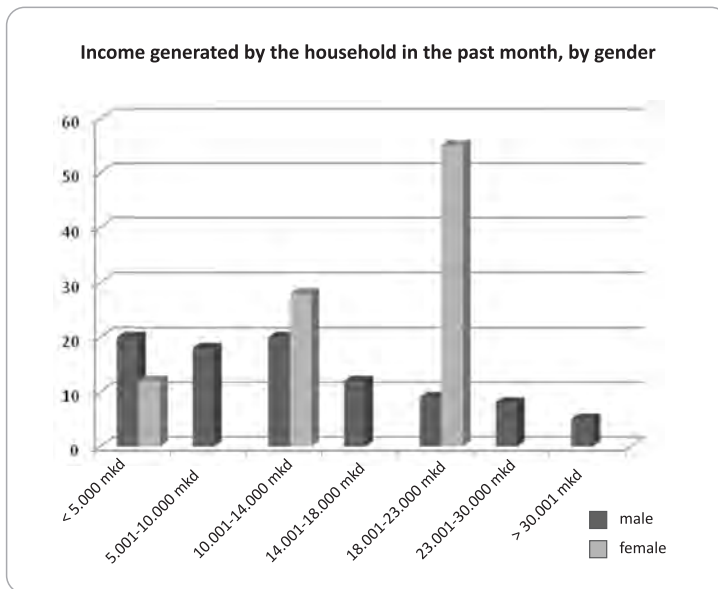
Most households (22%) generated an income from 10,001 -14,000 denars whereas 18% in the last month generated an income from 5001 to 10,000 MKD. 13% of the households generated an income from 14001to 18001 denars, 21% generated an income from 18,001 to 30,000 denars and 5% an income over 30,001 denars. Of special interest are the data pertaining to households that generate up to 5000 denars, which accounts for 21% of the total number of surveyed households.

Graph 9.



Most of them (33.3%) are families in which the household head is unemployed, then follow the agricultural households (28.6%), 9.5% households in which the head is a worker, 9.5% households in which the head is retired person and 9.5% households in which the head is a redundant worker. Furthermore, 42.2% of household beneficiaries of social financial assistance generate income under 5000 denars. The fact that within this category of households there are two households that are not beneficiaries of social financial assistance causes concern. Out of the total number of households with female heads of households, most, i.e. 57.1%, generate an income from 18,001 to 23,000, whereas only 14.3% generate an income up to 5000 denars. Unlike them, in households with male heads, there is a relatively even distribution in the lower levels of income with a tendency to reduce the number of households generating higher incomes last month.

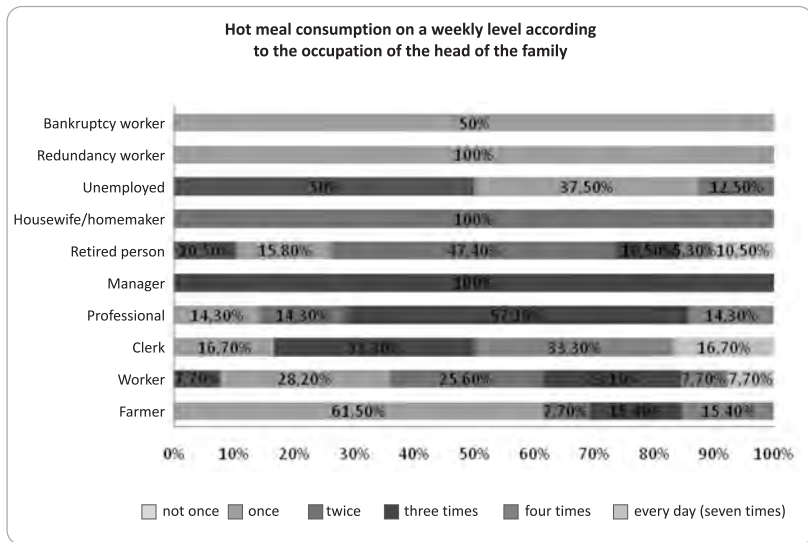
Graph 10.



The analysis of data pertaining to households where the head is unmarried demonstrates that 42.9% of them generate an income under 5000 denars, whereas with a distribution of 14,3% they generated incomes in all intervals of incomes from 5001 to 23,000 denars. The income distribution among households with a widow/er head is the highest (40.0%) in incomes from 10,001 to 14,000 denars, whereas in families where the head of the household is married there is an average distribution of 20,6% in the first three intervals.

Regarding the issue of consumption of hot meal with meat, households that have it once a week are dominant (30%), followed by households who are preparing it twice a week (24%), and 21% of cases cook it three times a week. 15% of the cases are having this hot meat meal more than three times a week, of which 6% are preparing it on a daily basis.. It is important to note the high percentage of households (10%) that do not consume hot meal with meat at all. In this category, the majority (50%) are households where the head of the household is unemployed or redundant whereas 30.0% are workers and 20.0% retired people. It is concerning to see that households with redundant /bankruptcy workers as members cook a hot meal with meat only once or not at all, whereas households with unemployed members cook it twice a week only in 12.5% of the cases.

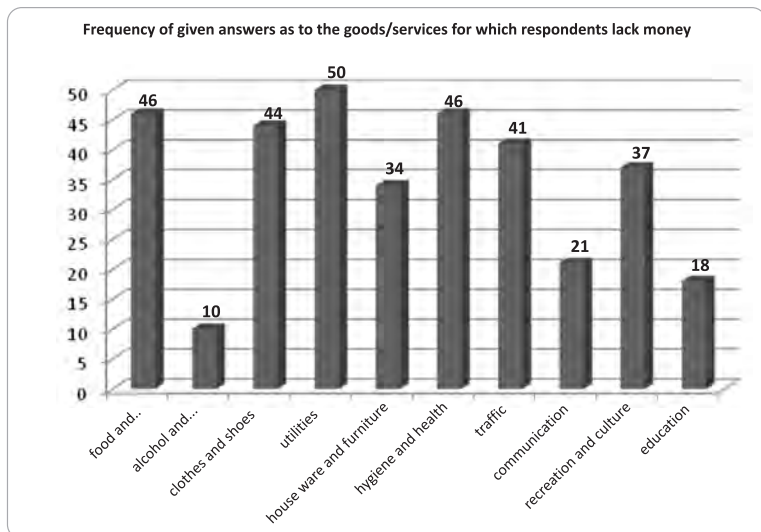
Graph 11.



Within the category of beneficiaries of social financial assistance, hot meal with meat is mostly consumed once (33.3%) or twice (28.9%) a week whereas 15.6% of respondents say that they are not having it at all. The same tendency is observed regarding the distribution of responses by the gender of the head of the household, where most households prepare a hot meal once or twice a week (34.4%).

Most of the respondents pointed out that they lack funds mostly for overhead costs (housing, water, electricity, fuel) (50) 46 said they lack funds mostly for health and hygiene, 46 for food and beverages, 44 for clothing and footwear and 41 for traffic. A smaller number of respondents stated that they lack funds for recreation and culture (37), homeware and furniture (34) communications (21), and least(10) pointed out that they lack funds to purchase alcoholic beverages and tobacco.

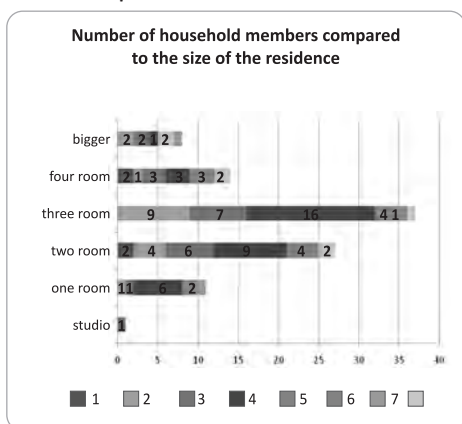
Graph 12.



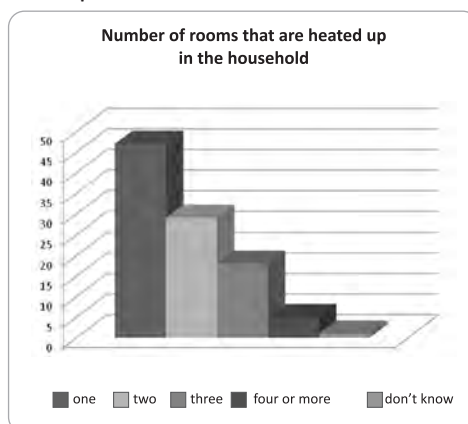
Within the group of social financial assistance beneficiaries, most of the respondents (66.7%) stated that they lack funds for food and soft drinks; an equal number of respondents singled out overheads and hygiene and health (57.8%). Also, many lack funds for clothing and footwear (53.3%), homeware and furniture (31.1%), traffic and transportation (24.4%). Same number of respondents (17.8%) emphasized that they lack funds to purchase alcohol and tobacco as well as for meeting the educational needs (17.8). Regarding the type of clothing that lack, respondents most frequently point to the lack of winter clothing (57), footwear (15), and formal clothes(11).

Most of the surveyed households (95%) live in houses built of solid construction.. The survey covered four households that live in rundown / prefabricated house, one household in an improvised house. Most families live in three-room residence (38%), two-room residence (28%), four-room residence (14%) and only 11% in a one-room residence (6%). The analysis of housing conditions compared with the number of members of households demonstrates that most households do not face spatial problems, except in one case of a seven-member family living in a one bed-room residence.

Graph 13.



Graph 14.



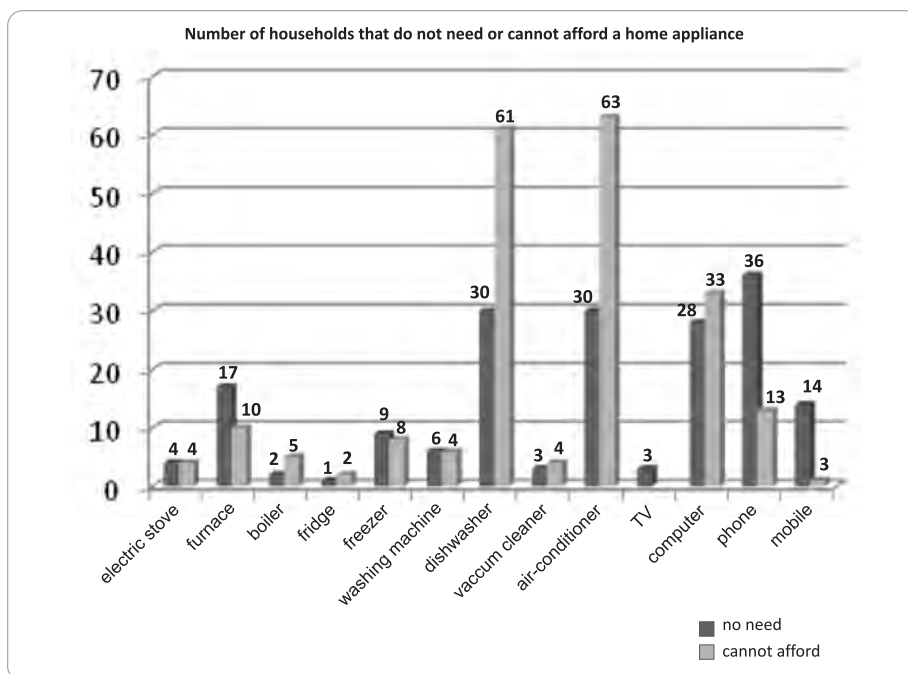
Regarding the manner in which households heat up the home, records show a high percentage of use of solid fuel stoves and wood (93) whereas only few use their own heating system (4); in addition to this, one household uses an electric stove. Data on how many rooms in the home are heated up indicate reduced quality of life in the winter. In fact, most households, or 47%, heat up only one room in the home, 29% two rooms and 23% three rooms or more.

Most households (97) are connected to the sewerage network, while only three households, all beneficiaries of social financial assistance have a septic tank. 86 households, out of which 34 are beneficiaries of social financial assistance have flush toilet within the bathroom in the home, 22 have a flush toilet in the yard and 6 have it in the apartment.

The results demonstrate that most households are connected to the water supply network, i.e. 97 households have tap water in the home whereas only two households, beneficiaries of social financial assistance use a public fountain. Recorded that seven households have boiler, two of which do not require, and

five can not afford. Three of the households who cannot afford to buy a boiler are beneficiaries of social financial assistance. Part of the surveyed households lack basic home appliances, such as an electric stove (8), a fridge (3) and a freezer (17). . About two-thirds of the households (61) do not have a computer, out of which 33 can not afford it and 28 do not need it. Many of the beneficiaries (37.8%) cannot afford to buy a computer. 72 households do not have a car, 52 of which cannot afford it.

Graph 15

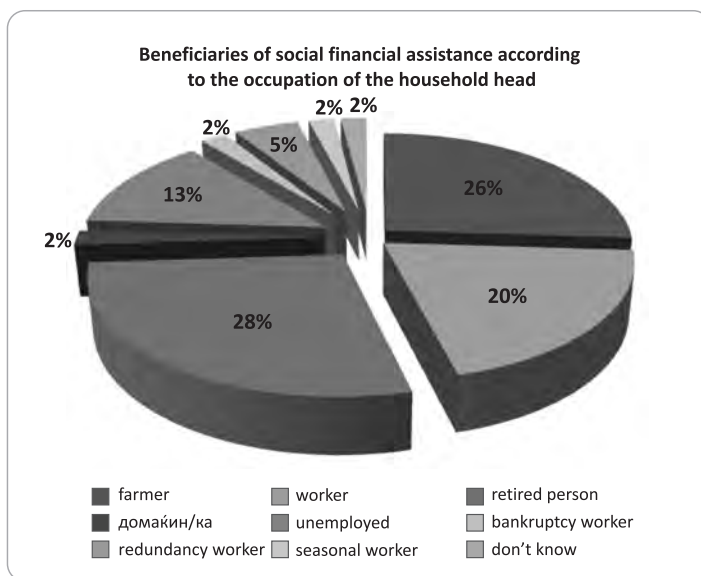


#### 6.4. Social problems and social protection

The data analysis of social issues demonstrates that the most significant problems related to social development are unemployment (63), poverty (60) and illnesses (34). The surveyed households also emphasize as significant problems the following: conflicting family relationships (12), disability (11); in addition, there is one case of delinquency, one case of divorce and one of alcoholism. Furthermore, respondents stressed social problems related to natural environmental processes: floods (3) and fire (1).

Most of the surveyed households are beneficiaries of rights to social financial assistance, i.e. 46% of the households are beneficiaries of social financial assistance, 11% are beneficiaries of permanent financial assistance, 8% are beneficiaries of financial compensation for care and assistance from another person. The majority of households- beneficiaries of social financial assistance, i.e. 26.1%, are agricultural households, 19.6% are workers, 28.3% retired people, 2.2% homemaker/housewife, 19,00% are households in which the head is unemployed, 6.5% of which are redundant workers and bankruptcy workers.

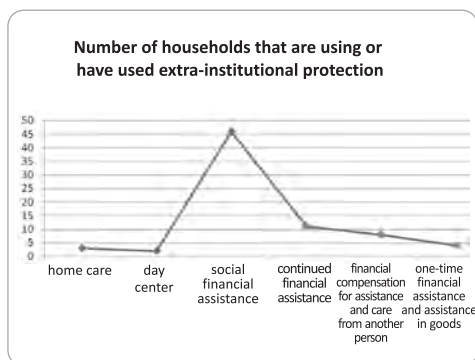
Graph 16.



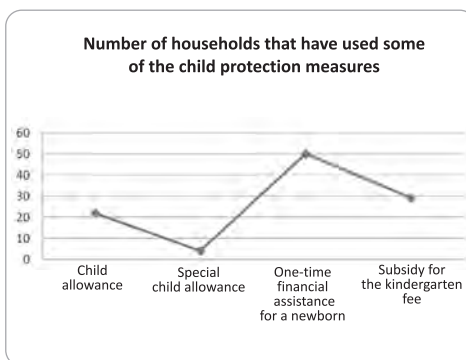
Most people receiving permanent financial assistance are also concentrated in households in which the head is an unemployed person (45.4%), agricultural households (27.3%) and worker's households (18.2). The relatively same tendency is reflected in relation to the distribution of responses by the gender of the household head, i.e. 46,7% of the households with male heads of household are beneficiaries of social financial assistance and 12% are beneficiaries of permanent financial assistance. In households with female heads of households, 42.9% are beneficiaries of social financial assistance, and not one of these is a beneficiary of permanent financial assistance.

From the types of extra-institutional protection, there are three households entitled to home care and assistance and two households that use the right to receiving care at a day-care centre. Two thirds of the households that are entitled to home care and assistance and the two households that use the services of the day-care centre are beneficiaries of social financial assistance. In all the cases, the household head is male. No household has used institutional social protection.

Graph 17.



Graph 18.



The most common type of child protection assistance is the child allowance, i.e. 22 respondents stated that they have used child allowance.. Only one household – beneficiary of child allowance has a female head of household. Nearly one quarter (22.7%) are beneficiaries of social financial assistance. Four households are beneficiaries of special child allowance, one of which is also a household with a female head of household. All are beneficiaries of social financial assistance.

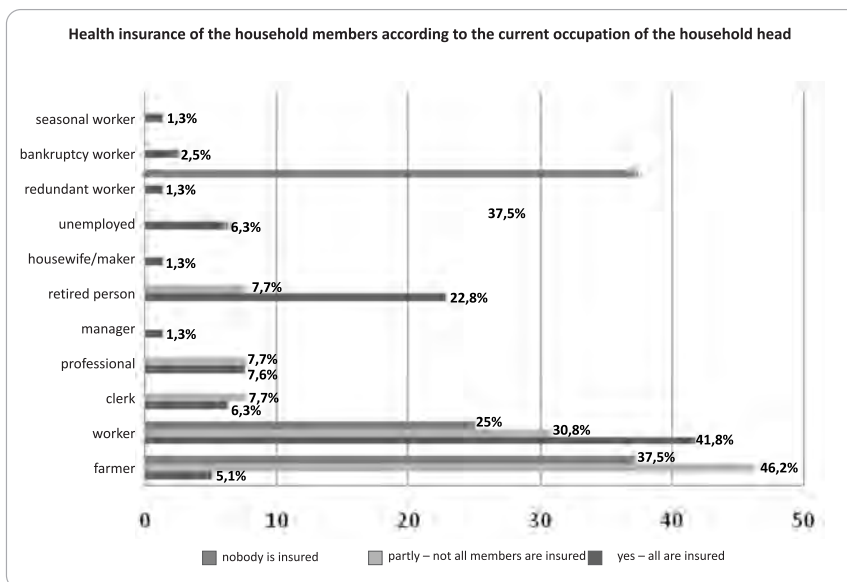
The analysis has demonstrated that the majority of the households that do not realize their right to social financial assistance had no need of it (33.0%), 7% were not informed and 6% were rejected. Few of the surveyed households state that reasons for not using the right is embarrassment from the environment (2.0%) and 2.0% state that the reason for not using it is its low amount. A similar tendency was also observed in respect to the rights of child protection. Namely, the percentage of respondents who do not need the use of this right is 24.0% whereas 3.0% were rejected. The fact that a relatively high number of households (16%) are not exercising this right because due to lack of information causes concern. Regarding the use of the types of extra-institutional and institutional care, most respondents had no need of it (75.0%), some lacked information (19.0%) and the other were refused (1.0%).

#### **6.5. Health care and nutrition**

In most cases (79%) respondents pointed out that all family members have health insurance. The fact that in 13% of the households, only part of the members have health insurance whereas in 8% of the households, no household member has health insurance. The data analysis demonstrates that 46.2% of the households that have partial health insurance are agricultural households, 30.8% are worker's households, 15.4% are households in which the head is a clerk or a professional and 7.7% are households in which the head of the household is a retired person. Most of the households in which no member has health insurance are households in which the heads of the households are farmers(37.5%) and workers (25.0%)..

In this group of health uninsured households, in 37.5% of the cases the household head is unemployed.

Graph 19.

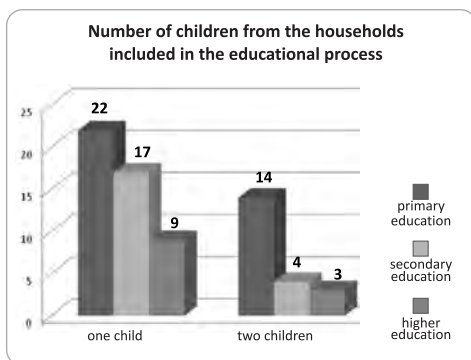


Most of the persons from households that do not have health insurance, i.e. 87.5%, are beneficiaries of social financial assistance.. Only one household in which the head of the household is a female has partial health insurance whereas in households in which the head of the household is a male only in 7.6% of the cases, no member of the household has insurance whereas 13.0% have partial health insurance. Out of the total number of households, most (79%) in case of illness use public health services (services of public health institutions and buy drugs from the positive list). Few (4%) of the total number of respondents buy drugs that are not on the positive list, 50% of which are agricultural and 50% are workers. In 2% of the households, members are treated privately.. In both cases we are speaking of households- beneficiaries of social financial assistance in which the household heads are unemployed. It should be noted that 4% of respondents do not use health care services, but alternative treatment methods - all of which are beneficiaries of social financial assistance.

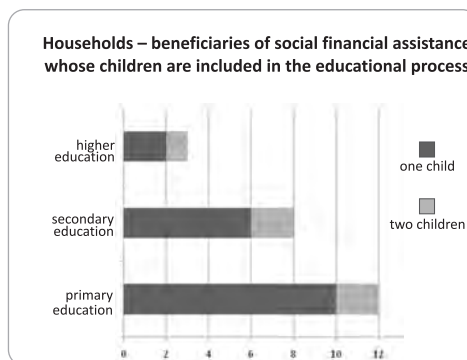
## 6.6. Education

Out of the total number of households surveyed, 59 households have children at the age of six and over, i.e. children who should be involved in the educational process. Out of these, 22 households have one child attending primary school, 14 households have two children attending primary school, 17 households have one child attending secondary school and four households have two children attending secondary education. Nine households have one child attending university and three households have two children attending university. In none of the surveyed households is there a school age child that has not been included in the regular educational process.

Graph 20.



Graph 21.



Out of the total number of households with school age children, 26 households are beneficiaries of social financial assistance. Out of these, 17 households have children attending primary school, 9 households have children attending secondary school and 3 households have children attending university. The distribution of responses regarding the occupation of the household head demonstrates that there are children involved in educational processes in 71,4% of the households where the household head is a professional, 61.5% of the agricultural households, 66.7% of the worker's households, i.e. households in which the head of the household is a clerk and 15.8% of the households in which the head is a retired person.

Out of the total number of households with children attending primary school, 30 households live within no more than 1 km from the primary school whereas four households live within the range of 1.01-2km from the primary school. The data analysis demonstrates that almost all children involved in primary and secondary education regularly attend school, with the exception of two children from a household, in the case of which poverty is the cause for irregular school attendance. This household is not a beneficiary of social financial assistance.

Out of the total number of households with children attending primary school, only one household, a social protection beneficiary, obtained the right to a free transport. There is also a household that used the right to a free snack. In both cases these are households that are beneficiaries of social financial assistance. In nine households the free textbook benefit, seven of which are beneficiaries of social financial assistance. Among households whose children attend secondary school, there are three households that used the right to a free transport, two which are beneficiaries of social financial assistance. The other forms of assistance for secondary education were not used by any of the households. Of all the available types of assistance for higher education, only one household that is a beneficiary of social financial assistance is using a scholarship, and three households, two of which are beneficiaries of social financial assistance are using a loan.

## 6.7. Sport, entertainment, culture

Respondents from the Pehcevo municipality stressed that in their populated place there is a sports field (99), swings (82), a bar (87), a library (61), a restaurant (73), markets (97), an Internet café (76), a cinema (48) and a sports betting house (63). There is no theatre. Most respondents (53 households) stated that no member of their household uses the Internet. In 31% of the cases of Internet use, the respondents used a home computer, and the respondents from only ten households accessed the Internet from an Internet cafe.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 7.1. Conclusions

Area	Narrower area	Situation/Problems
<b>1. Dominant activities</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ agriculture (production and processing)</li> <li>▶ forestry</li> <li>▶ mining</li> <li>▶ textile industry and</li> <li>▶ tourism</li> </ul>
<b>2. Institutional capacities</b>	<i>Education:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 1 central primary school</li> <li>▶ 3 dispersed schools up to grade 5</li> <li>▶ 6 dispersed classes of the Berovo secondary school</li> </ul>
	<i>Health care:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Health care centre</li> <li>▶ 4 general practitioners' practices</li> <li>▶ 5 dental clinics</li> <li>▶ 1 gynaecological clinic</li> <li>▶ 2 private pharmacies and 1 to meet the needs of the health care centre</li> <li>▶ an ambulance service</li> </ul>
	<i>Social protection:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ The Financial Benefit Office, as a dispersed unit of the Berovo Centre for Social Work</li> <li>▶ One kindergarten</li> <li>▶ 1 community kitchen</li> <li>▶ No nursing homes</li> <li>▶ No day care or temporary care centres</li> </ul>
	<i>Culture/sport/entertainment:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Cultural centre</li> <li>▶ Library</li> <li>▶ Two sports halls</li> <li>▶ Sports grounds in all populated places</li> <li>▶ 24 citizens' associations</li> <li>▶ No cinema and theatre</li> <li>▶ Private local radio</li> </ul>
	<i>Economic entities:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ A few larger economic entities, each of them with over 100 employees (Bomeks, AD Napredok, AD Fagus)</li> </ul>
	<b>3. Social problems</b>	

	<i>Socially vulnerable population groups:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Elderly people</li> <li>▶ Disabled people (there are no social services provided for them in the municipality).</li> <li>▶ Roma</li> <li>▶ Unemployed (young and long term unemployed people)</li> </ul>
<b>5. Infrastructural problems</b>	<i>Roads</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ The road network is old and the asphalt quality is bad</li> <li>▶ There are unasphalted roads in the villages.</li> <li>▶ A new communal waste landfill has been built</li> </ul>
	<i>Water supply system</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ The construction of purification stations of several facilities is ongoing.</li> <li>▶ The water supply network is being improved through the changing of the asbestos pipes.</li> </ul>
	<i>Sewerage system</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ There is a sewerage system in the whole municipality, and plans are made for the construction of several purification stations for the waste water from the households.</li> </ul>
<b>6. Environmental problems</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ There is a problem with the drinking water outside of populated places in certain times of the year.</li> </ul>
<b>7. Interinstitutional cooperation in the municipality</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Good cooperation with the central government and the NGOs</li> <li>▶ Developed regional cooperation, especially with the neighbouring municipalities of Berovo and Delcevo</li> <li>▶ The cooperation with the Centre for Social Work and the Employment Centre is average.</li> <li>▶ The cooperation with the private sector is weak.</li> </ul>
	<i>From the municipality</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ There is no special Social Protection Unit, but these competences are undertaken by the Human Resources Unit and the Unit for Urbanism, Communal Affairs and Local Economic Development.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ There is no social worker (the new systematization of job positions envisages employment of a social worker).</li> <li>▶ A Book of Rules on Providing Care for Homeless People is in the phase of preparation.</li> <li>▶ The municipality awards one-time financial assistance of 3000-5000 denars.</li> </ul>
	<i>From the Centre for Social Work</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Beneficiaries of social financial assistance: 168 households</li> <li>▶ Beneficiaries of permanent financial assistance: 9 families</li> <li>▶ Beneficiaries of TNP: 136</li> <li>▶ Extra-institutionaal protection: a community kitchen in the Pehcevo populated place</li> <li>▶ Institutional protection: 3 beneficiaries (1 SOS Children's Village; 1 – Banja Bansko; 1 – Demir Kapija)</li> </ul>
<b>8. Social protection</b>		

## 7.2. Recommendations

AREA	Narrower area	Recommendations for overcoming problems and improving the situation
<b>1. Dominant activities</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ The development potentials of the municipality are found in the use of the potentials for production of healthy food, wood processing and manufacturing of fireproof materials.</li> <li>▶ The use of the waters of Bregalnica river and the construction of four hydroelectric power plants is a stimulus for development.</li> </ul>
<b>2. Institutional capacities</b>	<i>Education:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To expand the dispersed school network</li> <li>▶ To analyse the possibility for opening of a secondary school in Pehcevo, and not dispersed classes of the Berovo school</li> </ul>
	<i>Health care:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To reorganize the work of the primary health care outpatient clinics</li> <li>▶ To open outpatient clinics in the rural populated places</li> <li>▶ To strengthen the capacities of the ambulance service</li> </ul>
	<i>Social protection:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To expand the network of social institutions in the municipality</li> <li>▶ To open a Centre for Social Work or to expand the competence of the existing office</li> <li>▶ To open day care centres for socially and educationally excluded children</li> <li>▶ To establish nursing homes</li> </ul>
	<i>Culture/ Sport/ Entertainment:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To strengthen the capacity of the NGO sector</li> <li>▶ To build a cinema or a theatre</li> <li>▶ To promote the media development in the municipality (by opening a TV and a radio station, a printed media)</li> </ul>
	<i>Economic entities:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To stimulate the development of small and medium size businesses</li> </ul>
<b>3. Social problems</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To promote programs for employment of the social protection beneficiaries</li> <li>▶ To improve the targeting of the long term unemployed people in the active labour market measures as well as the effectiveness in the employment of social protection beneficiaries</li> <li>▶ To implement preventive programs addressing deviant conduct social problems</li> <li>▶ To strengthen the professional advisory and counselling work with the households that are caught up in these categories of problems</li> <li>▶ To promote foster families and small group home.</li> <li>▶ To develop day care and temporary care for vulnerable people.</li> </ul>

	<i>Socially vulnerable population groups:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To expand the network of social services for elderly people: to analyze the possibilities for establishing social services for home assistance, day care centres, small group homes</li> <li>▶ To promote types of assistance for reduction of social exclusion of the Roma</li> <li>▶ To open day care centres for disabled people (children and adults)</li> <li>▶ To consider possibilities of opening services for home assistance</li> </ul>
<b>5. Infrastructural problems</b>	<i>Roads</i>	▶ To improve the quality of the local road infrastructure (asphalt paving of the local roads)
	<i>Water supply system</i>	▶ To improve the quality of the water in all populated places
	<i>Sewerage system</i>	▶ To establish a sewerage system in all populated places
<b>6. Environmental problems</b>		▶ To introduce regular controls of the quality of the drinking water
<b>7. Interinstitutional cooperation in the municipality</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To promote the cooperation among the municipality, the Centre for Social Work and the Employment Centre through intensified and more efficient implementation of public works, active employment measures for social protection beneficiaries, membership in joint bodies, education on the opportunities for cooperation and forms of cooperation in the area of social protection as well as practical implementation of joint projects</li> <li>▶ To promote the cooperation of the municipality with the non-governmental sector through their partnership inclusion in the implementation of social protection-related programs</li> <li>▶ To initiate joint projects with the private sector and development of social responsibility of the economic entities</li> </ul>
<b>8. Social protection</b>	<i>From the municipality</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To strengthen the Human Resources Unit by employing a social worker</li> <li>▶ To train the employees in the Unit for Opportunities and Forms of Development of the Social and Protective Functions of the Municipality</li> <li>▶ To provide training on strategic planning and development of social protection programs</li> <li>▶ To expand the spectrum of social protection mechanisms provided by the municipality (predominantly the financial assistance mechanisms) by adding new types of social services</li> <li>▶ To increase the budget funds allocated for social protection and to enable their effective use</li> <li>▶ To develop a local network of social protection service providers, partly also through promotion of public private partnership</li> </ul>

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*From the Centre of  
Social Work:*

- ▶ To decrease the number of beneficiaries of social financial assistance through intensified activities for their employment in cooperation with the Employment Centre
- ▶ To conduct an analysis of the possibilities for expanding the scope of households that are social assistance beneficiaries by using the services of the community kitchen
- ▶ To develop a network of institutional and extra-institutional protection in the municipality
- ▶ To review again the requirements for some social protection rights



# **MUNICIPALITY OF KONCE**



## 1. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF KONCE

Konce municipality is located in the central and eastern part of the Republic of Macedonia, 150 km from Skopje, on the right-hand side of the Radovis-Strumica road. It is a typically rural municipality, surrounded by Konecka mountain and Smrdesnik. The geographical configuration of the ground is mostly mountainous. The plain (lowland) part is around the Lakavica river. It is bordered by the municipalities of Stip, Negotino, Demir Kapija, Valandovo, Strumica, Vasilevo and Radovis.

Konce municipality covers an area of 225 km<sup>2</sup> and is among the medium-sized rural municipalities in the Republic of Macedonia. The total number of households is 1057. The population density is 15,17 residents/km<sup>2</sup>. In Konce municipality there is a rural centre with 13 rural areas with a total number of 3536 residents. There are only three populated places with more than 500 residents: Konce, Dedino and Rakitec. In the other populated places there are 300-500 residents. In three populated places there are less than 50 residents whereas four populated places are completely depopulated. In terms of the ethnic structure of the population, the Macedonian population is dominant with 85.10% of the total number of residents, followed by Turks represented by 14.73%, Serbs by 0.08% and others by 0.08%. The age structure of the population demonstrates that 21.4% are at the age of 0-14 years, 67.0% at the age of 15-64 years and 11.6% are above 65 years of age. Most residents, i.e. 50.6%, have incomplete primary education, 34.5% have completed primary education, 14% with completed secondary education and 0.9% with postsecondary education and higher education 0.9%.

Main industries include agriculture, forestry and livestock farming. Forests cover an area of 75% whereas the remaining 25% is arable land. In hydrographic terms, there are underground waters, springs and rivers as well as smaller artificial reservoirs in the municipality. The most important include the Mantovo artificial reservoir, which covers an area of 365ha under water, as well as the artificial lakes Konce 1 and Konce 3, which partly meet the pressing irrigation needs.

Konce municipality is clean and environmentally healthy, it has the needed resources and potentials for healthy food production, and in addition to that, it disposes of a wide range of forests and waters. Konce municipality also disposes of great marble, clay and copper ore reserves, which makes it rich in mining development potentials.

## 2. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES

**Education:** In Konce municipality there is one central primary school, the Goce Delcev Primary School- Konce, with 4 dispersed schools – grade 1 to 5 - in the villages of Gabrevci, Rakitec, Gorni Lipovik and Dolni Lipovik. Education is organized also in Turkish in the village of Konce. There is no secondary school. Students most often attend secondary school in the neighbouring municipality Radovis.

**Health care:** The network of health care institutions on the territory of the Konce municipality is very poorly developed. There are only two outpatient clinics

with a general practitioner and a nurse on the entire territory of the municipality, out of which the outpatient clinic in Konce is working every day whereas the one in Rakitec twice a week. There are no specialist clinics or pharmacies. Due to this the residents of the municipality are forced to travel to the surrounding municipalities to satisfy their health care needs.

**Social institutions:** In Konce municipality there is no facility for preschool care and education. There are no public or private nursing homes.

**Cultural institutions:** The residents of Konce municipality are unable to satisfy their cultural needs due to lack of facilities in which cultural activities could take place in the municipality. There is no cultural centre in Konce, but there is a larger hall that is used for cultural events and gatherings of citizens. There is no cinema, theatre, museum or library.

**Sports facilities:** There is no sports hall nor a sports ground in Konce municipality. Only in the central primary school there is a sports hall in which physical education activities take place. In four of the villages there are improvised football grounds.

**Media:** There is no local radio in Konce municipality. There is no local TV station, nor local printed media.

**Civil organizations:** In Konce municipality numerous citizens' associations are registered, but few are active. Most are folklore groups, part of them are working on the emancipation of Macedonian and Turkish women, and there is also an association of tobacco producers.

**Economic entities:** Konce municipality is a typical rural municipality in which agriculture, livestock farming, water power engineering and forestry are directly involved in the development of the municipality. Special emphasis is placed on the production of high quality tobacco of the Jaka type. Around 1.000.000kg of tobacco is produced annually, which makes up 5% of the total tobacco production in the Republic of Macedonia. In the populated places of the municipality only small companies for local transportation are registered as well as small economic entities for milk purchase and processing.

### 3. DOMINANT PROBLEMS IN THE MUNICIPALITY

**Social problems:** Dominant social problems include poverty and unemployment. One third of the working population of Konce municipality (32.3%), or 722 people, are unemployed. The gender structure of the unemployed demonstrates that the majority of the unemployed are male, or in other words, out of the total number of unemployed people only 23.3% (168) are women. Given the ethnic structure of the population, the majority of the residents are Macedonian (604), Turkish (112), Serb (3) and others. The distribution of the unemployed by age structure demonstrates that most of the unemployed (224) are at the age 30-39 and 189 people are at the age 20-29. Then follow the unemployed at the age 40-49 (152), 105 persons at the age 50-59 and 27 persons at the age 60-65. The data analysis demonstrates that most of those have been unemployed for more

than eight years; in other words, there are 98 people that have been unemployed for less than one year, 93 people up to two years, 50 people up to three years, 44 people up to four years, 94 people from five to seven years and 283 people over eight years. Two thirds of the unemployed (488, out of which 130 are women) are unskilled workers, 118 of them have completed secondary vocational education, 44 of which are women, and only 8 have completed a postsecondary education or higher education, 7 of which are women. In Konce industry is not developed, i.e. there no business entities to absorb the labour force. In 2009, about 50 beneficiaries of social financial assistance were hired to do public work in the municipality.

The Radovis Employment Centre is competent for Konce residents.. Active labour market measures are applied in the Centre in accordance with the operational plans of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy. University graduates in English Philology and Electrical Engineering are pointed out as deficient labour force.

The elderly unskilled people appear to be the most disadvantaged group in terms of employment. Concerning the rights of social protection, the most disadvantaged category includes elderly people that are financially unprovided for and incapable of working, but cannot exercise their rights to social protection because of their property and property rights.

In Konce municipality social problems related to deviant behaviour and social problems related to natural disasters arise to a lesser extent.

**Infrastructural problems:** In Konce municipality there is a relatively good infrastructural network. In most villages there is a water supply network, i.e. in every populated place there are separate systems providing drinking water. Only in three villages that have very small number of residents, or are nearly empty (Zagorci, Garvan and Skorusak) water is supplied mostly from wells. There is a sewerage network in four biggest villages: Konce, Rakitec, Delino and Mitovik. All populated places are connected to the municipal centre. Although the access road to and from the populated places is paved in asphalt, it should be noted that within the villages there are also unasphalted roads. In this context, the focus group participants noted: *«Only the main road is paved in asphalt, but in order to go into our homes we tread in the mud...»* The reconstruction of the Radovis-Konce road is envisaged for 2011.

**Environmental problems:** In Konce municipality one can single out as a significant environmental problem the problem with the landfill that is not built in accordance with environmental standards. In addition to that, there are minor soil erosion problems.

#### 4. SOCIAL PROTECTION

**Municipal administration:** Within the municipal administration there is no separate social protection unit, but the competencies are undertaken by the Unit for urbanism, communal matters, environment and local economic development. There is no social worker among the employees, but there is an employee that

has been appointed to perform tasks from the social sphere. In cooperation with Radovis municipality a joint Strategic Plan for Local Economic Development for Konce and Radovis for the period 2007-2011 has been developed, which addresses issues related to education and quality of life. In 2009 a Program for Social Protection of the Population in Konce Municipality for 2010 was adopted, focusing primarily on financial benefits. In the Programme for Health and Social Protection for 2011 contains extended activities for social protection of the population with an Operational Plan for their implementation. The municipality cooperates with the citizens by informing the citizens, putting notifications in public places, providing guidance and assistance to them in filling out applications. The municipality provides to socially disadvantaged population one-time financial assistance. In 2010 a total amount of 150.000 denars, or 0.5% of the annual municipal budget, were allocated under this budget entry.. For 2011 a total amount of 200,000 denars from the municipal budget were allocated.

**Centre for Social Work:** The Centre for Social Work, which is situated in Radovis, is responsible for Konce residents. In Konce there is no Financial Benefit Office through which the different types of social financial assistance, permanent financial assistance and assistance and care by another person can be administered. There are nine professionals in the Centre for Social Work, four of which are social workers, three are lawyers, one is a sociologist, and one is a psychologist. There are ten offices in the Centre for Social Work, on two floors. All employees have a computer, but no Internet access. There are vehicles at the Centre, but none of them is in proper technical condition. Also there is a lack of financial resources to cover the fuel costs. There is neither land line nor a mobile phone line SWC has neither fixed nor mobile.

The Centre for Social Work cooperates with the municipal administration in Konce just in case of need, usually when there is a problem related to social protection beneficiaries. It cooperates with the schools in cases of juvenile delinquency, and when it is needed to issue a certificate from the school for household members. It also collaborates with the health care centres when it is needed to provide certain documentation. The Centre for Social Work has a good cooperation with the Employment Service Agency. The cooperation with local NGOs is weak.

The most significant problems for the functioning of the Centre for Social Work include: the lack of vehicles in proper technical condition, the lack of Internet and telephone access and the lack of financial conditions for the smooth functioning of the Centre. The most problematic category of beneficiaries are the applicants for social financial assistance that are not eligible to exercise this right on the basis of the financial condition of the household.

Due to the fact that there is no Centre for Social Work in Konce the residents are constrained to travel to the neighbouring Radovis municipality in order to realize some of the rights to social protection. This is difficult for them given the fact that they are poor and have to allocate part of their funds for covering the travel expenses; some of them are sick or disabled, sometimes it is children or elderly people that find themselves in this situation. This situation imposes the

need to open a Centre for Social Work, or at least an Office for Financial Assistance in Konce, which would facilitate the realization of the social protection rights.

Number and structure of beneficiaries of social assistance measures and services: The analysis of the structure of beneficiaries of social financial assistance on the territory of Konce municipality demonstrates that 23 households are beneficiaries of social financial assistance.

The heads of the households come from all age groups. 17 families appear as beneficiaries of permanent financial assistance, most of which (15) use this right on the basis of age and illness. Most of these families are of Turkish ethnicity. One-time financial assistance is awarded on average to 20 beneficiaries per year. The right to social financial assistance most often is not realized as a result of the income that is generated from agricultural activity or tobacco processing. This right is also limited as a result of possession of farming land and all necessary machinery. The amount of the social financial assistance was emphasized as a great problem within the focus group discussions.

*«I live with my partner with whom I am not married, she is sick as I am. In addition, I have had several surgeries... With the assistance money I can not survive, let alone buy drugs. Here comes the winter, I do not have wood for heating, regardless of my willingness, I cannot bend over to gather some wood...»*

As user of extra-institutional protection there is a child without parental care, who has been placed in a foster family in Makedonski Brod, because the parents are beneficiaries of permanent financial assistance. In the records there are also two sisters who were accommodated in the "May 25" Centre, but due to their age are no longer eligible for that accommodation. In Konce municipality there is no centre for daily accommodation of beneficiaries, foster families or a small group home or a day centre for temporary accommodation of beneficiaries. There is no facility for institutional protection. The establishment of a day-care centre for elderly people is particularly needed.

## **5. COOPERATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY WITH LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS**

The municipality has, generally speaking, a good cooperation with the Association of Local Self Government Units (ZELS).

The cooperation with the Centre for Social Work is weak and exists only when there is a need for cooperation on a specific case. There is no cooperation on the prevention of social problems and on the addressing of issues for improvement of the social situation in the municipality.

Konce municipality has developed regional cooperation, especially with the surrounding municipalities of Radovis, Valandovo and Stip. It is jointly working with Radovis municipality on strategic programs for local economic development.

The cooperation of the municipality with the Employment Service Agency has been assessed as excellent. The two institutions are informing each other

of the organized trainings and education sessions. The municipal administration is satisfied with the work of the Local Employment Centre and the provision of assistance for the development of small businesses and self-employment.

The municipality cooperates with different citizens' associations, but the weak capacity and initiative rising of the local NGOs was emphasized, as well. In 2010, a Program for the Development of the NGO Sector and Cooperation with the Municipality for 2011 was adopted, according to which 100.000 denars were allocated for the financing of the activities in Konce municipality.

The private sector is poorly developed and has a poorly developed corporate solidarity.

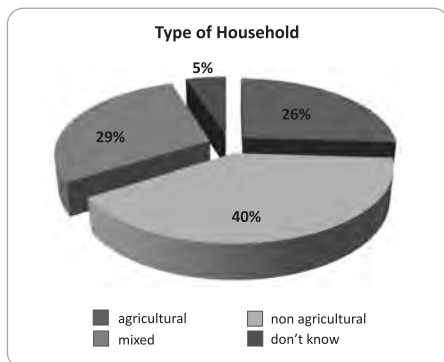
The cooperation with the central government is good, but the fact that not all municipalities have the same capacity to take on all competencies was stressed. Subsequently, all municipalities cannot be at the same decentralization stage. The fiscal decentralization as well as the opportunity for the municipality to generate its own sources of revenue is an advantage.

### 6.1. General data on surveyed households

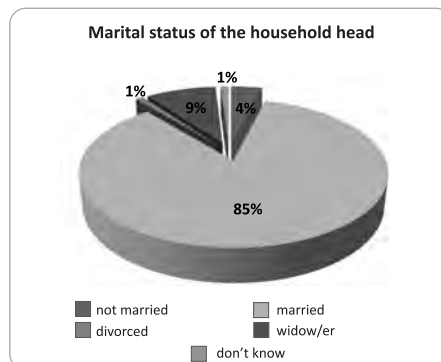
In Konce municipality a total number of 100 households were surveyed. The structure of the surveyed households by type of household demonstrates that most respondents work in agriculture (55%) out of which 29% have a household member engaged in another activity/business.

The distribution of households by ethnicity demonstrates that 96 households have declared themselves to be Macedonians, one household Albanian, two households Serbian and one household Turkish. The greatest in number are the four-member households (33%). In 90 % of the households the head of the household is a male and in 10% a female. In most cases the head of the one-member households is a male (66.7%). Women are more often heads of four-member (30%) and five-member households (30%).. Almost in all households with a greater number of members, the head of the household is a male. In most cases, the head of the household is married (85%), in 4% of the cases the head of the household is unmarried and in 9% of the cases the head of the household is a widow/er.

Graph 1.

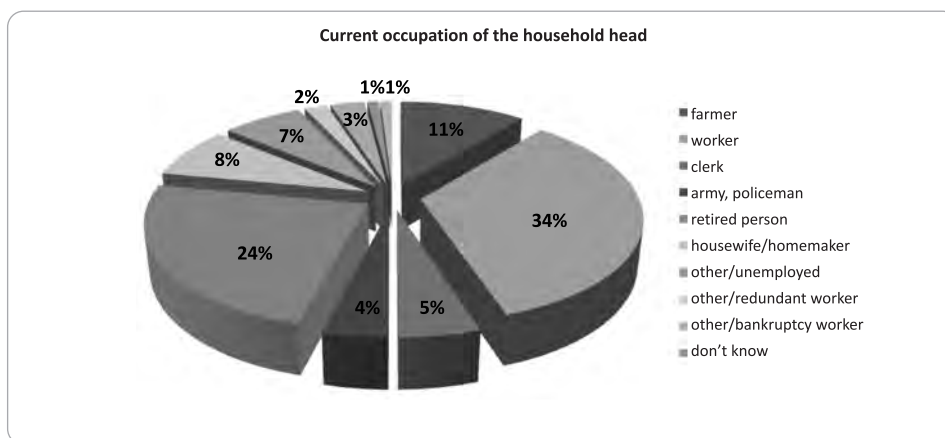


Graph 2



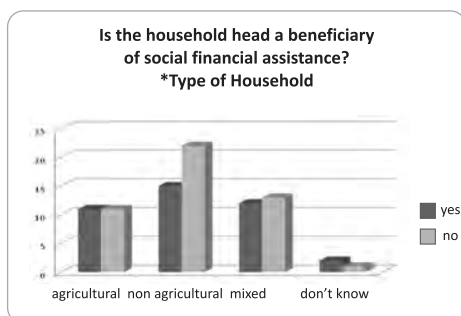
Although 96% of the respondents are literate, a large part of them, i.e. 14%, have not completed primary education, 38% have completed primary education, 42% have completed secondary education and only 5% have completed a postsecondary education or higher education. In most households, the head of the household is working (34%), has retired (25%), is a farmer (11%), a clerk (5%), a homemaker (8%), and it is worth noting that 13% of the respondents are either unemployed or have been made redundant/ bankruptcy worker.

Graph 3.

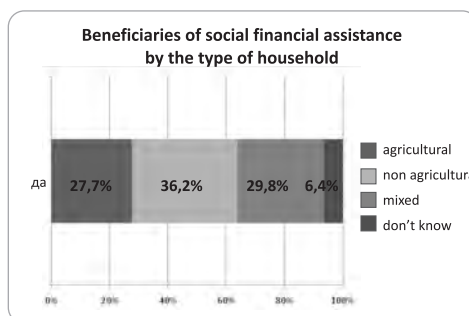


47 respondents reported to be beneficiaries of social financial assistance. It should be noted that in 59 households nobody is employed and only in five households one member is self-employed. According to the type of the household, there is a relatively unified distribution of beneficiaries of social financial assistance, i.e. 27% are agricultural households, 36% are non-agricultural households and 29.8% are mixed households.

Graph 4.



Graph 5.

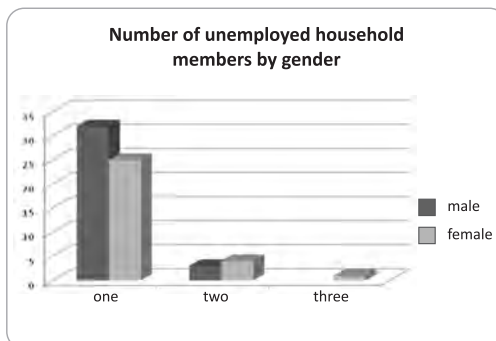


## 6.2. Employment

Out of the total number of surveyed households, in 59% of the cases no household member is employed. Out of them, 96.6% of the households are Macedonian, 1.7% are Turkish and 1.7% are Serbian<sup>1</sup>. Moreover, in 63 households there is only one unemployed member, out of whom 35 are male and 28 female,

and in 11 households there are two unemployed members, out of which 5 are male and 6 female. There is also one family with three unemployed members, all female. In 47 households there is one recorded employee, and only in 7 households there are two recorded employees. Still, it is concerning to see that there is a total number of only 10 female employed members versus 51 male employed members.

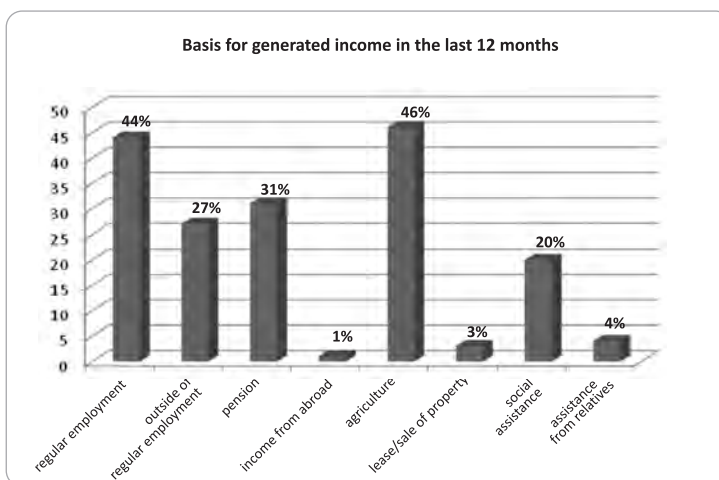
Graph 6.



### 6.3. Standard of living

The conducted analysis of the received data demonstrates that 56 households have not generated any income from regular employment in the past 12 months. The same tendency is reaffirmed here as well, according to which the majority of the households in which the head of the household is a female (80.0%) live without any income from salaries, compared to the households in which the head of the household is a male, where that percentage is 53.3%. Most households that have generated income from regular employment are worker's households (25%), followed by clerks, employees in the army and police (8%), and farmers (3%) and retired people (3%). In addition, out of 47 households that are beneficiaries of social financial assistance only 12 families have generated income from regular employment in the past 12 months. It is worth noting that in Konce municipality there are 27 households that have generated income outside of regular employment, out of which 23 are households with male heads of households and 4 are households with female heads of households, draws attention.

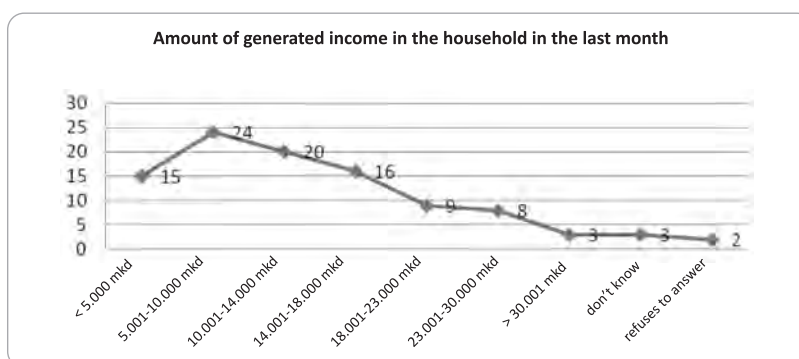
Graph 7.



Out of these, 37% are worker's households, 14.8% are agricultural, the same percentage applies for the households in which the head of the household is a clerk and households in which the head of the household works in the army or the police, 11.1% are households in which the head of the household is a retired person and 7,4% are households in which the head of the household is a homemaker/ housewife. One third of the households (31.9%) that are beneficiaries of social financial assistance have also generated income outside of regular employment. It is interesting to note that more than half (51.1%) of the beneficiaries of social financial assistance have generated an income from agricultural activity. Only three respondents, two of which are worker's households and one is a household in which the head is retired person have generated income from property (rent, sale), one of which is a beneficiary of social financial assistance. Only four of the surveyed households, out of which two are beneficiaries of social protection financial assistance and two are households with a member employed in the military / police, or a retired person, received financial assistance from a close family relative. Income generated on other grounds has an insignificant share in the total budget of the households.

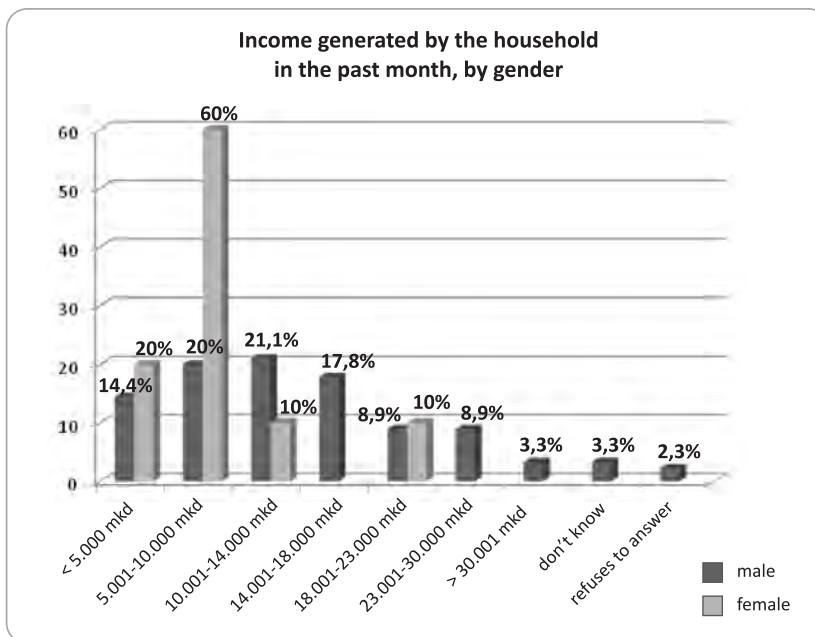
Most households (24%) in the last month generated an income in the range of 5,001 - 10,000 denars whereas 20% generated an income in the range of 10,001 - 14,000 denars out of which 21 is a beneficiary of social financial assistance.

Graph 8.



The distribution of responses demonstrates that according to the occupation of the head of the household, 15 households are households in which the head is a retired person, 13 are worker's households and 6 are agricultural. 16% of the households generated an income in the range of 14001-18001 denars whereas 17% generated an income in the range of 18,001-30,000 denars. Specially striking are the data pertaining to households that receive up to 5000 denars, which make up 15% of the total number of surveyed households. Most of them are families where the head of the household is a homemaker/housewife (26.7%), 20% are worker's households and 13,3 % are agricultural households.. Out of the total number of households in which a female is a head of the household, 20% generate an income up to 5000 denars whereas out of all the households in which a male is the head of the household, 14% generate an income up to 5000 denars.

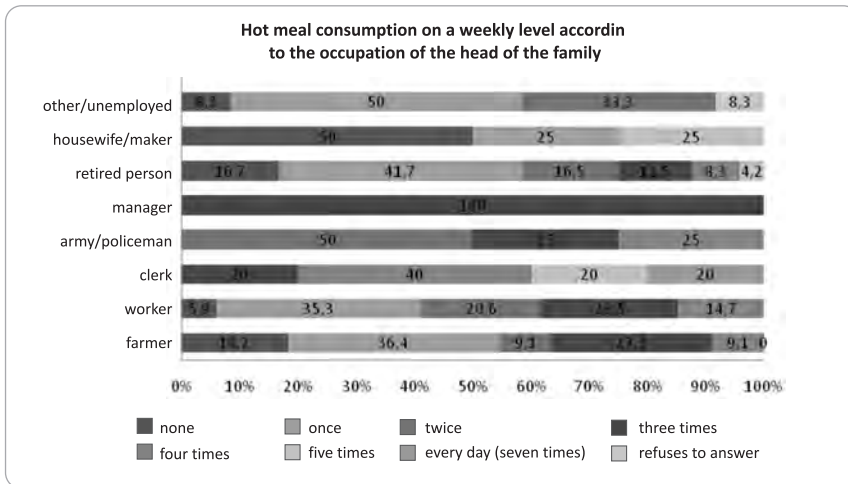
Graph 9.



The fact that within this category of households there are two identifies households that are not beneficiaries of social financial assistance causes concern. The analysis of data pertaining to the households in which the head of the household is not married demonstrates that 75% of them generate an income lower than 5000 denars whereas 25% generate an income in the range of 5001-10,000 denars. The income distribution is similar among households in which the head of the household is a widow/er - 77.7% of such households generate an income up to 10,000 denars whereas 11.1% generate an income up to 14,000 denars.

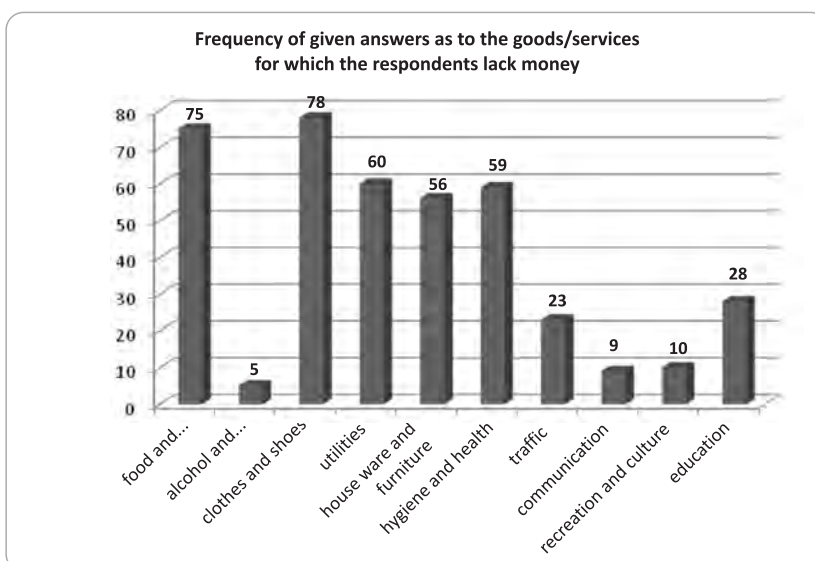
Regarding the issue of having a hot meal with meat, households that are having it once a week are dominant (35%), followed by households that are having it twice a week (18%) whereas in 16% of the cases such a meal is cooked three times a week. It is important to note the high percentage of households (14%) that do not have a hot meal with meat at all in the week. In this category of households, 14.3% of the respondents are agricultural, 14.3% are worker's, 28.6% are households in which the head is a retired person and another 28.6% are households in which the head is a homemaker / housewife,

Graph 10.



Within the category of beneficiaries of social financial assistance, 19,1% of respondents say that they are not having a hot meal with meat at all during the week, 36,2% are having it once a week, 8,5% twice a week and it is surprising to learn that 34,1% of the beneficiaries are having a hot meal with meat more than three times a week. The distribution of responses regarding the gender of the head of the household demonstrates a similar tendency; namely most households in which the head of the household is a male have a hot meal once a week (34,4%) whereas the households in which the head of the household is a female have a hot meal once a week in 40,0% of the cases. We can see a high percentage of households (20%) with a female head of the household which are not having a hot meal at all during the week.

Graph 11.

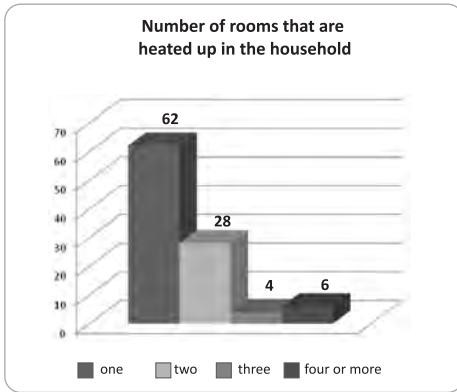


The majority of the respondents pointed out that they lack money mostly for clothing and footwear (78), food and soft drinks (75), overhead expenses (housing, water, electricity, fuel) (60) and health and hygiene (59). More than half of the respondents stated that they lack money for homeware and furniture (56). A smaller number of respondents stated that lack money for education (28), communications (23), recreation and culture (10), and least of all (5) point out that they lack money for alcoholic beverages and tobacco.

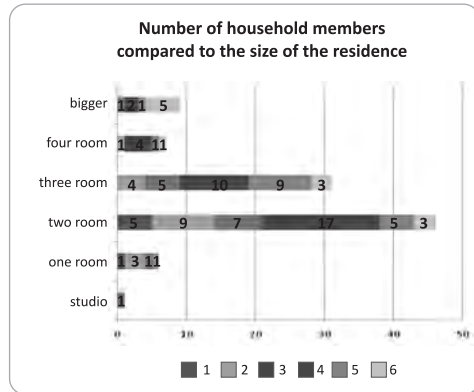
The analysis has demonstrated that 50.0% of the respondents that stated they lack money for overhead costs are beneficiaries of social financial assistance. The same ratio is retained also in the distribution of responses regarding the lack of funds for food and soft drinks (52%), homeware and furniture (51.8%), clothing and footwear (50%), hygiene and health (50.8%) and education (46.4%). Regarding the type of clothing that they lack respondents most frequently point to the lack of winter clothing (57), footwear (15) and formal clothing (11). Most of the respondents - beneficiaries of social financial assistance state that they lack money for meeting their cultural and entertainment needs (60%) and it is worth noting that as many as 40% of the respondents - beneficiaries state that they lack money for alcoholic beverages and tobacco.

All households live in solid construction residences. Most families live in two-room residence (46%), three-room residence (31%), a smaller part in a one-room residence (6%) and only 16% in a four-room residence or a residence of more than four rooms. The analysis of the housing conditions compared to the number of household members demonstrates that most one-member, two-member, three-member and four-member households live in two-room residences, five of the six-member households live in larger residences, and as far as the five-member families are concerned, only one five-member family lives in a one-room residence and five of them live in two-room residences. Regarding the manner in which the households heat up the home, in the records there is a high percentage of use of solid fuel stoves, wood (95) and a small number of them use their own heating system (3); there is also one household that uses an electric stove and one that uses liquid fuels for heating. Data on the number of rooms that are heated indicate that the quality of living has been lowered in the winter. In fact, most households, i.e. 62%, heat up only one room in the home, 28% heat up two rooms and 10% heat up three and more rooms.

Graph 12.

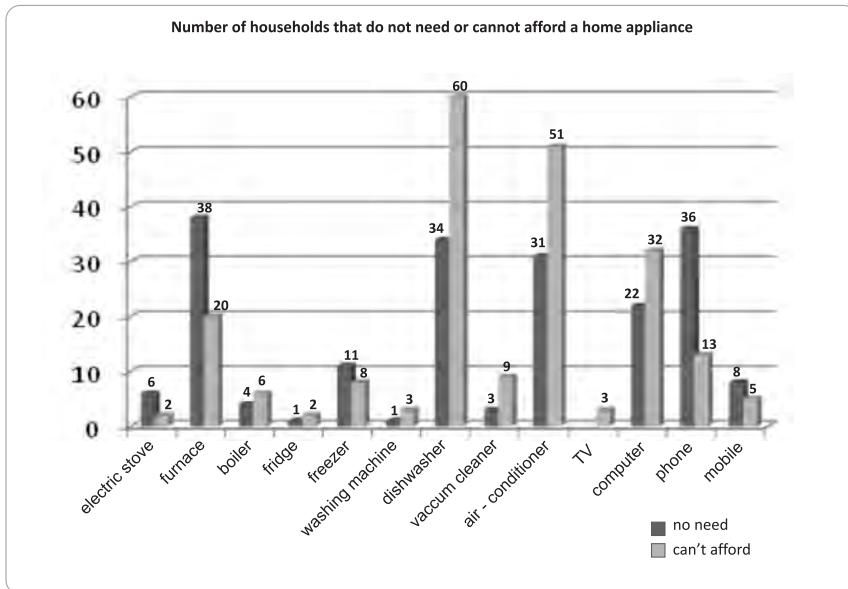


Graph 13.



Most households (93) are connected to the sewerage network and the same tendency can be seen in the beneficiaries of social financial assistance, i.e. only two households have a septic tank. 73 households, 31 out of which are beneficiaries of social financial assistance, have a flush toilet within a bathroom in the house, 41 household have a flush toilet in the yard and 22 households have a flush toilet within the apartment. Results demonstrate that most households are connected to the water supply network, i.e. 96 households have a tap water in the house. It is evident that 11 households do not have a boiler, out of which six are beneficiaries of social financial assistance. Part of the surveyed households lack basic home appliances, such as an electric stove (8), a fridge (3) and a freezer (19). More than half of the households (54) do not have computer, out of which 32 can not afford it and 22 do not need it. Many of the beneficiaries (42.6%) can not afford to buy a computer. 49 households do not have a car, out of which 37 can not afford it.

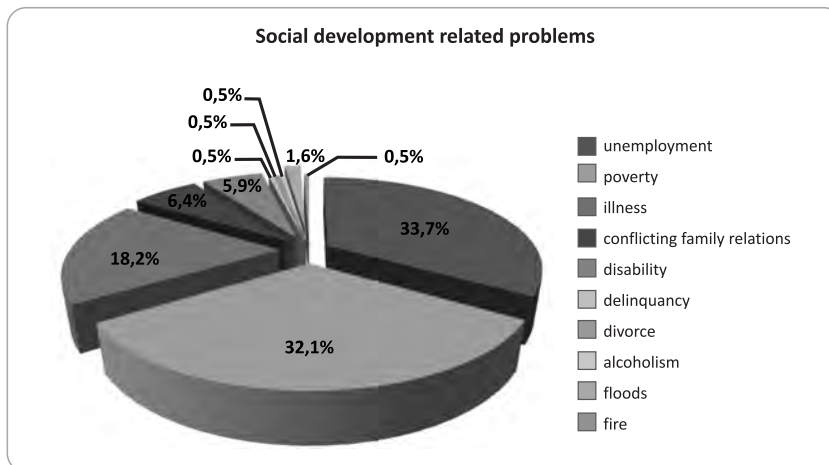
Graph 14.



## 6.4. Social problems and social protection

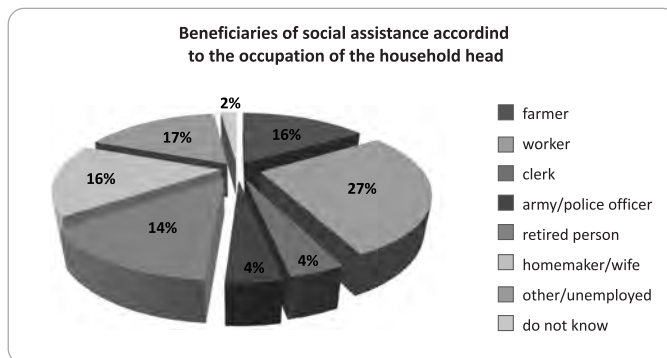
Data analysis of social problems demonstrates that the most significant problems are the social development problems, more specifically unemployment (77), poverty (79) and illnesses (38). The surveyed households singled out as significant problems also divorce (4), conflicting family relations (3), disability (5), a case of a child without parents/parental care and a case of a psychotropic substance user. Respondents also reported social problems related to natural environmental processes: floods (4), droughts (5) and earthquakes (1).

Graph 15.



Most of the surveyed households are beneficiaries of social financial assistance, i.e. 52 households are receiving social financial assistance whereas 11 households are receiving permanent financial assistance. Among the beneficiaries of social financial assistance, 26.9% are worker's households, 15.4% are agricultural households, 7.6% are households of employees in the civil service,, army and police, 13.5% households of retired people, 8% households of housewives/homemaker, and other 17.3%. There is the relatively same tendency in relation to the distribution of responses according to the head of the household's gender. In households in which the head of the household is a male, 51% are beneficiaries of social financial assistance and 11.1% are beneficiaries of permanent financial assistance. In households in which the head of the household is a woman, 60% are beneficiaries of social financial assistance and 10% are beneficiaries of permanent financial assistance.

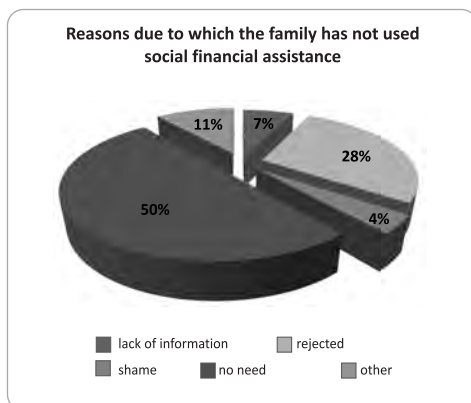
Graph 16.



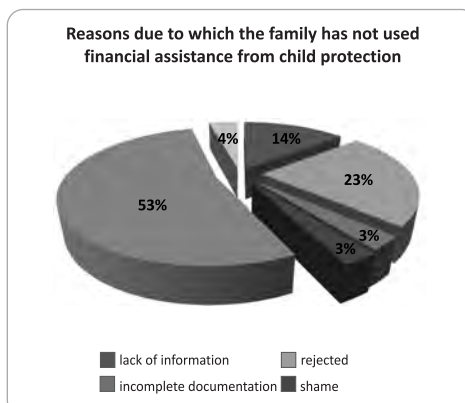
From the different types of extra-institutional protection, there are only two households using the right to a home care and assistance. In both cases the head of the household is a female. No household has used institutional social protection.

As the most typical form of child protection one can single out the child allowance benefit; namely, 29 respondents stated that they have used the child allowance benefit whereas only three respondents said that they have used the special child allowance benefit.

Graph 17.



Graph 18.



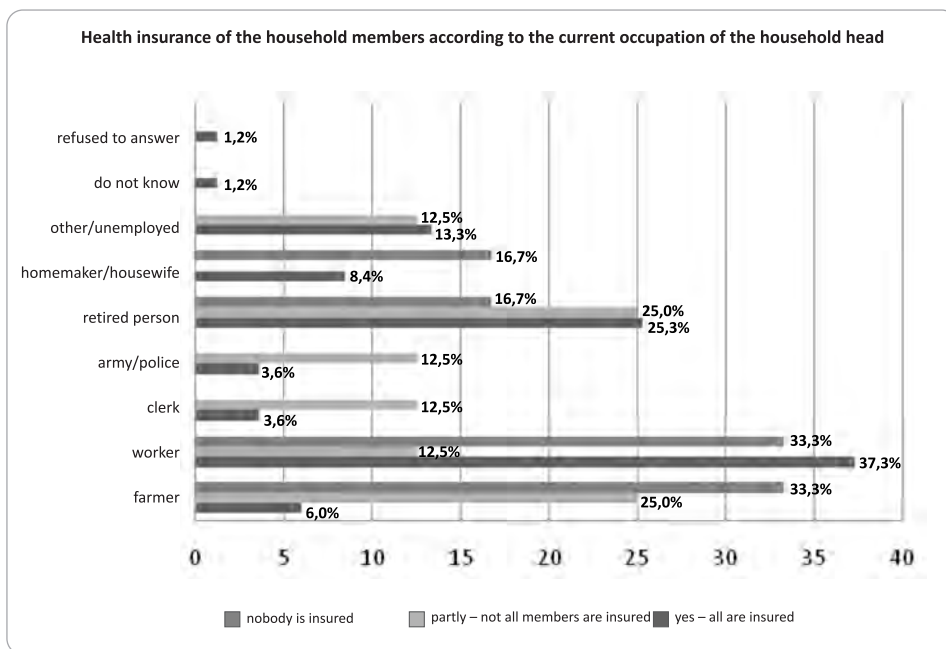
The analysis has demonstrated that the majority of households that are not beneficiaries of social financial assistance did not need it (50.0%) whereas 28.3% of the households were rejected. Few of the surveyed households stated that the reasons for not using this benefit lie in their lack of information (6.5%) or shame from the people around them (4.35%). The same tendency is observed in respect to the use of the child protection rights/benefits. Namely, the percentage of respondents who do not need to exercise this right to the benefit is 53.0% whereas 22.7% were rejected. The fact that a relatively high number of households (13.6%) did not exercise this right to the benefit due to lack of information, 3.0% due to shame and 3.0% due to incomplete documentation causes concern. Regarding the use

of the types of extra-institutional and institutional protection, most respondents reported they had no need for it (62.2%), lacked information (17.4%) were rejected (14.3%), had incomplete documentation (1%) and other (5.0%).

### 6.5. Health care and nutrition

In most cases (83%) respondents pointed out that all members in their family have health insurance. The fact that in 8% of the households only some of the members have health insurance whereas in 6% of the households none of the members has health insurance causes concern. The data analysis demonstrates that 33.3% of the households that do not have health insurance are agricultural households, 33.3% are worker's households, 16.7% are households where the household head is a retired person and 16.7% are households where the household head is a homemaker / housewife. Most of those who do not have health insurance, i.e. 83.3%, are the beneficiaries of social financial assistance.

Graph 19.



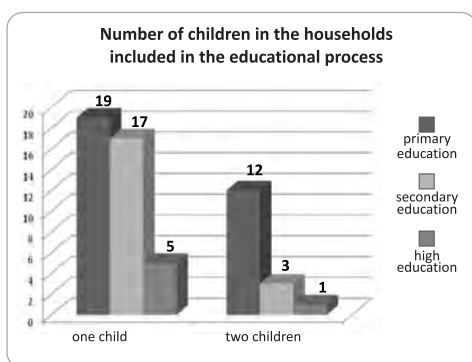
All households in which the head of the household is a female have health insurance, whereas from the households in which the head of the household is a male, only 6.7% are households in which no member has health insurance and 8.9% are partially insured households. Out of the total number of households, most (86%) in case of illness use public health care services (use services of public health care institutions and buy drugs from the positive list (drugs reimbursed by the Health Insurance Fund). A small number (5%) of the total number of respondents buy drugs that are not on the positive list, 20% of which are agricultural households, 60% are worker's households and the remaining 20% belong to the category "other". In

6% of the households the members use private health care services, of which one third belong to the category “agricultural households”, “worker’s households” and “other”. Half of the households using a private physician are beneficiaries of social financial assistance. It should be noted that 2% of the respondents are not seeing a physician and are using alternative treatments, all of which are beneficiaries of social financial assistance.

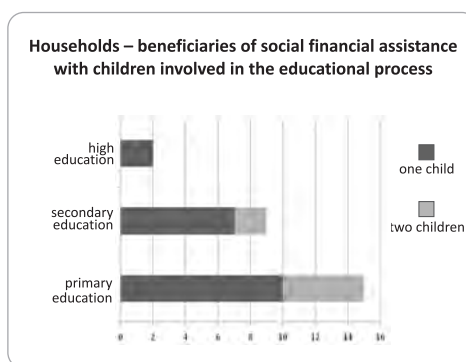
### 6.6. Education

Out of the total number of households surveyed, 47 households have children at the age of six and above, i.e. children involved in the educational process. Out of these, in 19 households there is one child attending primary school, in 12 households there are two children attending primary school, in 17 households there is one child attending secondary school in 3 households there are two children attending secondary school, in 5 households there is one child attending university and in one household there are two children included in higher education.

Graph 20.



Graph 21.



In all of the surveyed households, there are no children of school age that are not included in the regular educational processes. Out of the total number of households with school age children, 24 households receive social financial assistance. Out of these, in 16 households there are children attending primary school, in 10 households there are children attending secondary school and in 2 households there are children attending university.

The distribution of responses regarding the occupation of the head of the household demonstrates that there are children involved in educational processes in 81.8% of the agricultural households, 61.8% of the worker’s households, 100.0% of the households in which the head of the household is a clerk, 12, 5% of the households in which the head of the household is a retired person, 50% of the families in which the head of the household is a homemaker/housewife and 50% of households in which the head of the household works in the army/police.

In most cases, i.e. in 96.7%, of the households with children attending primary school, they live within less than a kilometre from the primary school

whereas in only one case the household is at a distance greater than 4 km. The data analysis demonstrates that all children involved in the primary and secondary education regularly attend school.

Out of the total number of households whose children attend primary school, eight used the free transportation benefit, six of which are beneficiaries of social financial assistance and one household used the free snack benefit. Among the households whose children attend secondary school there are four households that used the free transportation benefit, three of which are beneficiaries of social financial assistance. Other forms of education-related assistance were not used by the households. Out of all forms of higher education assistance, only the right to a scholarship was used by one household that is not a beneficiary of social financial assistance.

### 6.7. Sport, entertainment, culture

Respondents from Konce municipality stated that in their populated place there is a sports ground (99) swings (95) a coffee bar (74), a library (57) a restaurant (52), markets (49) and an Internet café (39). There are no cinemas, theatres or sports betting houses. Most respondents (65 households) stated that no member of their household uses Internet. In 31% of the cases of Internet use, respondents used a home computer and only in two cases they used Internet from an Internet cafe.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 7.1. Conclusions

Area	Narrower area	Situation/Problems
<b>1. Dominant activities</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Agriculture (tobacco production)</li> <li>▶ Forestry</li> <li>▶ Cattle breeding</li> </ul>
<b>2. Institutional capacities</b>	<i>Education:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 1 central primary school</li> <li>▶ 4 dispersed schools up to grade 5</li> <li>▶ There is no secondary school.</li> </ul>
	<i>Health care:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ A poorly developed network of health care institutions</li> <li>▶ Two clinics with a general practitioner and a nurse, out of which one is open only two days per week</li> <li>▶ There are no specialist clinics</li> <li>▶ There is no ambulance/emergency service</li> <li>▶ There is no pharmacy</li> </ul>
	<i>Social protection:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ There is no Centre for Social Work in Konce</li> <li>▶ The Konce residents realize their social protection rights in the Radovis Centre for Social Work</li> <li>▶ There is no kindergarten</li> <li>▶ There is no community kitchen</li> <li>▶ There are no nursing homes</li> <li>▶ There are no day care centres and centres for temporary foster care</li> <li>▶ There is no kindergarten</li> </ul>

	<i>Culture/Sport/Entertainment:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ The network of cultural institutions is not developed.</li> <li>▶ There is no cultural centre, cinema, theatre, museum or a library.</li> <li>▶ There is no sports hall, nor sports grounds.</li> <li>▶ There are a few citizens' associations.</li> <li>▶ There are no local media.</li> </ul>
	<i>Economic entities:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Small trade entities for line local road transportation and a small economic entity for milk purchase and processing</li> </ul>
<b>3. Social problems</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Most bitter: unemployment and poverty</li> <li>▶ One third of the residents within the age range of 15-65 are unemployed. 168 of them are women.</li> <li>▶ The distribution of unemployment by age structure demonstrates that the greatest part of the unemployed are within the age range of 30-39</li> <li>▶ Two thirds (67,6%) of the unemployed are unskilled labour force.</li> </ul>
	<i>Socially vulnerable population groups:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Elderly people</li> <li>▶ Disabled people (there are no social services provided for them in the municipality).</li> </ul>
<b>5. Infrastructural problems</b>	<i>Roads</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ All populated places have asphalt-paved roads.</li> <li>▶ Inside the villages there are unasphalted roads.</li> </ul>
	<i>Water supply System</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ In each populated place there are separate water supply systems.</li> </ul>
	<i>Sewerage system</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ There is a sewerage network in four greatest villages: Konce, Rakitec, Delino and Dolni Mitovik.</li> </ul>
<b>6. Environmental problems</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ The problem with the landfill that is not built in accordance with environmental standards;</li> <li>▶ Minor soil erosion problems</li> </ul>
<b>7. Interinstitutional cooperation in the municipality</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Good cooperation with the central government and the NGOs</li> <li>▶ Developed regional cooperation, especially with the neighbouring municipalities of Radovis, Valandovo and Stip</li> <li>▶ The cooperation with the Centre for Social Work is poor and exists only when needed in specific cases. There is no cooperation in prevention from social problems and issues related to promotion of the social situation in the municipality</li> <li>▶ The municipality cooperates with citizens' associations; however, the weak capacity and initiative rising of the local NGOs should be mentioned.</li> <li>▶ Great cooperation with the Employment Centre</li> </ul>

## 8. Social protection

*From the municipality*

- ▶ There is no special Social Protection Unit, but these competences are undertaken by the Unit for Urbanism, Communal Affairs, Environment and Local Economic Development.
- ▶ There is no social worker, but there is a person that has been appointed to perform the tasks from the social sphere.
- ▶ A Strategic Plan for Local Economic Development for 2007-2011 has been prepared for Konce and Radovis
- ▶ The Program for Social Protection of the Population of Konce Municipality for 2010 has been adopted.
- ▶ The municipality awards one-time financial assistance as a type of assistance for the socially disadvantaged population.
- ▶ 150.000 denars, or 0,5 % from the annual municipal budget are allocated for this budget entry.
- ▶ Beneficiaries of social financial assistance: 23 households
- ▶ Beneficiaries of permanent financial assistance: 17 households
- ▶ One-time financial assistance on average is awarded to 20 beneficiaries per year.
- ▶ Extra-institutional protection: one child without parental care is accommodated in a foster family

*From the Centre for Social Work*

## 7.2. Recommendations

AREA	Narrower area	Recommendations for overcoming problems and improving the situation
Dominant activities		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Konce municipality is clean and environmentally healthy municipality with resources and potentials for healthy food production and it also disposes of vast forest and water resources</li> <li>▶ Konce municipality disposes of vast marble, clay and cooper ore reserves, which is also a potential for development of mining.</li> </ul>
	<i>Education:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To expand the dispersed school network</li> <li>▶ To analyse the possibility to organize in some of the schools instruction up to grade 9</li> <li>▶ To open a secondary school</li> </ul>
2. Institutional capacities	<i>Health care:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To expand the network of health care institutions, primarily general practitioners' practices</li> <li>▶ To reorganize the work of the primary health care centres</li> <li>▶ To open outpatient clinics in the rural populated places</li> <li>▶ To establish an ambulance service</li> <li>▶ To encourage the opening of a pharmacy and basic specialist clinics</li> </ul>

	<i>Social protection:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To expand the network of social institutions in the municipality</li> <li>▶ To open a Centre for Social Work or an Office of the Radovis Centre for Social Work</li> <li>▶ To establish nursing homes</li> <li>▶ To open day care centres for disabled people</li> <li>▶ To open a kindergarten</li> </ul>
	<i>Culture/Sport/Entertainment:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To strengthen the capacity of the NGO sector</li> <li>▶ To create conditions for meeting cultural needs</li> <li>▶ To start gradually with investments for the opening of a cinema, a theatre, a museum, a library</li> <li>▶ To promote the media development in the municipality (by opening a TV and a radio station, a printed media)</li> </ul>
	<i>Economic entities:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To stimulate the development of small and medium-size businesses</li> <li>▶ To stimulate through tax alleviations and other subsidies the opening of greater industrial capacities</li> </ul>
<b>3. Social problems</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To promote ways of reducing the social and cultural exclusion</li> <li>▶ To promote programs for employment of the social protection beneficiaries</li> <li>▶ To improve the targeting of the long term unemployed people in the active labour market measures as well as the effectiveness in the employment of social protection beneficiaries</li> <li>▶ To implement preventive programs addressing deviant conduct social problems</li> <li>▶ To strengthen the professional advisory and counselling work with the households that are caught up in these categories of problems</li> <li>▶ To develop day care and temporary care for disabled people.</li> <li>▶ To promote foster families and small group home.</li> <li>▶ To open nursing homes and elderly people's centres</li> <li>▶ To expand the network of social services for elderly people: to analyze the possibilities for establishing social services for home assistance, day care centres, small group homes</li> <li>▶ To promote types of assistance for reduction of social exclusion</li> <li>▶ To open day care centres for disabled people (children and adults)</li> <li>▶ To consider possibilities of opening services for home assistance</li> </ul>
	<i>Socially vulnerable population groups:</i>	
<b>5. Infrastructural problems</b>	<i>Roads</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To improve the quality of the local road infrastructure (asphalt paving of the local roads)</li> </ul>
	<i>Water supply system</i>	
	<i>Sewerage system</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To establish a sewerage system in all populated places</li> </ul>
<b>6. Environmental problems</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To solve the solid waste landfill problem and to undertake measures for reduction of the soil erosion consequences</li> </ul>

**7. Interinstitutional cooperation in the municipality**

- ▶ To promote the cooperation among the municipality, the Centre for Social Work and the Employment Centre through intensified and more efficient implementation of public works, active employment measures for social protection beneficiaries, membership in joint bodies, education on the opportunities for cooperation and forms of cooperation in the area of social protection as well as practical implementation of joint projects
- ▶ To promote the cooperation of the municipality with the non-governmental sector through their partnership inclusion in the implementation of social protection-related programs
- ▶ To initiate joint projects with the private sector and development of social responsibility of the economic entities

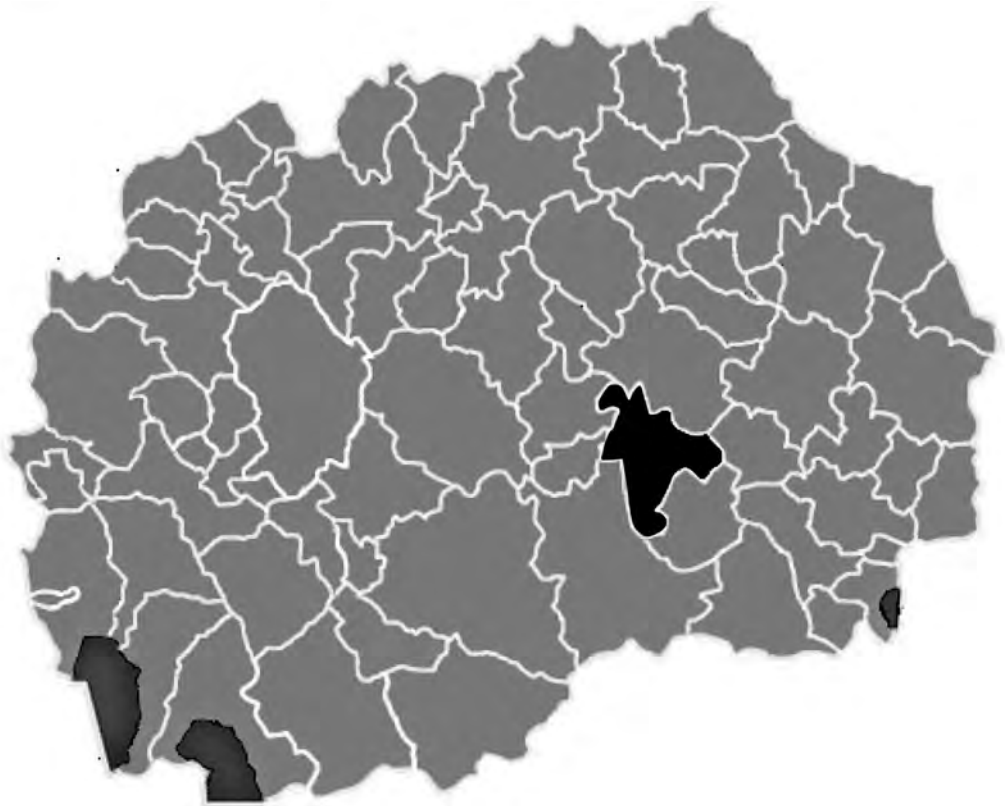
**8. Social protection**

*From the municipality*

- ▶ To strengthen the Unit for Urbanism, Communal Matters, Environment and Local Economic Development, among other things, also by employing a social worker
- ▶ To train the employees in the Unit for Opportunities and Forms of Development of the Social and Protective Functions of the Municipality
- ▶ To provide training on strategic planning and development of social protection programs
- ▶ To expand the spectrum of social protection mechanisms provided by the municipality (predominantly the financial assistance mechanisms) by adding new types of social services
- ▶ To increase the budget funds allocated for social protection and to enable their effective use
- ▶ To develop a local network of social protection service providers, partly also through promotion of public private partnership

*From the Centre for Social Work*

- ▶ To decrease the number of beneficiaries of social financial assistance through intensified activities for their employment in cooperation with the Employment Centre
- ▶ To develop a network of institutional and extra-institutional protection in the municipality
- ▶ To open a community kitchen



**MUNICIPALITY OF  
NEGOTINO**



## 1. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF NEGOTINO

Municipality of Negotino is located in the central part of the Republic of Macedonia in the area of the mid Povardarie. It is a part of the Vardar region, and as a special natural environment, it is a part of the Tikves Vardar region. It covers the eastern part of the Tikves ravine, stretches along both sides of the Vardar river, and on the south-eastern part it is bordered by Demir Kapija. It is bordered by Stip municipality on the north, Konce municipality on the east, Kavadarci municipality on the south, Rosoman municipality on the west and Gradsko municipality on the north-eastern side. Negotino municipality is located at an average altitude of 150 meters above sea level. The territory of Negotino municipality covers an area of 414 km<sup>2</sup>. The municipality, as part of the Tikves and Povardarie areas is under the influence of the Mediterranean climate, penetrating from the south through the Demir Kapija canyon, and the continental climate, penetrating from the north through the Veles ravine.

Negotino municipality includes the town of Negotino and the villages: Brusnik, Vesje, Vojsanci, Gorni Disan, Dolni Disan, Dubrovo, Janosevo, Kalanjevo, Krivolak, Kurija, Lipa, Pepeliste, Pesternica, Timjanik, Tremnik, Crveni Bregovi, Dzidimirci and Seoba. There are 7,240 households in total and 9,120 housing units in the municipality.

According to the latest census of 2002, there are 19,212 residents in Negotino municipality, representing 0.95% of the total population of the Republic of Macedonia. The population density is 46.5 residents per km<sup>2</sup>. Out of the total number of residents, around 13,500 live in the town of Negotino, which is the administrative centre of the municipality. The number of residents in the other populated (rural) areas is as follows: Timjanik 1155 residents, Pepeliste 1074, Dolni Disan 930, Krivolak 1.021, Tremnik 829, Vojsanci 443, Kurija 216, Crveni Bregovi 173, Vesje 45, Dubrovo 49, Gorni Disan 11, Pesternica 3, Lipa 2 and Brusnik 3 residents. The villages of Janosevo, Kalanjevo, Dzidimirci and Seoba are completely displaced. Comparative data from the censuses conducted in 1994 and 2002 census demonstrate that the number of the population within the current Negotino municipality increased by 871 resident or for 4.75%. On a national level, the increase in the number of residents is 3.9%. The natality rate on the municipality level is 0.5. The natural increase in Negotino municipality is 783 whereas the mortality rate is 0.5 (per 1,000 residents). The migration balance is 88. According to the 1994 census, the average age of the population of Negotino municipality was 32.7 years with an index of aging of 0.35, whereas according to data from the 2002 census, the average age of the population in the municipality is 35.7 years, with an index of aging of 0.524.

Regarding the gender structure of population, 50.89% of the residents are male (9777 residents) and 49.11% are female (9435 residents). The ethnic structure of population in Negotino municipality is the following: 92.48% Macedonians, 0.16% Albanians, 1.26% Turks, 2.36% Roma, 0.07% Vlachs, 3.26% Serbs, 0.01% Bosniaks and 0.40% other. Regarding the age structure of the population in Negotino

municipality, 27.6% of the population is up to the age of 9, 57.9% is within the age range of 20-60 and 14.5% is over the age of 60.

In Negotino municipality, the total number of residents over the age of 10 is 16,906, out of which 16,401 are literate and 505, or 2,99% are illiterate (at a national level, this percentage is 3.62%). Illiteracy is more strongly expressed among the female population, 4.47% (at a national level 5.53%) whereas 0.75% of the male population is illiterate (at a national level 1.71%).

Regarding the available natural resources in Negotino municipality, from the mineral resources one can single out the coal deposits covering an area of 60km<sup>2</sup>. From the available inorganic resources of the municipality, there is stone, sand, clay and peat, which are quite often exploited without proper organization and planning.

The major rivers in Negotino municipality include: Vojsanicka river, Timjanicka river, Kurjacka river, Dosnica river, Bosavica river and Vardar River, that is passing through Negotino municipality. In Negotino municipality people fish in the rivers of Vardar and Dosnica, whose fish stock includes the following types of fish: catfish, carp, barbel, chub and belvica.

The following wild animals can be found in the municipality: the wild boar, the wild rabbit, the deer, the wolf, the fox, the grouse, the wild duck and other less represented species. In the municipality there are five hunting sites and a hunters' club. The following wild animal types are most often hunted in the municipality: the wild rabbit, the grouse, the wood pigeon, the wild boar and the fox.

Alongside the Vardar river there are willows, poplars and some types of bushes whereas on the higher places there are oaks, beeches, gaber and ash. The forest wood products, such as resin, bast, cork, fruits, seed, leaves, moss, etc. as well as other forest products that are being collected, such as medicinal and industrial plants, berries, mushrooms, grass, herbs are used without any control or any specific plan.

There are also a lot of excursion sites in Negotino municipality.

## 2. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES

**Education:** There are two primary schools in Negotino municipality. In Goce Delcev Primary School there are 1.079 students in 55 classes, out of which 878 students are attending classes in the central school building in the town of Negotino, allocated in 35 classes. The rest of the classes are in the dispersed school buildings in Kurija, Tremnik, Timjanik and Dolni Disan. In Straso Pindzur Primary School there are 907 students, out of which 736 are attending classes in the central school building in the town of Negotino, allocated in 30 classes. Within this school, here are also 4 dispersed school buildings in Crveni Bregovi, Vojsanci, Krivolak and Pepeliste. There is one secondary school in the municipality – the Kiril and Metodij Secondary School offering general education as well as a food processing/ technological vocational cluster and an electrical vocational cluster. It is located in the town of Negotino.

**Health care:** The primary health care in Negotino municipality is provided by the Public Health Care Centre Negotino which is situated in the town of Negotino

and in addition 6 health care stations. The secondary health care is provided by the Medical Centre and by 5 general hospitals. In Negotino municipality there are 11 private outpatient clinics and 1 private specialist clinic. There are 4 functioning pharmacies in the municipality.

**Social institutions:** There is one public institution for preschool care and education in Negotino municipality. There are no private kindergartens. There is only one private nursing home in the municipality.

**Cultural institutions:** There is one cultural centre Negotino municipality - the Aco Gjorcev Cultural Centre, located in the town of Negotino. The Aco Gjorcev Cultural Centre in Negotino is situated in a building with an area of 1200 m<sup>2</sup>, that has been operational since 1948 as a Cultural Centre of Negotino and as a centre of art, music and the overall cultural living of Negotino citizens. There is a cinema and a theatre in the municipality, functioning within the Aco Gjorcev Cultural Centre. There is also a library in the municipality – the Straso Pindzur Library, located in the town of Negotino. There is a museum, the Negotino Town Museum, located in the town of Negotino.

**Sports' facilities:** There is a sports hall and 2 sports grounds in Negotino municipality.

**Media:** There are two local radio stations in Negotino municipality. There are neither local TV stations nor printed media. The municipality is informing the citizens of its activities through the Info Bulletin of the Municipality of Negotino four times a year.

**Citizens' organizations:** A total of 60 citizens' associations and 26 sports clubs have been registered on the territory of Negotino municipality.

**Economic entities:** Agriculture (agribusiness, forestry), and especially viticulture, is greatly developed on the territory of Negotino municipality. From the production/manufacturing sphere, the food industry, textile industry and construction are dominant. Significant development potential for the municipality can be found in viticulture, primarily through the opening of new wineries, as well as in the development of alternative tourism.

### 3. DOMINANT PROBLEMS IN THE MUNICIPALITY

**Social problems:** Social exclusion and unemployment are the dominant social problems in the municipality. Out of the total number of active population, 4865 citizens are employed and 3,302 are unemployed. According to the data obtained from the Negotino Employment Centre on October 31, 2010, out of the total number of employed people, 64.6% are male and 35.4% are women, whereas of the unemployed, 55.5% are men and 44.5% are women. In the structure of the unemployed, the greatest in number are the unskilled unemployed and the semi-skilled unemployed persons (41.2%), who because of their insufficient qualifications and the long term absence from the labour market, are having difficulties integrating as active jobseekers into the labour market. The unemployed with completed secondary education also make up a relatively high share in the number of registered unemployed persons in Negotino municipality (32.0%). Out

of total number of registered unemployed persons, 617 are qualified (18.7%), 67 of which have an education level of postsecondary education (2.0%), and 201 (6.1%) have higher education. The age structure of the registered unemployed persons is the following: 856 persons (25.9%) are at the age of up to 29 years, 675 persons (20.4%) are at the age of 30-39 years, 700 persons (21, 2%) are at the age of 40-49 years and 1071 persons (32.5%) are over the age of 50.

In terms of the problem of social exclusion, the social exclusion of the Roma population, i.e. the low education level of the Roma, as well as the social exclusion of elderly people in Negotino municipality is especially evident. Here one should also mention the problem of inaccessibility of public institutions for the disabled.

The most disadvantaged population groups in Negotino municipality include the Roma, the elderly, the social assistance beneficiaries and the children from rural areas.

**Infrastructural problems:** One of the most important infrastructural problems in Negotino municipality is the insufficient urbanization of rural areas. In the whole of the municipality there is water supply. There is no sewerage system in the villages of Tremnik and Crveni Bregovi. There is road infrastructure on the whole of the territory of Negotino municipality. The total length of the existing city road network in the town of Negotino is 25 km with a total area of 17.5 ha. There is 51 km of local roads in Negotino municipality. The M-1 highway and the regional road R-107 pass through the territory of the municipality. There is no organized public transportation in the municipality.

**Environmental problems:** The lack of water and the lack of a landfill in the municipality are among the most important environmental problems for the citizens in Negotino municipality.

#### 4. SOCIAL PROTECTION

**Municipal administration:** There is no special Social Protection Unit in the municipal administration structure and social protection competencies are undertaken by the Unit for Public Works, where there is a social worker.

The municipality has a Social Protection Action Plan, prepared in 2006. There is a Strategy for Local Development for the period 2007 – 2012, based on the millennium development goals. In the annual programs, the planning of the social development in the municipality is an integral part of the Public Work Program.

The cooperation with citizens is mostly realized through the info bulletin, in which the municipality informs the citizens of its activities, through the web page and the media. The mayor receives citizens once a week in his office with the objective of having better cooperation with the citizens of Negotino municipality.

Negotino municipality has a good cooperation with Demir Kapija municipality, especially through implementation of joint environmental projects, with Kavadarci municipality through establishment of joint agricultural and viticulture committees and through joint application for alternative tourism projects. As a type of assistance for the socially disadvantaged population, the municipality provides

one-term financial assistance, the allocation of which is a competence of the Municipal Council. The municipality also organizes various preventive debates, trainings, crèches for the children from socially disadvantaged families of rural areas (which are currently not operational because of lack of self-sustainability; therefore, the previous leadership had not made a decision on their renewal). The municipality provides support for the Day Care Centre for Disabled People. 600.000 denars from the annual municipal budget are allocated for social transfers.

**Centre for Social Work:** The Centre for Social Work in Negotino municipality is competent for action taking in two municipalities: Negotino and Demir Kapija. The number of employees in the Centre for Social Work is 15, out of which there are three social workers, a pedagogue, a psychologist, a lawyer, a speech pathologist, a sociologist, an economist, three administrative workers and support staff.

The Centre for Social Work has in its possession 2 vehicles, one of which is used for carrying out field work. The Centre has two buildings (one community kitchen).

The most problematic group of beneficiaries to work with are the people with mental disorders.

In the municipality there is a lack of social services, such as marriage counselling, educational centres for work with juveniles, especially for work with children from families with social problems.

The centre cooperates with nongovernmental associations usually by providing support and exchange of data. From the religious organizations, the Centre has achieved cooperation with the Humanitarian Organization of the Evangelical Church «AGAPE».

The most significant problems for the functioning of the Centre for Social Work include the lack of funds for fuel for the vehicles which is necessary for the fieldwork.

**Number and structure of beneficiaries of social protection measures and services:** The analysis of the structure of the beneficiaries of the social financial assistance on the territory of Negotino municipality, conducted according to the data for September 2010, demonstrated that there are 485 beneficiaries of social financial assistance, 96 beneficiaries of permanent financial assistance and 362 beneficiaries of assistance and care from another person. There are 4 registered beneficiaries of one-time financial assistance. Within the community kitchen, 42 households, with a total of 80 meals, were recorded.

In the majority of cases, the right to social financial assistance is not realized as a result of employment and generating incomes from farming. The focus group participants also underlined the problem of the ceased payment of the one-time financial assistance. *«They are no longer paying us the one-time assistance, I have undergone surgery, where do I find the money to go to Skopje for a medical check-up ... my doctor can only issue me a prescription for Diazepam since it is the only medication I can afford. But my illness cannot be treated with Diazepam...».*

From the different forms of extra-institutional care, there is a Daily Centre for Disabled People and a community kitchen on the territory of Negotino municipality.

## 5. COOPERATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY WITH THE LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS

The municipality of Negotino has generally established cooperation with ZELS (Association of Local Self-Government Units), which is predominantly based on cooperation on joint trainings, etc. As far as the cooperation of the municipality with the Centre for Social Work is concerned, it is mostly realised through exchange of information and joint trainings.

The municipality cooperates with the Employment Service Agency primarily through exchange of information and data. The cooperation of the municipality with the non-governmental organizations is realized through applying for and implementation of joint projects, preparation of strategic documents, etc. The only cooperation it has with the private sector is through the organization of joint events. The municipality cooperates with the central government through the correspondence coming from the different ministries, exchange of data and implementation of trainings.

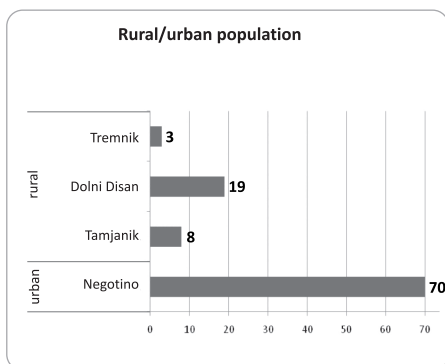
The municipality cooperates with the religious organizations, i.e. with the Orthodox Church, in relation to the St. Trifun celebration.

## 6. RESULTS FROM THE HOUSEHOLD SURVEY IN MUNICIPALITY OF NEGOTINO

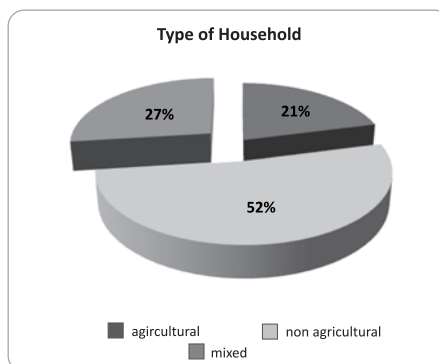
### 6.1. General data on households

A total of 100 households were surveyed in Negotino municipality, 70 of which came from urban areas and 30 from rural areas. More than half of the households are non-agricultural households (52%), 27% are mixed and 21% are agricultural households. In terms of ethnicity, 96% of the households are Macedonian, only 2% are Roma, all of which are non-agricultural households, and 1% are Turkish, all of which are mixed households.

Graph 1.



Graph 2.

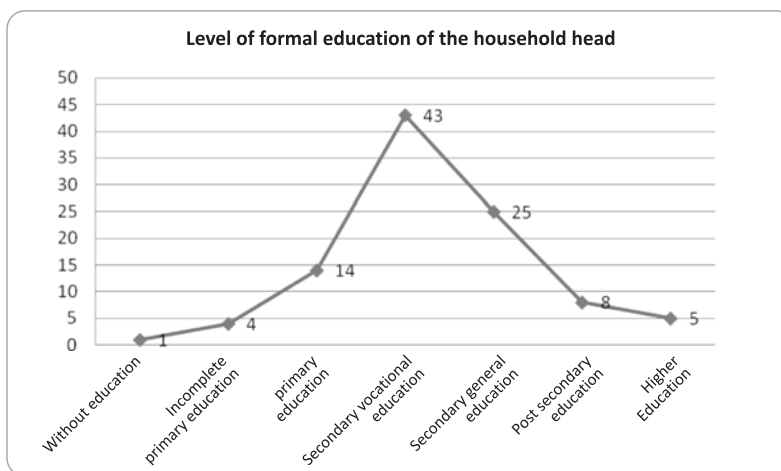


In most households, the head of household is a worker (36%) or a homemaker /housewife (18%). Then follow households where the head of the household is a retired person(8%), a farmer (7%), an unemployed person (6%), a clerk (5%), an employee in the army or the police (5%) and in a very small part (2% ), an expert, a student or a redundant worker (with 1% of representation in households each). In 71% of the households, the head of the household is a male. In 65% of the households the head of the household is married and in 25% of the households the head of the household is not married.

In terms of the number of household members, 31% of the households there are four-member households, 21% are three- member households, 20% five-member households (of which one household is Roma and the rest of them are Macedonian) and 16% are two-member households. 6% of the households are six-member households, of which one household is Roma and the rest Macedonian. There is one eight-member household of Turkish nationality and one ten-member household of Macedonian nationality.

In most households the household head has completed secondary vocational education (43%), followed by those in which the household head has completed general secondary education (25%), primary education (14%), postsecondary education (8%) and incomplete primary education (4%).Only a small part of respondents (5%) have completed higher education and 1% have no education. Almost all of them are literate (99%).

Graph 3.



Half of the surveyed households are social financial assistance beneficiaries.

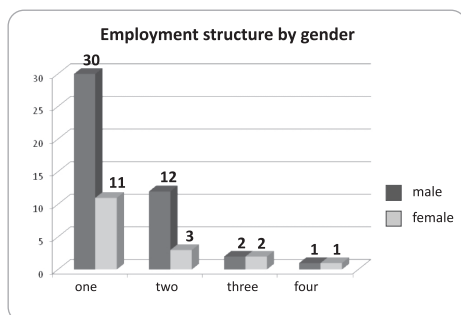
## 6.2. Employment

In 41% of the households there is one employed household member, in 15% of the households there are two employed household members, in 4%, of the households there are three employed household members and in 1% of

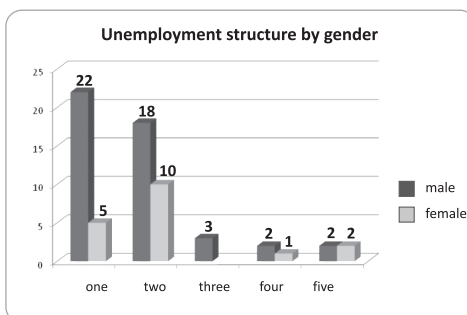
households there are four employed household members. .In the Roma and Turkish households there are no employed members.

In 54% of the households there are male employed members and only in 28% of the households there are female employed members. . In terms of the unemployment rate, in 49% of the households the unemployed members are female, and in 45% of the households the unemployed members are male.

Graph 4.



Graph 5.

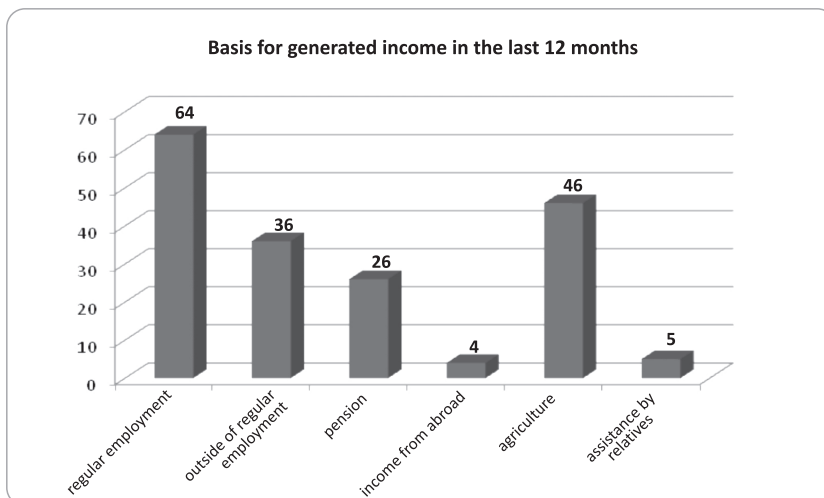


In 26% of the households there are retired people, 13% of which are male and 18% female. In 56% of the households there are children or students; more specifically, in 42% of the households there are female children or students and 32% of the households male children or students. In 20% of the households there are homemakers / housewives, 20% of which are female and only 2% male. IN 5% of the households there are self-employed people, in 2% of the households there are redundant workers (all of which are male), and in only 1% of the households there are employers (all of which are male).

### 6.3. Living standard

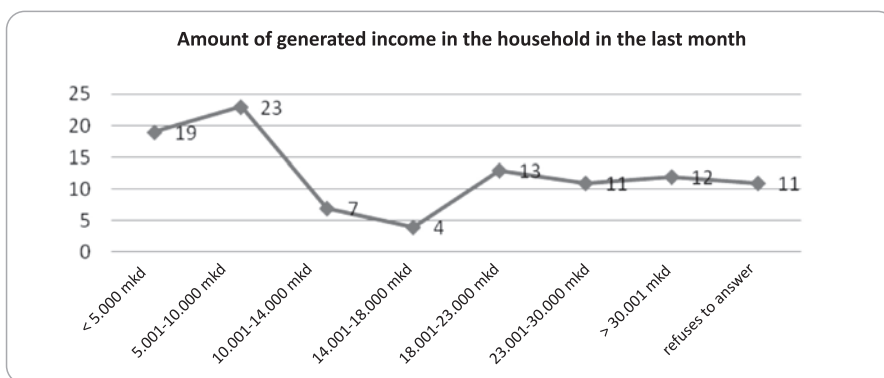
The analysis of generated income demonstrates that 64% of the households generated an income from regular employment in the last 12 months. 44% of the households generated income from an agricultural activity, 26% from pensions and 22% from seasonal work. Then, follow households that generated income from social protection (12%), including all Roma households. 5% of the households generated income on the basis of assistance from relatives and 4% of the households generated income from abroad.

Graph 6.



In terms of the amount of household income generated in the last month, most households, i.e. 23%, have generated an income from 5,001 to 10,000 denars, all of which are of Macedonian nationality. Then follow the households that generated an income up to 5,000 denars, which make up 19% of the households and include all Roma and Turkish households living in the municipality. It is interesting to note that a large part of the households generated an income of more than 18,001 denars. In fact, 13% of the households generated an income from 18,001 to 23,000 denars, 11% generated an income from 23,001 to 30,000 denars and 12% generated an income above 30,001 denars.

Graph 7.

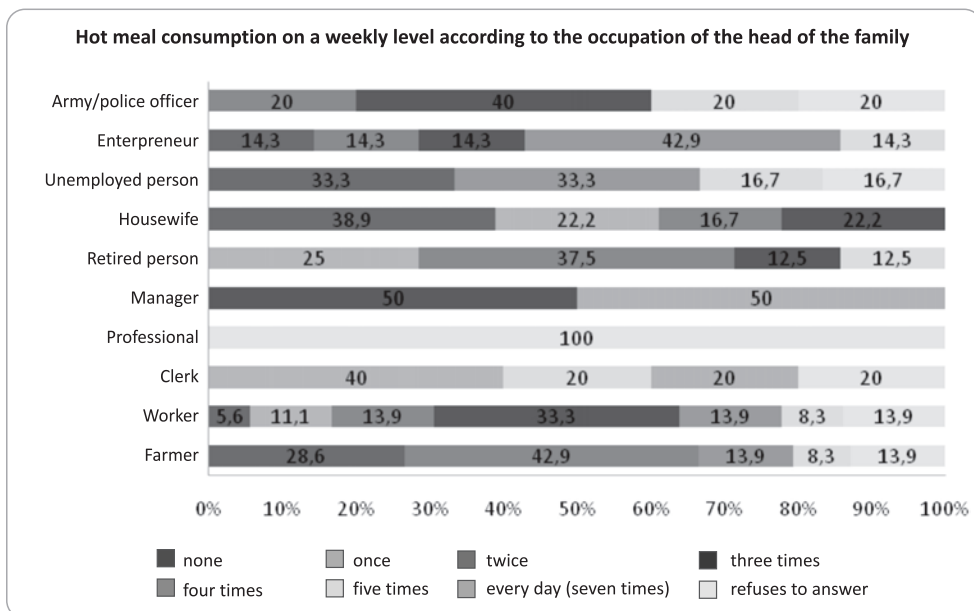


16% of the households do not have a warm meat meal at all. Out of the households that have a warm meat meal dominate those that cook a warm meal three times a week (22%). Next are those that cook a warm meat meal twice a week (17%), four times a week (13%), once a week (12%), every day (9%) and five times a week (8%).

Turk households have said that they have a warm meat meal four times a week. It is concerning that the Roma households have said that they do not have a warm meat meal at all in the week.

Out of the social financial assistance beneficiaries, 15% have said that they do not have a warm meat meal at all in the week. 12% have it two times a week, 8% only once a week whereas 5% 4 times. Only 3% of the social financial assistance beneficiaries have a warm meat meal every day of the week.

Graph 8.

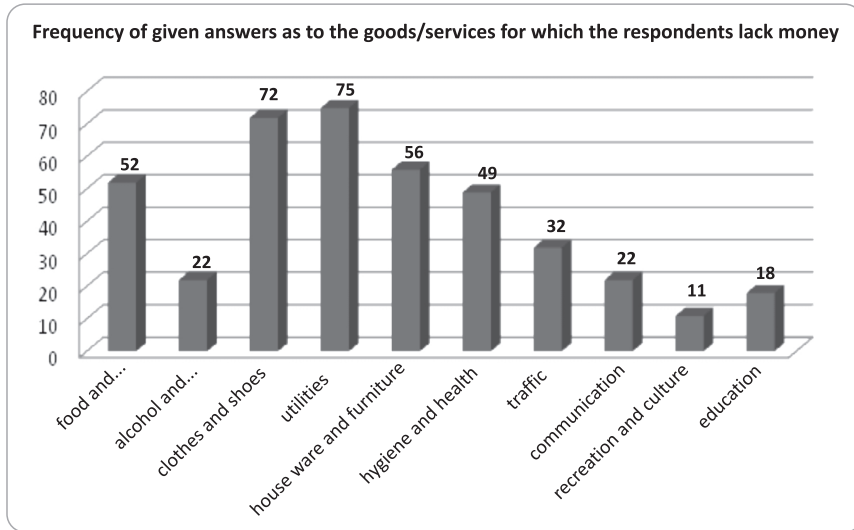


Households in which the head of the household is male often have a hot meal with meat two times a week (19.7%) and three times a week (19.7%) whereas households in which the head of the household is female mostly have a hot meal three times a week (27.6%) and once a week (17.2%). 75% of the households that do not have a hot meal with meat are those in which the head of the household is male.

Among the households which do not have a hot meal with meat at all within a week most common are those where the head of the household is a homemaker/ housewife, with 43.8%. Next follow agricultural households, worker's households and households in which the head of the household is an unemployed person, with 12.5% representation each.

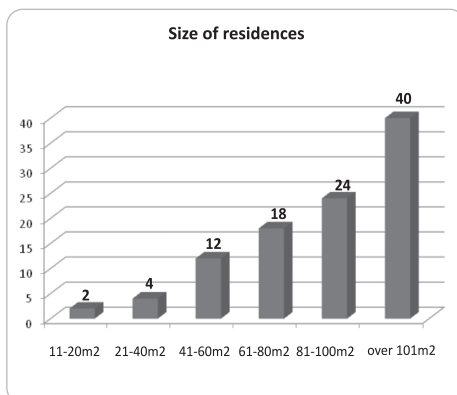
Among the households which have a hot meal on a daily basis, the largest in number are those in which the head of the household is a worker (55.6%).

Graph 9.

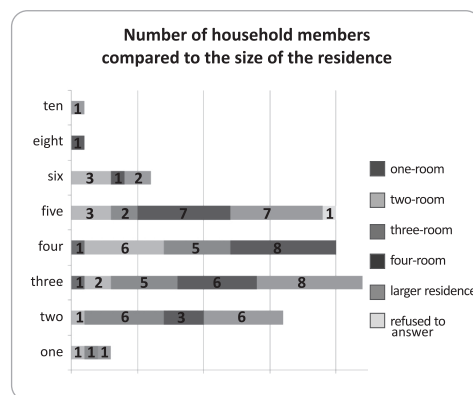


Most households lack money to cover the overhead expenses-housing, water, electricity, fuel (75%) and clothing and footwear (72%). Some respondents pointed out that they lack money for furniture and homeware (56%), food and soft drinks (52%) and for meeting their hygiene and health care needs (49%). Then follow their traffic-transportation needs, to need to drive a car (32%) and communication needs -phone, internet (22%). Here it is interesting to mention that in 22% of the households respondents noted the lack of money for alcoholic beverages and tobacco. In 18% of the households they noted the lack of money for education and in 11% of the households the lack of money for meeting cultural and recreational needs. 55% of the households own a computer whereas 26% cannot afford it. 47% of the households own a car whereas 43% cannot afford it. Half of the households stated that they lack winter clothing and footwear.

Graph 10.



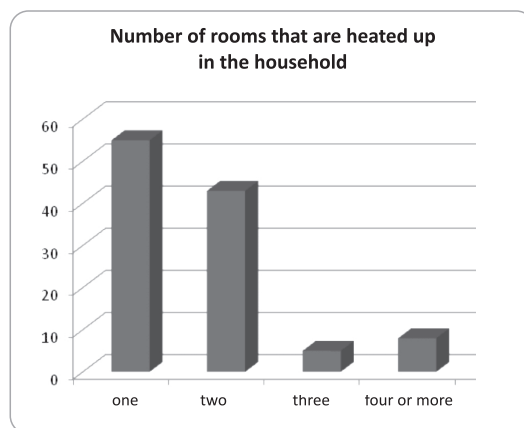
Graph 11.



When it comes to the household residence, most households reported that they live in a residence with more than four rooms (33%) and in a four-room residence (29%). 19% of the households live in a three-room residence, 16% in a two-room residence whereas the smallest share, i.e. 2% live in a one-room residence. Roma households live in two-room residences whereas Turkish households live in four-room residences.

Out of the beneficiaries of social financial assistance, most households live in a four-room residence (32%). 26% of the households live in a residence with more than four rooms, 22% in a two-room residence, 16% in a three-room residence, and the smallest share of the beneficiaries, i.e. 4%, live in a one-room residence.

Graph 12.

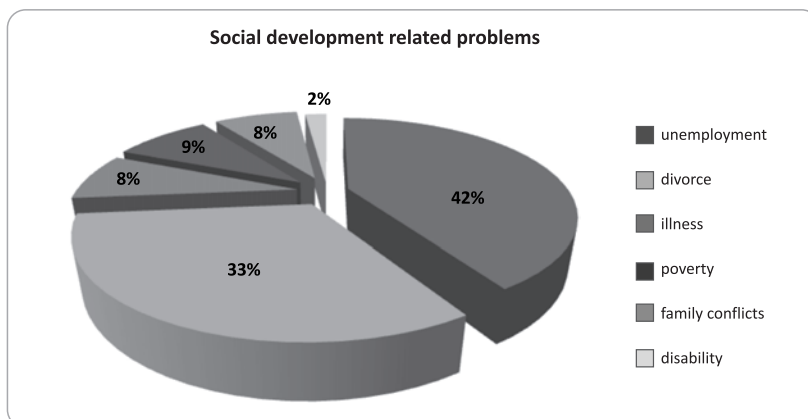


Most households use solid fuel stoves to heat up the home (87%), the largest part of which are beneficiaries of social financial assistance (55,2%). Only 5% of the households use their own individual heating system, none of which is a beneficiary of social financial assistance. Most households (47%) heat up only one room in the home, 70.2% of which are beneficiaries of social financial assistance.

#### 6.4. Social problems and social protection

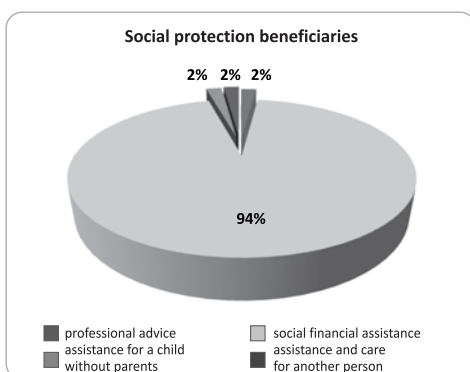
The social problems that household members are most often dealing with include unemployment in 67% and poverty in 53% of the households. Divorce as a social problem is reflected in 13% of the households, conflicting family relations in 12% and illnesses in 12% of the households. Only 3% of households singled out disability as a problem. Part of the households also emphasized the problems related to natural environmental processes, i.e. droughts (10%) and floods (9%). Deviant behaviour was emphasized as a problem by several households; more specifically, 4% of the households emphasized gambling, 4% wandering of adults, 3% alcoholism, 1% drug abuse or prostitution.

Graph 13.

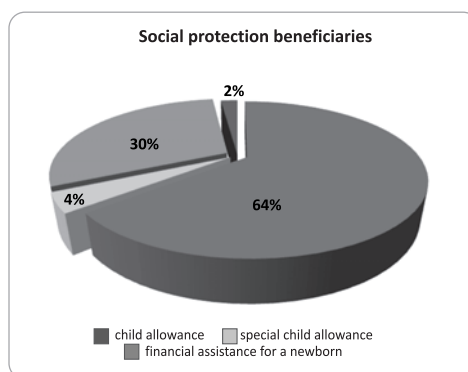


None of the households has used any of the measures of institutional protection. Only 1 household has used some of the measures of extra-institutional protection, i.e. professional family assistance - this is a household in which the head of the household is divorced. When asked why they have not used any of the measures of extra-institutional and institutional protection, 74.7% of the households reported that they did not have any need, including all the households of Turkish nationality. Some households did not use these measures of protection due to Lack of information (12.1%), some were rejected (8.1%), and some had incomplete documentation(4%). Regarding the use of social financial assistance, 54% of the households use or have used social financial assistance; in addition to the Macedonian households, this also includes all Roma and Turkish households. In the records there is one household that used financial compensation for assistance and care from another person and another one that used financial assistance for a person that has had up to the age of 18 the status of a child without parents or parental care. Most of the beneficiaries are households in which the head of the household is married (64%). Half of the households that are beneficiaries of social financial assistance are non-agricultural (50%), 32% are agricultural and 18% are mixed households.

Graph 14.

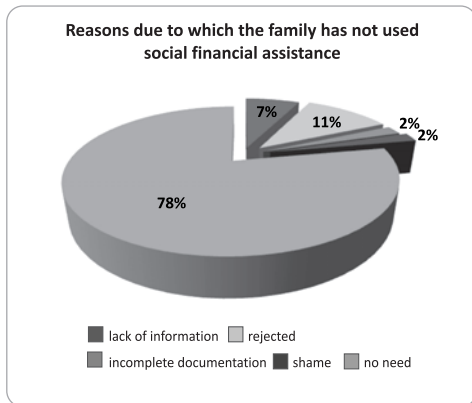


Graph 15.

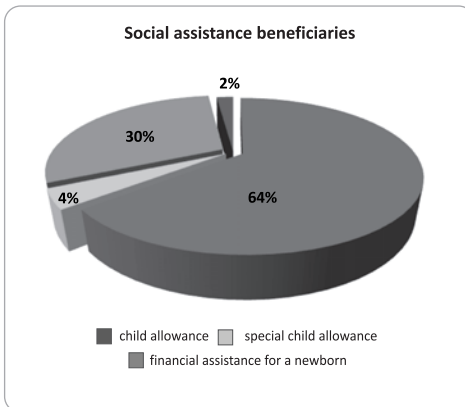


Most households reported that they did not need to use the social financial assistance (36%) and only a small part of them said they were rejected (5%), were not informed (3%), had incomplete documentation (1%) or were ashamed to use it (1%).

Graph 16.



Graph 17.



As far as the use of the types of child protection assistance is concerned, 28% of the households used child's allowance and 13% used one-time financial assistance for a newborn, including all households of Turkish nationality. Only 2% of the households used special child's allowance and 1% used parental allowance for a child. Moreover, from the households that did not make any use of the different types of child protection assistance, 34% said they did not need it, 12% said they did not make any use of it due to lack of information, 9% were rejected and 5% had incomplete documentation. Regarding the distribution of use of types of child protection assistance in relation to the marital status of head of family, most of the beneficiaries of child allowance and one-time financial assistance for a newborn are married whereas the beneficiaries of parental allowance are divorced.

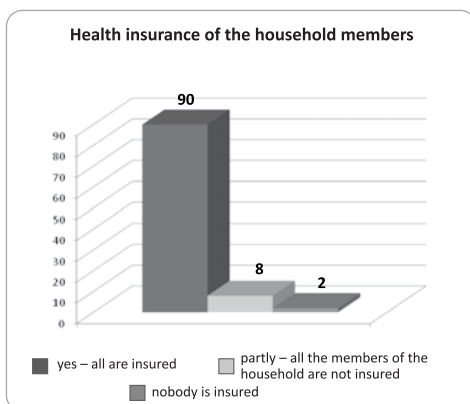
All of the Roma households reported that they have not used any of the measures of non-institutional, institutional protection or child protection because of incomplete or disorderly documentation.

Only 1 household reported that so far they have received some form of financial or material assistance from private persons.

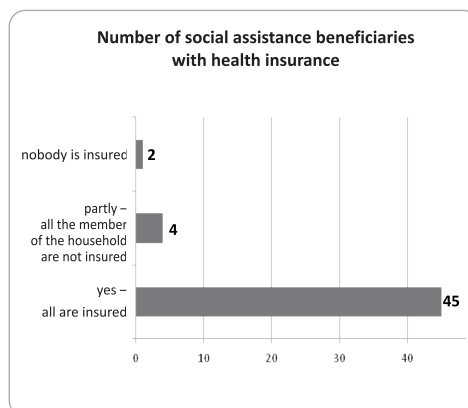
## 6.5. Health care and culture

In terms of health insurance, the greatest part of the households have said that all members of the household have health insurance (90%), half of which are beneficiaries of social financial assistance. 8% of the households have said that only a part of their members have health insurance whereas 2% have said that none of the households members has insurance, half of which are beneficiaries of social financial assistance. In the Turk and Roma households all members of the households have insurance.

Graph 18.



Graph 19.



Most of the households, i.e. 90% reported that they use public health care services and buy prescription drugs, half of which are households that are social financial assistance beneficiaries. 5% of the households reported that they use public health care services, but pay full price of drugs (of which 3 households are social financial assistance beneficiaries and 2 are not). A small part or 3% said they do not use health care services and use alternative treatment methods, 2 of which are households that are social financial assistance beneficiaries and 1 is not. Only 1 household reported that they use private health care services (are treated by a private physician) - the head of that household is a woman employed as an administration officer.

The Turkish and Roma households are using the public health services.

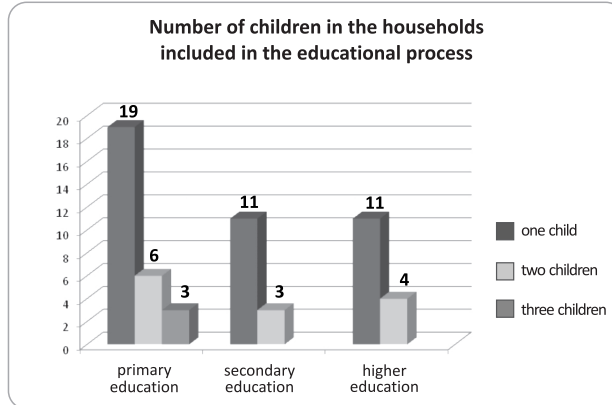
As far as the proximity of the health care centres to the household residences is concerned, 80% reported that the nearest health care centre is within 15 minutes' distance. In 10% of the households, the nearest health care centre is within 16 to 30 minutes' distance whereas in 2% of the households it is within more than 30 minutes' distance. 8% of the households reported that there is no health care centre in their populated place.

### 6.6. Education

In 47% of the households there are children at the age of six or older, i.e. children that are involved in the educational process, out of which 91,5% are Macedonians, 4,3% Roma and 2,1% Turks.

In 19% of the households there is one child, in 6% there are two children whereas in 3% three children attending primary school. In 11% of the households there is one child whereas in 3% there are two children attending secondary school. In only 11% of the households there is one child attending university whereas in 4% of the households two children attending university. There are no cases of surveyed households in which there are school age children not attending primary or secondary school.

Graph 20.



Out of the households with children attending primary school, 25 households live within less of 1km from the primary school whereas 5 of the households live within 1.01-2 km whereas only 1 household lives within 2.01-4 km of the school.

Out of the total number of households with school age children, 48, 9% are social financial assistance beneficiaries. Of them, 29 households have children attending primary school and 5 households have children attending secondary school. In only 3 households – beneficiaries of social financial assistance there are children attending university.

The households with children attending primary school have used the following types of assistance for education: 4 households have used free transportation, 3 of which are beneficiaries of social financial assistance. Only 1 Roma household, that is also a beneficiary of social financial assistance, used a free snack.

Two of the households with children attending secondary school have only used free transportation, one of which is a beneficiary of social financial assistance. From the households with children attending university, only 1 household has used the scholarship benefit and this household is not a beneficiary of social financial assistance.

The received data demonstrate that the primary and secondary children regularly attend school /classes. No cases of children not regularly attending primary or secondary school or school drop-outs have been recorded.

In terms of the occupation of the head of the household, the analysis demonstrated that out of the total number of households with school age children, most are households where the head of the household is a worker (27.7%) and a homemaker/housewife (21.3%). Then follow the households where the head of the household is a farmer (10,6%), a retired person and a person employed in the army or the police (6,4% each), a clerk (4,3%), an unemployed person, a redundant worker, a student and a manager (2,1% each).

## 6.7. Sport, entertainment, culture

Out of the total number of respondents, most said that there is an internet cafe in their populated place (96%), sports' betting shops (93%), swings (92%), libraries (89%), bars (74%), markets (72%), restaurants (72%), a theatre (72%) and a movie theatre (71%). All respondents said that there are playgrounds in their populated place. In terms of the use of Internet, most respondents said that they are using Internet from their home computer (46%). A small number of the respondents are using Internet from an Internet café (10%) and from the work place (2%). It is especially important to note that great part of the respondents is not using Internet at all (42%).

## 7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 7.1. Conclusions

Area	Narrower area	Situation/Problems
<b>1. Dominant activities</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Agriculture (viticulture)</li> <li>▶ Textile industry</li> </ul>
<b>2. Institutional capacities</b>	<i>Education:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 2 central primary schools</li> <li>▶ 8 dispersed primary schools</li> <li>▶ 1 secondary school with general secondary classes, food technology/technology cluster and electrical cluster</li> </ul>
	<i>Health care:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Primary health care: 1 health care centre, 6 health care</li> <li>▶ Secondary health care: 1 medical centre and 5 general medical hospitals</li> <li>▶ 11 private outpatient clinics, 1 private specialist clinic</li> <li>▶ 4 pharmacies</li> </ul>
	<i>Social protection:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 1 community kitchen</li> <li>▶ 1 public kindergarten</li> <li>▶ 1 private nursing home</li> </ul>
	<i>Culture/sports/entertainment:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 1 sports hall, 2 sports grounds</li> <li>▶ 60 citizens' associations</li> <li>▶ 26 sports clubs</li> <li>▶ 1 cultural centre, 1 cinema, 1 theatre, 1 library, 1 museum</li> <li>▶ 2 local radio stations</li> </ul>
	<i>Economic entities :</i>	
<b>3. Social problems</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Most bitter: unemployment and poverty (unemployment rate is 36,2% and employment rate a 44,4%)</li> <li>▶ 3.302 unemployed people (1.471 women и 1.831 men)</li> <li>▶ 41,2% of the unemployed are unskilled and semiskilled people</li> <li>▶ Social exclusion of the Roma population, primarily due to the low level of education</li> <li>▶ Social exclusion of elderly people</li> <li>▶ Lack of accessibility to public institutions for disabled people</li> </ul>

	<i>Socially disadvantaged population groups:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Elderly people</li> <li>▶ Roma population</li> <li>▶ Children from rural environments</li> <li>▶ Social assistance beneficiaries</li> </ul>
<b>5. Infrastructural problems</b>	<i>Roads</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Good regional road infrastructure</li> <li>▶ Insufficient urbanization of rural environments</li> </ul>
	<i>Water supply system</i>	▶ There is a water supply system.
	<i>Sewerage system</i>	▶ In only 2 populated places there is no sewerage system
<b>6. Environmental problems</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Lack of water</li> <li>▶ Lack of landfills</li> </ul>
<b>7. Interinstitutional cooperation in the municipality</b>		▶ Poor cooperation among the municipality, the Association of Local Self-Government Units and the central government
		▶ Good cooperation between the municipality and the NGOs
		▶ Good cooperation between the municipality and the citizens
		▶ Developed cooperation with the neighbouring municipalities Demir Kapija and Kavadarci
		▶ Poor cooperation among the municipality, the Centre for Social Work and the Employment Centre
<b>8. Social protection</b>	<i>From the municipality</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ There is no special Social Protection Unit, competences are undertaken by the Public Activity Unit</li> <li>▶ There is one employed social worker</li> <li>▶ The municipality has adopted an Action Plan for Social Protection in 2006 and a Strategy for Local Development for 2007-2012. The planning of the municipal social development is an integral part of the Public Activity Program</li> <li>▶ The municipality allocates 600.000 denars for social transfers</li> </ul>
	<i>From the Centre for Social Work</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Beneficiaries of social financial assistance: 485</li> <li>▶ Beneficiaries of permanent financial assistance: 96</li> <li>▶ Beneficiaries of assistance and care from another person: 362</li> <li>▶ Beneficiaries of one-time financial assistance: 4</li> <li>▶ Extra-institutional protection: one day care centre for people with special needs and one community kitchen</li> </ul>

## 7.2. Recommendations

Area	Narrower area	Recommendations for overcoming problems and improving the situation
<b>1. Dominant activities</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ The development potentials of the municipality should be found in agriculture, i.e. viticulture, and subsequently in the opening of new wine cellars, development of the alternative tourism and use of the natural raw materials of the municipality (coal, sand, clay, rock).</li> </ul>
<b>2. Institutional capacities</b>	<i>Education:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To improve the existing educational capacities</li> </ul>
	<i>Health care:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ /</li> </ul>
	<i>Social care:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To expand the network of social institutions in the municipality</li> </ul>
	<i>Culture/sport/entertainment:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To promote the development and proactiveness of the nongovernmental sector</li> <li>▶ To build more sports grounds and children's playgrounds</li> <li>▶ To stimulate the development of media in the municipality</li> </ul>
	<i>Economic entities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To promote the development of larger economic entities</li> </ul>
<b>3. Social problems</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To promote employment programs for the social protection beneficiaries</li> <li>▶ To promote employment programs for young people</li> <li>▶ To implement trainings, prequalification and further qualification of the social protection beneficiaries</li> <li>▶ To implement trainings, prequalification and further qualification of the unemployed people with low qualifications</li> <li>▶ To open a marriage counselling centre</li> <li>▶ To open educational centres for work with juveniles, and especially for work with children from families with social problems</li> </ul>
	<i>Socially vulnerable population groups:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To expand the social services' network for elderly people</li> <li>▶ To implement programs for encouraging the Roma population to engage in the educational process</li> <li>▶ To apply measures that will give disabled people access to the public services and institutions</li> </ul>
<b>5. Infrastructural problems</b>	<i>Roads:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To improve the local road infrastructure, especially in the rural populated places</li> </ul>
	<i>Water supply system:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ /</li> </ul>
	<i>Sewerage system:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To establish a sewerage system in all populated places</li> </ul>
<b>6. Environmental problems</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To find a solution for the water deficiency problem in the municipality</li> <li>▶ To find a solution for the landfill problem</li> </ul>

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**7. Interinstitutional cooperation in the municipality**

- ▶ To promote the cooperation of the municipality with the Centre for Social Work and the Employment Agency through more efficient implementation of public activities, active employment measures for the beneficiaries of social protection and the young people, education on the possibilities and forms of their cooperation in the area of social protection
- ▶ To expand the cooperation with the NGO sector through the implementation of joint projects and inclusion in the planning and implementation of certain social protection activities
- ▶ To promote the cooperation of the municipality with the private sector through partner-based inclusion in the realization of social protection-related programs and participation in the implementation of joint projects
- ▶ To promote the cooperation with the central government

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**8. Social protection**

*From the municipality*

- ▶ To establish a special unit within the municipality that will be more specifically competent for planning and implementation of activities related to social development and social protection in the municipality;
- ▶ To prepare and implement special social development programs and strategies in the municipality
- ▶ To educate the employees in the competent unit for strategic planning and development of social protection programs
- ▶ To expand the range of social protection types implemented in the municipality by introducing new types of social services
- ▶ To expand the percentage allocated from the budget of the municipality for financing of the social protection and more systematic planning of the budgetary resources.

*From the Centre for Social Work:*

- ▶ To reduce the number of beneficiaries of social financial assistance through intensified activities for their employment, in cooperation with the Employment Centre
  - ▶ To develop the network of institutional and extra-institutional protection in the municipality
-



# **MUNICIPALITY OF STUDENICANI**



## 1. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF STUDENICANI

The municipality of Studenicani covers the southern and the south-western parts of the Skopje valley – area that used to be part of Kisela Voda municipality in the past. Kadina River rises on its territory. The relief structure in this municipality is diverse, the majority being hills and mountains situated between Golesnica and Karadzica mountains and belonging to the Jakupica mountain massif. Studenicani borders with the following municipalities: Sopiste, Kisela Voda, Zelenikovo, Caska, Makedonski Brod and Petrovec. Its territory covers 274 km<sup>2</sup>, which places it among the middle-size municipalities in the Republic of Macedonia.

The municipality of Studenicani has 19 settlements (local communities), of which 18 are populated and 1 village is totally abandoned (Kaldirec). The central village and seat of the municipality is the village of Studenicani, and the other settlements include: Batinci, Dracevica, Dolno Kolicani, Gorno Kolicani, Crvena Voda, Aldinci, Cvetovo, Elovo, Crn Vrv, Markova Susica, Vrtekica, Malciste, Umovo, Pagarusa, Osincani, Ramni Gaber and Morani.

The population of the municipality is 17.246. The average population density is 62/1 km<sup>2</sup>. In terms of number of inhabitants, the largest populated place is Studenicani with population of 4.582, followed by the populated place Batinci with 4.109. Population numbers in the rest of the populated places are as follows: Dracevica 236, Dolno Kolicani 1.516, Gorno Kolicani 297, Crvena Voda 51, Aldinci 3, Cvetovo 826, Elovo 256, Crn Vrv 702, Markova Susica 54, Vrtekica 112, Malcishte 60, Umovo (almost totally abandoned), Pagarusha 222, Osinchani 1, Ramni Gaber 40 and Morani 1.695. The municipality features a relatively balanced gender breakdown, with 8.910 male and 8.336 female persons. The ethnic structure of the population in the municipality of Studenicani shows that the majority are ethnic Albanians (68.38 %) followed by ethnic Turks (19.05 %), Bosniacs (9.64 %), Macedonians (1.79 %), Roma (0.42 %), Serbs (0.08 %) and other (0.64 %). Concerning the educational background, the municipality of Studenicani has 945 residents (7.97%) without any education, 2.004 persons (16.91%) having incomplete primary education, 7.360 (62.12%) having primary education, 1.387 (11.70%) having secondary education, 40 (0.34%) having post-secondary education, 74 (0.63%) having higher education, while 38 persons (0.33%) are still involved in the process of primary education. Out of the total population aged 10 and over 10, 93.12% (12.711) are literate, whereas 6.88% (938) are illiterate.

The natural resources are abundant in the municipality of Studenicani, including rivers, mountain and forest resources. They are still managed by the central government. The municipality of Studenicani has 6.815 hectares of arable land, 6.072 hectares of pastures, and 10.153 hectares of forests. There are excellent conditions for developing forestry industry, whereas the lowland villages provide good conditions for agricultural.

Of great importance for the development of the municipality of Studenicani were the construction of an industrial zone, the construction of 4 mini hydro

power plants, the investments in production and processing of primary agricultural products, as well as the trade and construction businesses. In addition, this municipality has development potentials in the field of mountain and village tourism.

## 2. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES

**Education:** There are 3 central primary schools in the municipality of Studenicani: 'Naim Frasheri' in the village of Studenicani, 'Mustafa Kemal Ataturk' in the village of Dolno Kolichani and 'Alija Avdovic' in the village of Batinci. In addition to these, there are 9 dispersed schools (one with grades 1-5 and eight with grades 1-9). There are not any secondary or special schools.

**Health:** Primary health care in the municipality of Studenicani is provided by the Health Care Organisation Emergenca, Health Care Organisation Melem and Health Care Organisation Neron - located in the village of Studenicani, as well as by the private health care centres Avicena and Intra Vitam Medicus, located in the village of Batinci. Three pharmacies are operational in this municipality.

**Social institutions:** The network of social institutions is severely underdeveloped. There is not a single kindergarten, a nursery home or any other social institution.

**Cultural institutions:** The network of cultural institutions is non-existent. There is no museum, theatre or cinema. There are 3 libraries functioning within the schools.

**Sport facilities:** There is no indoor sports arena. There are several outdoor sports fields in the municipality.

**Media:** There are not any printed or electronic media.

**Civil society organizations:** There are 2 registered civil society organisations: Euro Centre Foundation and Artizanti – first association of Albanian women.

**Business entities:** The existing industries in the municipality of Studenicani include the production and processing of agricultural products and trade (mainly in the gray economy).

## 3. PREVAILING PROBLEMS IN THE MUNICIPALITY

**Social problems:** Unemployment is one of the most aggravating social problems for the population of the municipality of Studenicani. According to the data of the Employment Service Agency, the number of unemployed in the municipality of Studenicani in November 2010 was 1.722 persons, out of whom 451 (26.2%) were female. Out of the registered unemployed persons, 1.330 were without any education or completed primary education only, 156 persons had incomplete secondary education, 218 persons had secondary education degree, and 15 persons had a University degree. This analysis shows that the majority of the

unemployed is labour force with low qualifications, the share of those with higher education degree being only 0.9% in the total number of unemployed persons registered in the Employment Service Agency. The majority of the unemployed population in the municipality are young people aged 20 to 29 (595 persons).

Among the most vulnerable groups in the municipality of Studenicani, in light of social issues, is a group of people declaring themselves as Turks, however their way of life and traditions are close to the Roma ethnic group. Moreover, other vulnerable groups include children with special needs, girls (especially those aged 13-15), as well as the farmers with irregular economic activity.

**Infrastructure problems:** The road infrastructure in all the populated places is in a very bad shape. The main road network is partially asphalted, with some of the higher mountain areas being entirely cut off from the road network. In addition, some of the streets inside the populated places are dirt roads. There is organised public transport only in Studenicani, Batinci, Morani, Dolno Kolicani and Gorno Kolicani. In the centre of this municipality, the village of Studenicani, the local street network is partially asphalted, but it also suffered heavy damage due to the construction of the sewerage network in 2004.

Few of the settlements (Studenicani, Batinci and Morani) acquire their water from the city water supply system, built thirty years ago. Nowadays, it only partially meets the needs of the local population, thus the need for extension and for construction of a new pump station and water tank emerged. Local water supply network was built in the village of Cvetovo with a Japanese government donation. Water in the other populated places is supplied by raising intake structures on local sources (Dolno Kolicani, Gorno Kolicani and Pagarusa), as well as through local fountains and sources.

No sewerage network has been built in the populated places, thus septic tanks are in use. An exception to this is the central village of Studenicani where the principal sewerage network was built through a donation by the European Agency for Reconstruction. It remains for a secondary network to be built and for the households to be connected to the network.

Drisla is the waste landfill for Studenicani and for the other settlements in the municipality.

**Environmental issues:** The municipality of Studenicani is at risk of land erosion at several places. Besides the Drisla landfill, which by itself is an environmental threat, there are also illegal waste dumps created by conscienceless citizens. The 'Black Canal' flows through the territory of the populated places Studenicani and Morani from Pintia and Dracevo; this is a canal that was primarily intended for precipitation. However, waste water pipes are illegally connected to this canal and they often empty onto the agricultural land..

## 4. SOCIAL PROTECTION

**Municipal administration:** The municipal administration does not have a special unit for social protection, nor is there an employee with the background of a social worker. There is no strategic plan or program on social protection. The municipality has developed a Local Economic Development Strategy and a Strategy aimed at a long-term solution to the problem of unemployment among Albanian women. The annual budget of the municipality amounts to 151 million denars, and the share for social transfers is minimal (there was no available data on this amount). No forms of assistance for the socially vulnerable groups of population have been developed in the municipality, except for the Albanian women with whom some activities for their economic empowerment have been initiated.

**Social Work Centre:** The Social Work Centre located in the municipality of Kisela Voda is also responsible for the residents of the municipality of Studenicani. Besides for Kisela Voda and Studenicani, this Centre is also responsible for the municipalities of Zelenikovo and Sopiste. The Centre has ten offices and twelve computers. The most important impediments to the functioning of the Social Work Centre are the lack of vehicles for field work, as well as the lack of technical equipment (telephones).

The Social Work Centre does have cooperation with the municipality, but it is formal cooperation and only when field work takes place. The cooperation with the non-governmental sector, religious organisations and private sector is deemed as weak. It is important to note the practice of cooperating with the schools ceases to exist. The cooperation with the health institutions takes place only in cases when expert opinion is required for the exercise of the entitlement to care by another person.

**Number and structure of beneficiaries of social security measures and services:** The analysis of the structure of beneficiaries of social financial assistance on the territory of the municipality of Studenicani shows that 1.100 households are beneficiaries of social financial assistance, and 140 families receive permanent financial assistance. About 10 persons appeared as beneficiaries of one-time financial assistance over the last year. In November, 101 beneficiaries of child allowance were registered, as well as 86 beneficiaries of special child allowance, 170 beneficiaries of a parental allowance and 12 beneficiaries of one-time assistance.

Common reasons for the denial of the right to social financial assistance are the lack of complete documentation, as well as the findings of false presentation of the situation by some beneficiaries during actual inspection and situation assessment on the spot.

The most problematic group of beneficiaries to work with are considered to be the beneficiaries of a permanent financial assistance and of social financial assistance, primarily because of their aggressive behaviour when the actual situation of the family is assessed in cases when the person beneficiary has gone abroad.

## 5. COOPERATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY WITH LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS

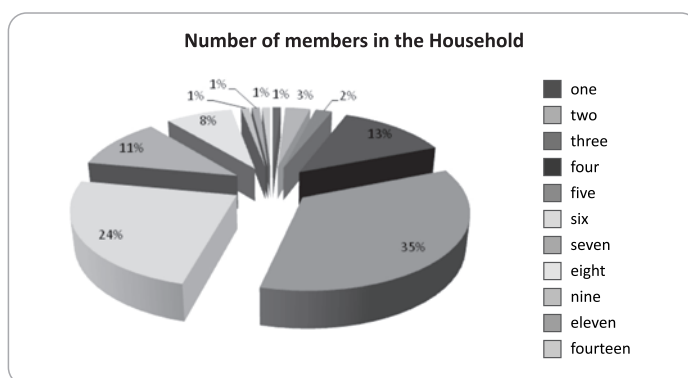
The municipality of Studenicani has poor cooperation with the relevant institutions/organisations at local level in the area of social protection. The municipality has more regular contacts and meetings with ZELS, whereas its cooperation with the Social Work Centre, the Employment Centre and private, religious and non-governmental organisations is almost inexistent. The municipality cooperates with the citizens through public forums and meetings with groups of interested citizens. The cooperation of the municipality with international organisations and embassies has intensified in the last couple of years.

## 6. SURVEY FINDINGS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF STUDENICANI

### 6.1. General Data about Households

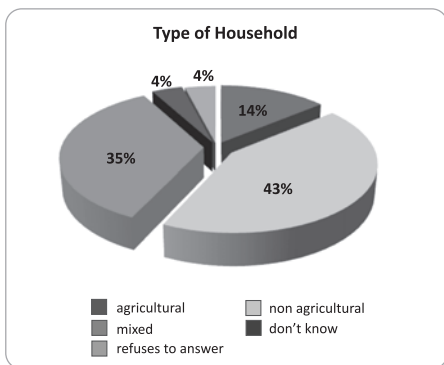
A total of 100 households were involved in the survey that was carried out in the municipality of Studenicani, all of them being rural households. Among the surveyed households, 43% were non-agricultural, 35% were mixed, and 14% were agricultural households. Regarding the ethnic origin of the households, the vast majority are of Albanian origin – 96%, whereas only 2% are Turkish households and 1% are Bosnjac households. As far as the number of members in a household is concerned, five member households have the highest share (35%), followed by six member households (24%) and four member households (13%).

Graph 1.

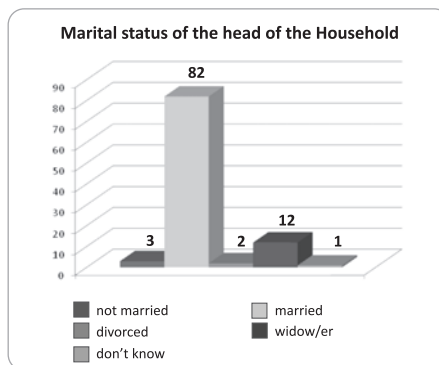


Men appear as household heads in 85% of the cases. The head of the household is married in 82%, widowed in 12%, single in 3% and divorced in 2% of the cases. The majority of the households heads are aged between 40 and 49 (35%). The majority of households have 5 members (35%), and some have 6 members (24%).

Graph 2.

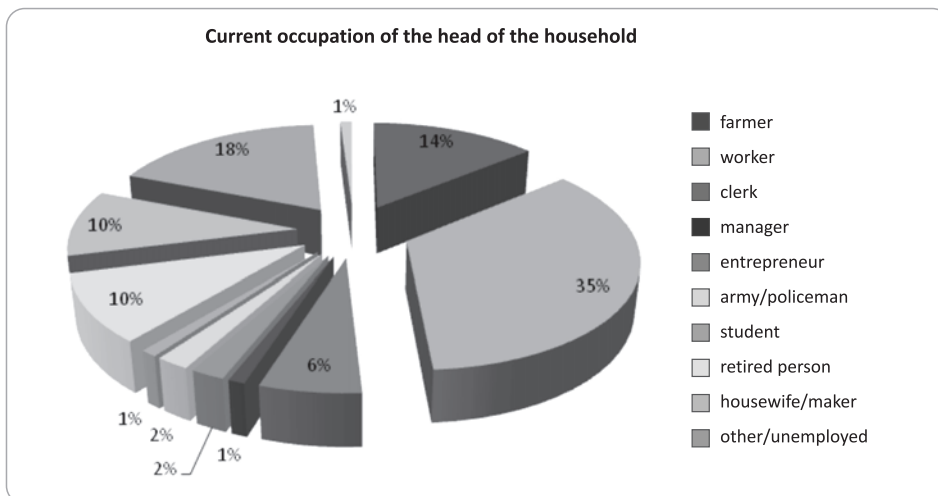


Graph 3.



The head of the household is a worker in most of the cases (35%), followed by unemployed person (18%), farmer (14%), pensioner/housewife (10%) and clerk (6%).

Graph 4.



Although 98% of the surveyed individuals were literate, as many as 52% of all the respondents had only primary education. 19% have completed secondary general school, 18% have completed secondary vocational school, 5% have not completed their primary education, and only 4% and 2% have post-secondary school and University degrees, respectively.

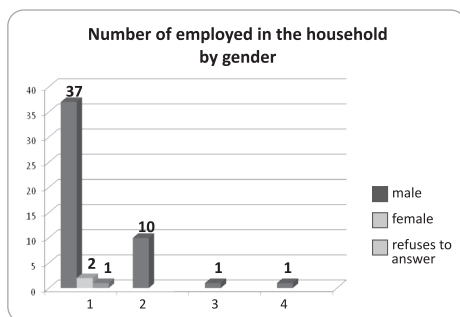
Half of the surveyed households are beneficiaries of social financial assistance.

## 6.2. Employment

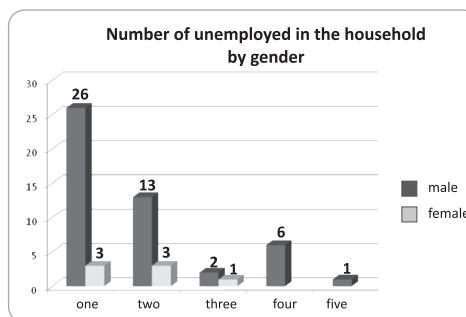
Out of the total number of surveyed households, in 48% none of the members is employed. Among these, 46 households are Albanian, one is Turkish and another one is Bosnjac. 40% of the households have only one household member who is employed, 10% have two members who are employed (9 Albanian and 1 Turkish

households), 1% have three and another 1% have four members that are employed. The gender gap in employment is worrying; notably, the employed are male in 49% of the households, whereas in only 7% of the households they are female.

Graph 5.



Graph 6.

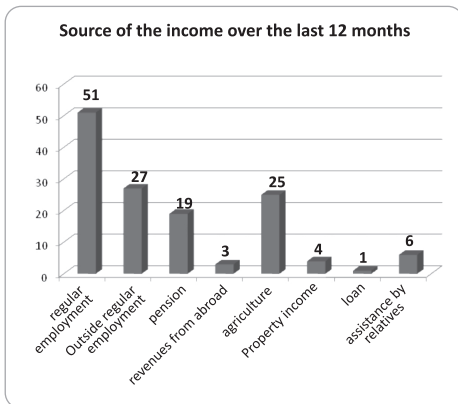


In households where the head of the household is a homemaker/housewife, the head is male in only 1% of the households. In 19% of the households there are pensioners; the pensioners being female in only 1% of the households. In 87% of the households there are students, university students, or children; there are boys in 78% of the households, and girls in 57%. No household has an employer among its members. 3% of the households include persons who are bankruptcy workforce or redundant workers due to technological reasons, whereas 2% of the households have members that are incapable of working, and in both of these cases all these persons are female.

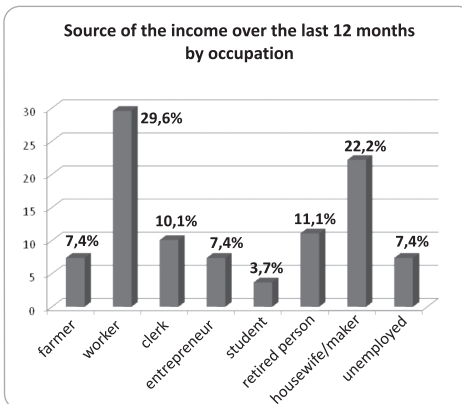
### 6.3. Living standard

Out of the total number of households, 51% responded that they have generated income from regular employment over the last twelve months, among which 96.1% are Albanian and 2% are Turkish households; out of those that have not generated any such income 95.9% are Albanian and 2% are Turkish and Bosnjac households each. 27% of the households responded that they had incomes outside of a regular employment, and 25% generated income from agriculture. 19% of the households generated income from pensions and equivalent of 19% received revenues from social protection assistance (17 Albanian households, 1 Turkish and 1 Bosnjac household). Only 3% of the households received money from abroad, all of which were ethnic Albanians. 6% of the households have received financial aid from relatives, 4% have generated income from property, and only 1% had loans. It is worth noting that 38.8% of the beneficiaries of social financial assistance generated revenues from agriculture as well.

Graph 7.

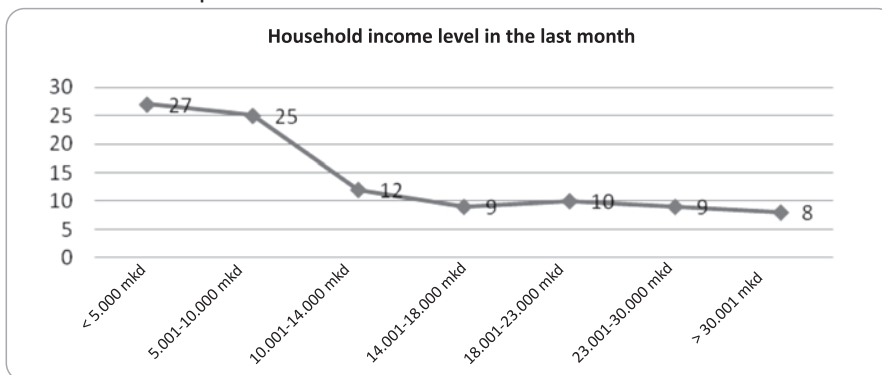


Graph 8.



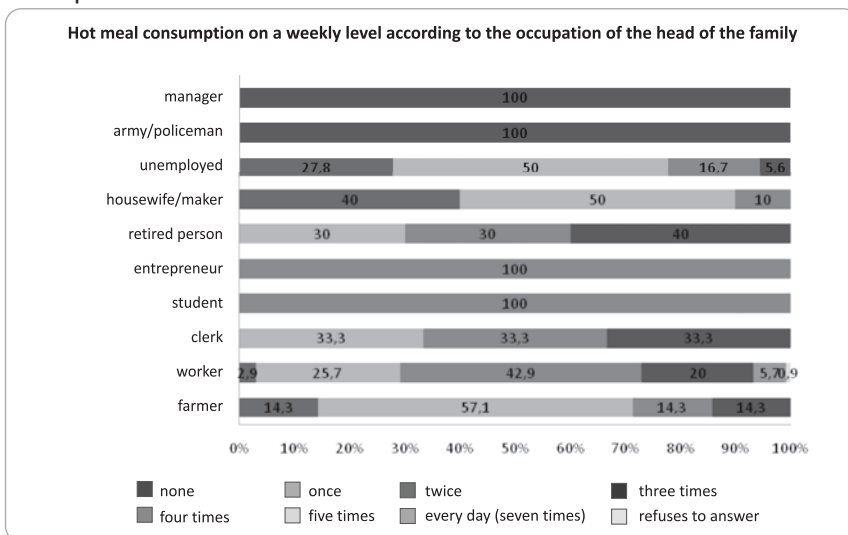
According to the analysis, 27% of the households generated income of up to 5.000 denars in the last month, the majority of which (88.9%) are beneficiaries of social financial assistance. 25% of the households had income between 5.001 and 10.000 denars (1 Turkish and 1 Bosnjac households, the rest being Albanian), the majority of which (72%) are beneficiaries of social financial assistance. As little as 8% of the households, all of them Albanian, had income exceeding 30,001 denars in the last month.

Graph 8.



Half of the households eat hot meals with meat, where predominant are those households which prepare hot meal with meat only once a week (36%) and twice a week (29%). 20% of the households consume hot meal with meat three times a week, whereas 12% do not eat any hot meal with meat not even once a week. Among the beneficiaries of social financial assistance, as many as 91.7% responded that they did not eat any hot meal with meat not even once a week, whereas 77.8% of the beneficiaries eat such a meal just once a week. Among the persons who said that they did not eat any hot meal with meat during the week, the largest group were the unemployed with 41.7%, followed by households whose head was a homemaker/housewife- 33.3% and agricultural households with 16.7%. Only worker's households eat hot meals with meat more than three times a week.

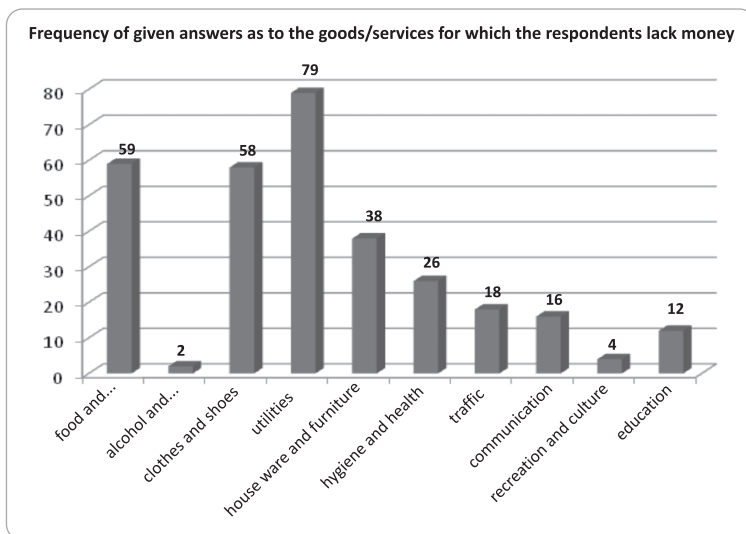
Graph 9.



The majority of the households whose head is male eat hot meal once (32.9%), twice (30.6%), and three times a week (23.5%). The situation in households where the head is female is such that hot meal is eaten once a week (60%), twice a week (10%), or not even once a week (30%).

The majority of the respondents (79%) said that they lacked money mostly for covering the utilities (housing, water, electricity, fuel), food and soft drinks (59%), and clothes and shoes (58%). Smaller number of respondents said that they lacked money for houseware and furniture (38%); for meeting their hygienic and health needs (26%); for transport and a car (18%); and for communication – telephone, Internet (16%). Only 12% of the respondents stated that they lacked money for education. The smallest proportion of respondents said that they lacked money for culture and recreation (4%) and for alcoholic drinks and tobacco (2%).

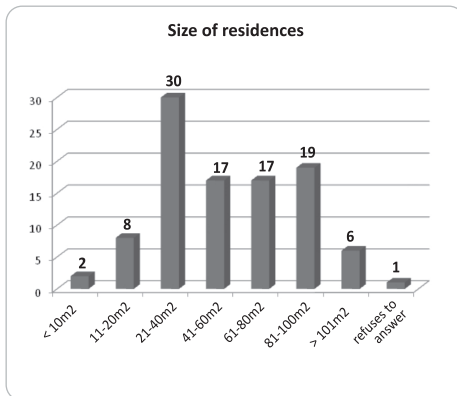
Graph 10.



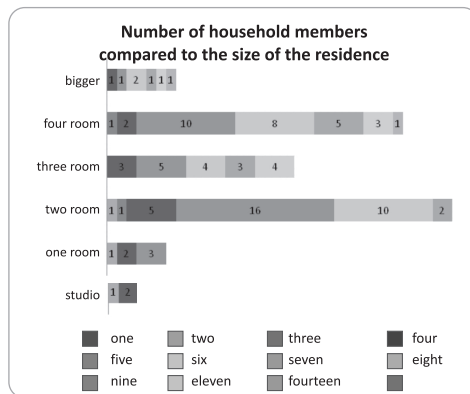
With regards to beneficiaries of social financial assistance, the majority (76.3%) replied that they lacked money for food and soft drinks, for clothes and shoes (67.2%), as well as for overheads (50.6%).

Only 24% of the households have a computer, followed by almost half of the households (56%) unable to afford it; 39% of the households have a car and 45% cannot afford it.

Graph 11.

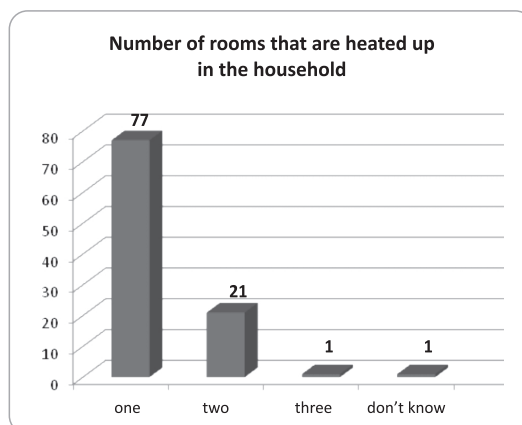


Graph 12.



The majority of the respondents answered that they lived in a two-room apartment (35%), out of whom 74.3% were beneficiaries of social financial assistance. It is interesting to note that 30% of the households live in a four-room apartment, among which 26.7% are beneficiaries of social financial assistance. 19% of the respondents live in a three-room apartment, 8% live in an apartment bigger than a four-room apartment, 6% in one room apartment, and only 1% lives in a studio. 97% of the households answered that their home was connected to the city sewerage network. As far as heating is concerned, all respondents said that their main source of energy was a solid fuel stove; however, the majority of the households (77%) heat only one room in their home, and less of the households heat two rooms (21%). When it comes to clothes, the majority of the respondents lack winter clothes the most.

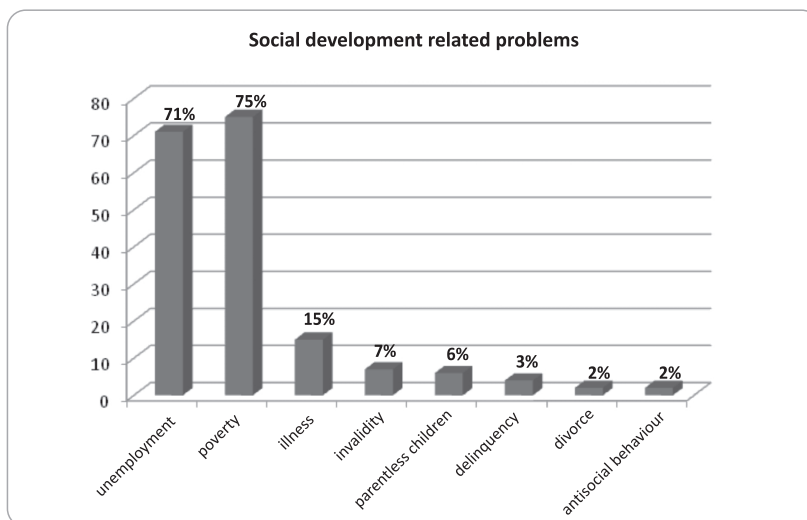
Graph 13.



#### 6.4. Social problems and social protection

Predominant social problems of the households are unemployment (71%) and poverty (75%). Other problems faced by the households are as follows: illness in 15% of the households, conflicting family relations in 7%, disability in 6%, children without parents or parental care in 4%, as well as juvenile delinquency in 4% of the households. Divorces are problem in a small number of the households (2%), antisocial behaviour of children (2%), and some problems associated with adverse natural/environmental processes (floods - 2%, and fire - 1%).

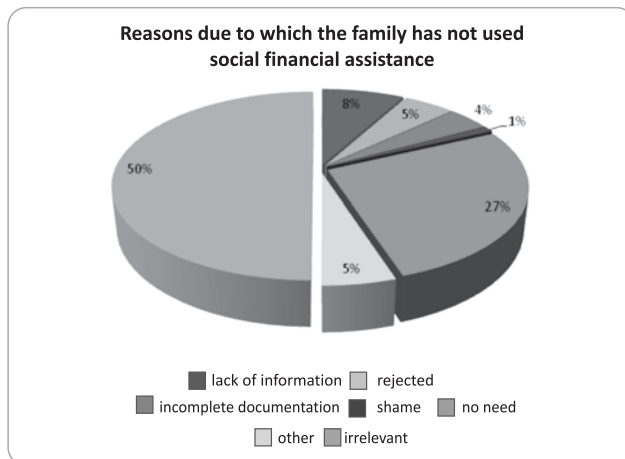
Graph 14.



The households responded that they did not use any form of extra-institutional or institutional care, usually because of lack of information (65%), because they did not need any such care (33%), or because their documentation was incomplete (2%).

When it comes to social financial assistance, one half of the households make use or have made use of their entitlement to social financial assistance, among which one is Turkish, one Bosniac, while all the rest are Albanian households. Only 10% of the households have used permanent financial assistance. 1% of the households have used compensations for assistance and care by another person, and another 1% of the households have used one-time financial assistance and assistance in-kind, where the heads of the households were widow/er. The most common reasons for not using social financial assistance were: the absence of need for this type of protection (27%); the lack of information (8%); rejection of their application (5%); incomplete documentation (4%); and shame (1%).

Graph 15.



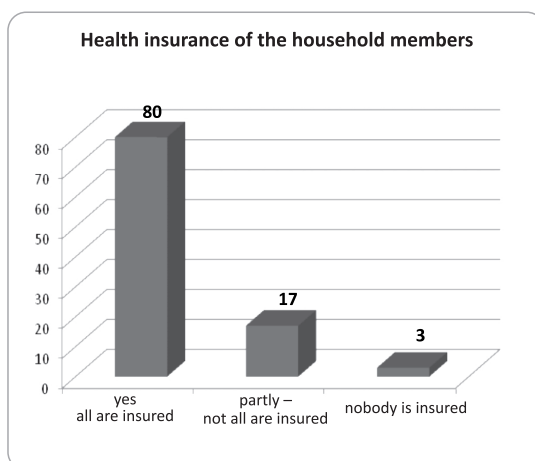
Regarding the child allowances, 13% of the households have used child allowance; out of these total numbers, 69.2% are married persons, 15.4% are widow/er, and 7.7% are divorced. A special child allowance was used by 9% of the households only, out of which 88.8% are living in a marriage community and 11.1% are widow/er. The households identified the following reasons for failing to use the right to child allowance: lack of information (34%); no need for it (25%); rejection of their application (10%); or incomplete documentation (8%).

Only a small number of the respondents mentioned that they have received hitherto some form of assistance from non-governmental organisations (2%), from the municipality (2%), and from religious and humanitarian organisations (2%).

### 6.5. Health sector

In the majority of cases, i.e. 80% of the respondents answered that all the members of the family had health insurance; in addition to Albanian households, this status also applies to all the households from the remaining ethnic communities in the populated places (Turks and Bosnjacs). Household members are partially insured in 17% of the households, whereas no member is insured in 3% of the households; this last phenomenon is present only in Albanian households, which are at the same time beneficiaries of social financial assistance.

Graph 16.



Out of the total number of households, the majority (87%) use public health services in case of illness (services provided by public health institutions, and buy medicines that are covered by the Health Insurance Fund), whereas only 1% of the households use public health services, but pay fully for their medicines. No household goes to a private doctor. One half of the households which use the services of the public health institutions are beneficiaries of social financial assistance, whereas those households which buy their medicines privately are not beneficiaries of such assistance. Six percent of the respondents do not go to a doctor; instead, they use alternative ways of treatment, among which almost everyone is a beneficiary of social financial assistance. Turkish and Bosniac households are users of the public health services.

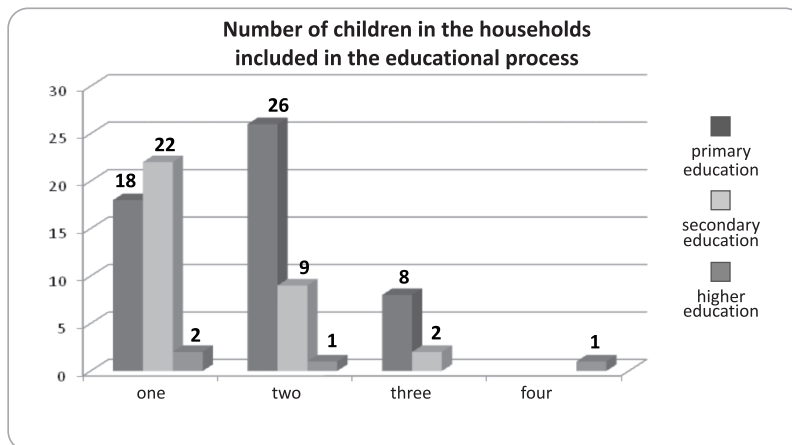
In those households, fully paying for medicines, the head of the household is an unemployed person. Out of the total number of households which use alternative ways of treatment, 50% are households whose head is a homemaker/housewife.

The majority of the respondents (80%) are at a distance of not more than fifteen minutes walk from the closest health point; 16% of the respondents take 15 to 30 minutes; only 1% of the households need more than 30 minutes to get to the closest health point.

### 6.6. Education

62% of the households have children who are 6 and older, i.e. children who are included in the education process. 18% of the households have one child, 26% have two children, and 8% have three children attending primary school. 22% of the households have one child, 9% have two children, and 2% have three children attending secondary school. More than half of the households (59%) have no children at university age; as for the rest of the households, only 2% of the households have one child, and 1% has two children attending University.

Graph 17.



In 7% of the households involved in the survey there are school age children who are not included in the regular education process; all of these households are Albanian. 42% of the households that have children attending primary school live at a distance shorter than 1 km from the primary school, 5% of the households live at a distance of 1.01-2 km, and only 1% of the households live at a distance of 2.01-4 km.

Those households with children attending primary school have not used any form of education assistance, except for 10 households with primary school children that have used free textbooks, out of which only 3 are beneficiaries of social financial assistance. Eleven of the households with children attending secondary schools have used free transport entitlement, out of which 7 are beneficiaries of social financial assistance. Only 1 household among those with children attending University has used free textbooks.

According to the obtained data, children included in the primary and secondary education systems have regularly attended school. Among primary school children, only 1% have not attended school regularly because of their antisocial behaviour, whereas 3% have dropped out from school (1% due to poverty and 2% due to antisocial behaviour); these households are beneficiaries of social financial assistance. 6% of the secondary school children are not attending school regularly: 1% due to illness and 5% because they help their parents to secure livelihood, all of them being beneficiaries of social financial assistance. In addition, 6% of the secondary school children do not attend school because of: illness - 1%, seasonal work - 1%, poverty - 3%, antisocial behaviour - 1%, half of them being beneficiaries of social financial assistance.

Out of the total number of households with school age children, 48.4% of the households are beneficiaries of social financial assistance. Among them, 25 households have children in primary school, while 20 households have children in secondary school. None of the households that are beneficiaries of social financial assistance have children at University. Children that are at school age, but are not

included in the regular education process, have been registered in 6 households, beneficiaries of social financial assistance.

When it comes to the occupation of the head of the household, the analysis shows that the majority of the households having children at school age are worker's households (41.9%). They are followed by households where the head of the household is a farmer (17.7%), unemployed person (14.5%), pensioner (9.7%), homemaker/housewife (6.5%), and clerk (4.8%).

### 6.7. Sports, Leisure, Culture

The respondents highlighted that no libraries, theatres, cinemas or sports betting shops were there in the municipality. More than half of the respondents said that there was sports field, swings, restaurant, coffee bar, and internet café in the municipality. The majority of the respondents, i.e. 60% of them said that no member of their household used the Internet. Only 19% of the respondents used the Internet from their personal computer, and 16% did so from an Internet café.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 7.1. Conclusions

Area	focus area	Status/Problems
<b>1. Predominant activities</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Agriculture.</li> <li>▶ Construction.</li> <li>▶ Trade.</li> </ul>
<b>2. Institutional capacities</b>	<i>Education:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 3 central primary schools.</li> <li>▶ 9 dispersed primary schools (1 school for grades 1-5, 8 schools for grades 1-9).</li> <li>▶ No secondary schools.</li> </ul>
	<i>Health:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Primary health care: 3 public and 2 private health care institutions.</li> <li>▶ 3 pharmacies.</li> </ul>
	<i>Social issues:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ There are no social protection institutions in the municipality.</li> </ul>
	<i>Culture/ sports/ entertainment:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ No cinema or theatre.</li> <li>▶ No local media.</li> </ul>
	<i>Business entities:</i>	▶ /
<b>3. Social problems</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ The most severe problem is the unemployment (the number of unemployed in the municipality is 1722).</li> <li>▶ Out of the unemployed, 1333 are without any education or with only primary education completed.</li> <li>▶ Among the unemployed, 595 are young people aged 20-29.</li> </ul>
	<i>Socially vulnerable groups:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Albanian women.</li> <li>▶ Roma people.</li> <li>▶ Children with special needs.</li> <li>▶ Farmers with irregular agricultural business.</li> </ul>
<b>5. Infrastructure problems</b>	<i>Roads:</i>	▶ The road network is in a bad shape.

	<i>Water supply system:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Water supply network exists in only five larger settlements, whereas the water in the other settlements is supplied by raising intake structures on local sources and village fountains.</li> </ul>
	<i>Sewerage:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ A sewerage network exists only in the centre of this municipality – the village of Studenicani – where construction of a secondary network and connecting households thereto is necessary. Septic tanks are used in all other settlements.</li> </ul>
<b>6. Environmental problems</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Pollution caused by the waste landfill Drisla which is used by the municipality.</li> <li>▶ Pollution caused by illegal landfills.</li> <li>▶ Land erosion.</li> <li>▶ ‘The Black Canal’.</li> </ul>
<b>7. Inter-institutional cooperation in the municipality</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Insufficient cooperation between the municipality and the central government.</li> <li>▶ Poor cooperation between the municipality and the Centre for Social Work.</li> <li>▶ Poor cooperation with the non-governmental sector (this is in its initial phase), the private sector and the religious organisations.</li> </ul>
<b>8. Social care</b>	<i>By the municipality:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ There is no social security department in the local government.</li> <li>▶ There is no social worker among the municipal staff.</li> <li>▶ There are no social protection plans or programs.</li> <li>▶ No forms of social security for the population of the municipality have been developed.</li> <li>▶ Beneficiaries of social financial assistance: 1100 households</li> <li>▶ Beneficiaries of permanent financial assistance: 140 households</li> </ul>
	<i>By SWC:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Beneficiaries of one-time financial assistance: 10 persons</li> <li>▶ Beneficiaries of child allowance: 101</li> <li>▶ Beneficiaries of a special allowance: 86</li> <li>▶ Beneficiaries of parental allowance: 170</li> <li>▶ Poor application of the measures for extra-institutional and institution-based care.</li> </ul>

## 7.2. Recommendations

Area	Core area	Recommendations for overcoming problems and improving the situation
<b>1. Predominant activities</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ The following are of great importance for the development of the municipality of Studenicani: the construction of an industrial zone; the construction of 4 mini hydro power plants; investments in production and processing of primary agricultural products. In addition, this municipality has development potentials in the field of mountain and village tourisms.</li> </ul>
<b>2. Institutional capacities</b>	<p><i>Education:</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>Health sector:</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>Social issues:</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>Culture/ sports/ entertainment:</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>Business entities:</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Open satellite primary schools in those settlements within the municipality where no primary school is currently available.</li> <li>▶ Renovate the existing school buildings (fixtures, replacement of asbestos roofs, heating, etc.).</li> <li>▶ Increase the existing capacity in order to have classes with less number of children.</li> <li>▶ Open a secondary school.</li> <li>▶ Expand the network of healthcare institutions.</li> <li>▶ Establish social protection institutions in the municipality.</li> <li>▶ Conduct needs assessment and open extra-institutional and institution-based forms of protection of the population.</li> <li>▶ Open cultural, sport and entertainment institutions.</li> <li>▶ Invest in the development of the business entities in the municipality.</li> </ul>
<b>3. Social problems</b>	<p><i>Socially vulnerable groups:</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Promote programs for employing young people.</li> <li>▶ Implement measures of training, retraining and additional training of unemployed persons with low qualifications.</li> <li>▶ Promote the association of small farmers into cooperatives thus enabling a more organised sale of their products, higher prices and better informed farmers about the opportunities for using subsidies and other incentives.</li> <li>▶ Promote entrepreneurship and stimulate self-employment.</li> <li>▶ Implement programs for stimulating the social inclusion of Roma people.</li> <li>▶ Develop forms of extra-institutional support for children with special needs.</li> <li>▶ Carry out programs for improvement of the status and the social inclusion of Albanian women.</li> </ul>
<b>5. Infrastructure problems</b>	<p><i>Roads:</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>Waterworks:</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>Sewerage:</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Work on improving the overall road infrastructure.</li> <li>▶ Asphalted access roads to the high mountain villages and lay asphalt on the dirt roads inside the villages.</li> <li>▶ Reconstruction of the existing asphalt road infrastructure that is damaged.</li> <li>▶ Develop a water supply network in all settlements.</li> <li>▶ Construct a sewerage network in all settlements.</li> <li>▶ Finalise the secondary network in the municipal centre—the village of Studenicani.</li> </ul>

<p><b>6.Environmental problems</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Make an assessment and find a solution for the illegal landfills in the municipality and for the land erosion problems.</li> <li>▶ Find a technical solution for water treatment and regulation of the flow of the “Black Canal” in order to prevent it from spilling over.</li> </ul>
<p><b>7. Inter-institutional cooperation in the municipality</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Establish cooperation between the municipality and the Centre for Social Work and the Employment Centre.</li> <li>▶ Improve the cooperation with the central government.</li> <li>▶ Establish cooperation with the NGO sector, with the private sector and with religious organisations.</li> </ul>
<p><b>8. Social care</b></p>	<p><i>By the municipality:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Open a social protection unit in the municipality and hire a social worker.</li> <li>▶ Educate the staff about strategic planning in the social security area and about preparation of programs and plans.</li> <li>▶ Educate the staff about forms of social protection that could be implemented at the local level</li> <li>▶ Increase the share of the municipal budget dedicated to social security</li> <li>▶ Make an assessment of the needs for social services and develop partnerships with the non-governmental and the private sectors in offering local social services.</li> </ul> <p><i>By SWC:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Reduce the number of beneficiaries of social financial assistance by intensifying the activities for employment and activation thereof.</li> <li>▶ Increased use of the community works measure.</li> </ul>

### III SUMMARY ANALYSIS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 1. SUMMARY ANALYSIS OF THE FINDINGS OF THE SURVEY CARRIED OUT IN THE MUNICIPALITIES

##### 1.1. Employment

The situation with regard to poverty and social exclusion in the municipalities involved in the survey is similar vis-à-vis a number of indicators analyzed. Exclusion from labour market is one of the most severe problems. Out of a total of 800 households involved in the survey, 350 of them (43.8%) don't have an unemployed member among the work-able members. 204 (25.5%) of the households have one member who is unemployed, and 178 (2.3%) of the households have two members who are unemployed. Three or more household members are unemployed in 68 households (8.6%). Among the 800 surveyed households, 450 (56.2%) have at least one work-able member who is unemployed (Table1).

Table 1. Households according to the number of unemployed members by municipality

Municipality		STATUS: How many members in your household are currently unemployed?							Total
		None	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Radovis	Count % of Total	47 5,9%	25 3,1%	19 2,4%	5 0,6%	4 0,5%	0 0,0%	0 0,0%	100 12,5%
Negotino	Count % of Total	35 4,4%	27 3,4%	28 3,5%	3 0,4%	3 0,4%	4 0,5%	0 0,0%	100 12,5%
Berovo	Count % of Total	42 5,3%	22 2,8%	33 4,1%	3 0,4%	0 0,0%	0 0,0%	0 0,0%	100 12,5%
Pehcevo	Count % of Total	4 5,4%	30 3,8%	19 2,4%	5 0,6%	2 0,3%	1 0,1%	0 0,0%	100 12,5%
Konce	Count % of Total	44 5,5%	25 3,1%	24 3,0%	5 0,6%	2 0,3%	0 0,0%	0 0,0%	100 12,5%
Lipkovo	Count % of Total	53 6,6%	19 2,4%	14 1,8%	5 0,6%	6 0,8%	0 0,0%	3 0,4%	100 12,5%
Studenicani	Count % of Total	42 5,3%	31 3,9%	17 2,1%	3 0,4%	6 0,8%	1 0,1%	0 0,0%	100 12,5%
Caska	Count % of Total	44 5,5%	25 3,1%	24 3,0%	5 0,6%	2 0,3%	0 0,0%	0 0,0%	100 12,5%
	Count % of Total	350 43,8%	204 25,5%	178 22,3%	34 4,3%	25 3,1%	6 0,8%	3 0,4%	800 100,0%

##### 1.2. Living standard

Out of 800 households, 435 (54.4%) had income from regular employment in the past 12 months; 285 (35.6%) had income from farming; 224 (28%) had income outside regular employment; 209 (26.1%) had income from pensions; 49 (6.1%)

received money sent from abroad; 46 (5.8%) received aid from their children/parents/relatives; 25 (3.1%) got income from property (lease, sale); and 4 (0.5%) from loans. The most common source of income outside regular employment is seasonal work which is practiced by 107 households (13.4%), whereas approximately 5% of the households get income outside regular employment from each of the following: working at other people's houses; loading–unloading–transport; construction; trade; and resale. This data, especially the piece of data about the generation of incomes outside regular employments, points to the need for the families to provide for themselves from various sources in a situation of poverty.

Among the 800 households in the survey, most of them have monthly incomes of 5001-10,000 denars (180 or 22.5%). There is also a significant number of households whose income does not exceed 5000 denars (162 or 20.3%) (Table2).

Table 2. Monthly incomes in households

Monthly income	Number of households	%
Up to 5 000 Macedonian denar	162	20,3
5 001 – 10 000 Macedonian denar	180	22,5
10 001 – 14 000 Macedonian denar	119	14,9
14 001 – 18 000 Macedonian denar	82	10,3
18 001 – 23 000 Macedonian denar	87	10,9
23 001 – 30 000 Macedonian denar	66	8,3
Over 30 001 Macedonian denar	67	8,4
I don't know	13	1,6
Refuses to answer	24	3,0
<b>Total</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>100</b>

Most of the households live in a two-room residence - 255 (31.9%); 201 or 25.1% of the households live in a housing area of 61-80m<sup>2</sup>; 759 or 94.9% of the households live in a solid construction home. 145 households (18.1%) don't have a bathroom inside their home, where 53 households (6.6%) use septic tank, and 38 households (4.8%) are not connected to the city sewerage system. Regarding water supply, 4 households (0.5%) use water from a public fountain, whereas 28 households (3.5%) don't have any water inside their home. The majority of the households (731 or 91.4%) use solid fuel stove for heating, whereas only 31 households (3.9%) have their own steam heating system. It is worth to note that the majority of the households heat only one room during the winter (427 households or 53.4%), which means that during approximately 1/3 of the year all members of the household are forced to spend their time together in just one room.

Regarding the basic home appliances, 739 households (92.4%) have an electric cooker; 731 (91.4%) have a boiler; 784 (98%) have a refrigerator; 714 (89.3%) have a washing machine; 677 (84.6%) have a vacuum cleaner; 769

(96.1%) have a TV set; 459 (57.4%) have a telephone. The following are among the appliances that are scarce in the homes of the households: dishwasher (87 or 10.9%); camcorder (93 or 11.6%); air conditioner (108 or 13.5%). It is worth noting the high proportion of households who despite their low living standard, do own a mobile phone (682 households or 85.3% – this percentage is even higher than the percentage of households that have a normal phone - 57.4%) and a video recorder (402 households or 50.3%).

What the households lack the most in terms of clothes are the following: warm winter clothes (jackets, sweaters) – this was mentioned as a need by 347 households (43.4%); next on the list is shoes - 114 households (14.3%); as well as clothes for festive occasions - 85 households (10.6%).

### **1.3. Social problems and social protection**

Among the social problems, those that are most severe in all the municipalities include unemployment (555 or 69.4% of the total number of households involved in the survey - 800) and poverty (546 or 68.3%). Social problems associated with natural/environmental processes come second. Among the latter, the most common is the problem of floods (50 households or 6.3%); earthquake (40 households or 5.0%); and droughts (33 households or 4.1%). Social problems associated with deviant behaviours (delinquency, gambling, crime, addiction diseases, wandering) occur in a total of 29 households (3.6% of the total number of surveyed households).

Very low utilization of the measures of institutional and extra-institutional social care in all municipalities is worth noting. Out of the 800 households, only 22 (2.7%) used measures of extra-institutional care, whereas only 3 (0.4%) used measures of institutional care. Unlike these, the use of financial homewares is much more common. Among the latter, the ones most used include: social financial assistance that is currently used or used to be used by 388 households (48.5%); permanent financial assistance - 49 households (6.1%); and financial allowance for assistance and care by another person - 12 households (1.5%).

The following were the most utilized among the child care measures: child allowance (168 households or 21%); one-time assistance for a newborn baby (93 or 11.6%); cost-sharing (29 or 3.6%); and special child allowance (23 or 2.9%).

Only a small portion of the households (3.1% or 25 households) have received assistance from other sources (NGOs, the municipalities, religious and humanitarian organizations and private individuals). This piece of data indicates the fact that the relevant stakeholders in all the municipalities have not developed the local social protection functions to a sufficient extent.

Among the **reasons for not using** the social protection entitlements, in addition to the one relating to the absence of need for such measures, the lack of information and the rejections of the applications by the relevant institutions are the most common ones. The most common reasons for not using social financial assistance are the following: absence of need (235 or 29.4%); rejection of the application (87 or 10.9%); and lack of information (39 or 4.9%). Child care is not used for the following most common reasons: absence of need (242 or 30.3%),

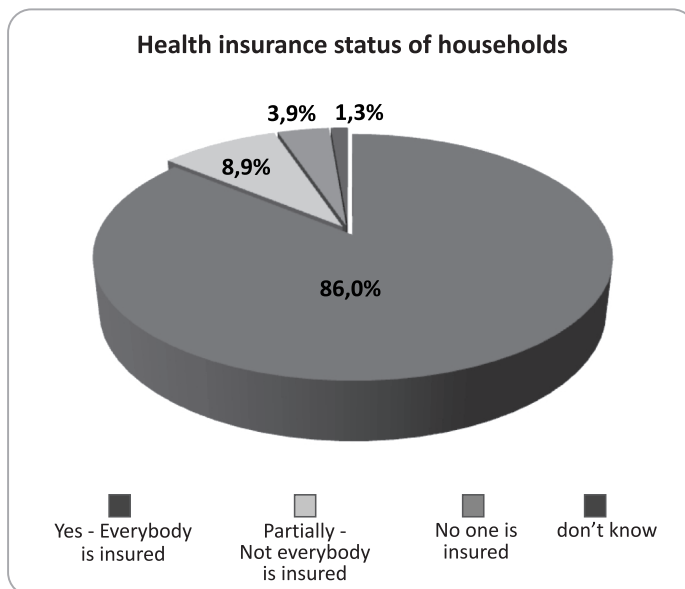
lack of information (140 or 17.5%), and rejection of the application (117 or 14.6%). Households do not use institutional and extra-institutional care for the following most common reasons: absence of need (422 or 52.8%); lack of information (221 or 27.6%); as well as rejection of the application (102 or 12.8%).

The least common reasons for households not making use of the social protection entitlements include: the required documentation is not in order/is incomplete; not fulfilling the requirements for application; the shame vis-à-vis the surroundings.

#### 1.4. Health and nutrition

As regards **health insurance**, all household members are insured in 688 households (86%); household members are only partially insured in 71 households (8.9%); nobody is insured in 31 households (3.9%); this status is unknown in 10 households (1.3%). This is shown on chart 1. In case of disease, 659 households (82.4%) go to a public doctor and buy the required medicines on prescription, and only 31 households (3.9%) responded that they were able to afford a private treatment. The data about the proximity of the health centre speak about the relatively good distribution of these institutions on local level. Notably, out of 800 surveyed households, 617 (77.1%) live at a distance of up to 15 minutes walk from the closest health point, although there is a significant number of those who take 16-30 minutes to get there (141 households or 17.6%); 30 households (3.8%) take more than 30 minutes to satisfy this need. This piece of data should however be checked against intelligence from the field saying that a large number of health points (especially the rural ones) have short working hours and do not offer a comprehensive range of health services to their constituencies.

Graph 1.



Meat reach **nutrition** is scarce among the surveyed households. Out of 800 households, the majority cook a hot meal with meat only once a week (213 or 26.6%), and 98 households (12.3%) do it never. Concerning the question asking them to list by order of priority five of the indicated needs which they lack money for, the findings show that the households mostly lack money for the items of housing, water, electricity, fuel (these were mentioned by 562 households or 70.3%), and for food and soft drinks (mentioned by 500 households or 62.5%) (Review 1).

Review 1. List of needs of the households which they lack money for

Needs of the households	Number of households	% of the total number of households (800)
1. Housing, water, electricity, fuel	562	70.3%
2. Food and soft drinks	500	62.5%
3. Clothes and shoes	491	61.4%
4. Hygiene and health (medicines and medical aids)	372	46.5%
5. Traffic (transport/car)	250	31.3%
6. Education	184	23%
7. Recreation and culture (newspapers, books, travels, entertainment)	139	17.4%
8. Communication (telephone, Internet)	132	16.5%
9. Alcoholic drinks and tobacco	78	9.8%

### 1.5. Education

The survey findings for the 8 municipalities with regard to education show similar trends. Out of 800 households, 442 (55.3%) have school age children (6+ old). Out of them, 285 households have children attending primary school; 193 have children attending secondary school; 110 households have children at University. Regarding school attendance, satisfactory rates were noticed among all three education levels (the absenteeism problem is quite insignificant – between 0.3 and 1.0%). This situation is probably a result of: recent legislative interventions stipulating the compulsory nature of both primary and secondary education; the promotion of higher education within the education policy of the country; there is a certain level of relevance in the fact that ethnic Roma, which is the ethnic group in the country that suffers the most from the problem of educational exclusion, are represented with only 29 households or 3.6% of the total number of households (800).

Most commonly used forms of assistance for primary education include free transport (49 households) and free snack (5 households); free transport for secondary education (41 households); as regards higher education, most commonly used forms of assistance include fellowships (16 households), credits (8 households) and quota-based enrolment (7 households). Basically, only an insignificant number of households have managed to access the available forms of assistance and support for meeting their educational needs.

## 1.6. Sports, entertainment, culture

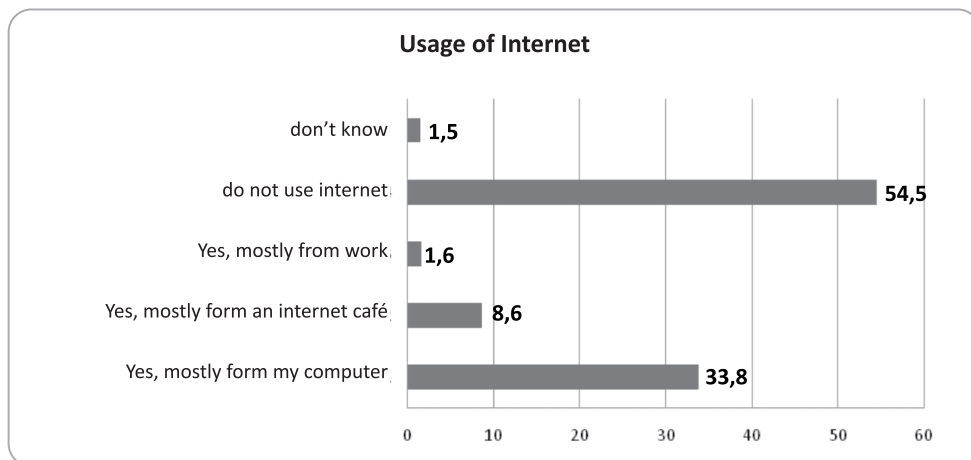
Regarding the access to sport, entertainment and cultural institutions, the largest exclusion can be noticed with regard to theatre and cinema, and the lowest with regard to cafes and sport grounds. Review 2 below shows the percentages of households who are able to access these types of institutions in their respective settlement.

Review2. Access to sport, entertainment and cultural institutions

Type of institution	Number of households that have access to institutions	% of the total number of households (800)
1. Theatre	135	16.9%
2. Cinema	233	29.1%
3. Sport betting business	364	45.5%
4. Library	378	47.3%
5. Swings	524	65.5%
6. Internet cafe	533	66.6%
7. Restaurant	561	70.1%
8. Cafe	646	80.8%
9. Sport grounds	721	90.1%

Of the total number of households (800), the majority does not use Internet at all (436 or 54.5%) (Chart 2).

Graph 2.



## 2. CONCLUSIONS

AREA	Core area	Status/Problems
<b>1. Predominant activities</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Business activities that absorb labour force with low qualifications are predominant in the urban municipalities</li> <li>▶ Textile industry and mining are highly represented</li> <li>▶ Agriculture, stock breeding, forestry and tobacco production are predominant in rural municipalities</li> <li>▶ Agriculture and stock breeding are also represented in the urban municipalities</li> <li>▶ Tourism is being developed in several municipalities</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Urban municipalities feature a better developed network of educational institutions and better access thereto</li> <li>▶ The secondary vocational school network is not developed enough in the urban municipalities</li> <li>▶ The network of educational institutions is not developed enough in the rural municipalities (there aren't any secondary schools there)</li> <li>▶ Most excluded from the access to educational institutions are the rural places located in the highlands</li> </ul>
	<i>Education:</i>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ The network of healthcare institutions in the urban municipalities is satisfactory</li> <li>▶ The network of healthcare institutions in the rural municipalities is underdeveloped (the majority of rural municipalities lack pharmacies, specialist doctor's offices, emergency medical services, and the low number of outpatient clinics are not available for the citizens during night time and weekends)</li> <li>▶ The network of healthcare institutions in rural, mountainous places is not developed at all</li> </ul>
	<i>Health:</i>	
<b>2. Institutional capacities</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Insufficient number of kindergartens</li> <li>▶ No nursing homes</li> <li>▶ Poor access to the Centres for Social Work for people from rural municipalities due to the absence of local branches of the competent SWC</li> <li>▶ People from mountainous places have the most limited access to the SWC</li> <li>▶ Underdeveloped network of organizations for extra-institutional care</li> <li>▶ Underdeveloped network of organizations for institutional care</li> <li>▶ Soup kitchens in the majority of the municipalities</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Underdeveloped network of cultural &amp; entertainment institutions in the urban centres</li> <li>▶ Well developed network of sport facilities and organizations in the urban centres</li> <li>▶ Underdeveloped network of cultural &amp; entertainment institutions and sport facilities in the rural areas</li> <li>▶ Underdeveloped local media network</li> <li>▶ Many registered citizen associations of which only few are active</li> </ul>
	<i>Welfare:</i>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Small businesses are predominant</li> <li>▶ Lack of larger businesses which would absorb more workers</li> </ul>
	<i>Business entities:</i>	
	<i>Culture/sports/entertainment:</i>	

<b>3. Social problems</b>	<i>Socially vulnerable groups</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Social problems associated with social development – unemployment and poverty - are predominant</li> <li>▶ The living standard is higher in the urban compared with the rural municipalities</li> <li>▶ Poverty from the aspect of satisfying the basic existential needs is less acute in the rural municipalities compared with the urban municipalities</li> <li>▶ Problems related to dysfunctional families and deviant behaviours are on the increase</li> <li>▶ Urban municipalities feature better resources for advancing human development</li> <li>▶ Great social inequalities exist in both urban and rural municipalities</li> <li>▶ Unemployment is lower in those places that are centres of the municipalities</li> <li>▶ The elderly</li> <li>▶ People with disabilities</li> <li>▶ Beneficiaries of permanent financial assistance</li> <li>▶ Turkish ethnic group</li> <li>▶ Roma ethnic group</li> <li>▶ People living in mountainous places</li> </ul>
<b>5. Infrastructure problems</b>	<i>Roads</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Urban municipalities have a better road infrastructure than rural municipalities</li> <li>▶ Obsolete road infrastructure</li> <li>▶ Dirt roads in the rural places</li> <li>▶ Access to mountainous places is the worst</li> </ul>
	<i>Waterworks</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Urban municipalities have higher coverage with water supply network than rural municipalities/places</li> <li>▶ Problem with the water supply, especially in the higher altitude places</li> </ul>
	<i>Sewerage</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Urban municipalities have higher coverage with sewerage network than rural municipalities/places</li> </ul>
<b>6. Environmental problems</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Illegal landfills for solid waste (usually only the municipal centres have an organized waste collection service)</li> <li>▶ Rivers polluted from solid waste and waste water (coming from residences without sewerage)</li> </ul>
<b>7. Inter-institutional cooperation in the municipality</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ The cooperation between the municipalities and the central government is of rather formal nature</li> <li>▶ Relatively good cooperation with ZELS</li> <li>▶ Cooperation with NGOs is underdeveloped</li> <li>▶ Regional cooperation exists usually with the closest adjacent municipality, with which the administrative, communication and traditional links are the strongest</li> <li>▶ Poor cooperation between the municipality, the Centre for Social Work and the Employment Centre</li> <li>▶ Poor cooperation with the private sector and religious organizations</li> <li>▶ Low levels of activism and initiative-taking among the population in the municipalities</li> </ul>

<b>8. Social care</b>	<i>By the municipality:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Underdeveloped social protection functions</li> <li>▶ There are no separate social protection units within the municipalities</li> <li>▶ No social workers are employed</li> <li>▶ There is a trend of developing social protection programs and employment strategic plans</li> <li>▶ Social protection programs are generally focused on financial assistance and do not fulfil the basic methodical and methodological criteria</li> <li>▶ There is no strategic planning in the area of social protection</li> <li>▶ There are no developed forms of social protection for the vulnerable population groups</li> <li>▶ The municipal budget appropriates only minimal funds for social protection (around 1%)</li> </ul>
	<i>By the SWC:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Highest number of beneficiaries of financial social assistance</li> <li>▶ Highest share of beneficiaries of financial social assistance in municipalities with predominant Albanian population</li> <li>▶ Lower living standard among the beneficiaries of social financial assistance compared with the non-beneficiaries</li> <li>▶ Measures of extra-institutional and institutional care available for the residents of the municipalities are insufficiently applied</li> <li>▶ Most common reasons for not using the social protection entitlements include: lack of information; lack of eligibility; rejection of the application; and shame.</li> <li>▶ Active labour market measures are underused and poorly targeted in the fight against unemployment as predominant social problem</li> <li>▶ Public works were almost absent in 2010 (this measure is perceived as humiliating in some municipalities, which is why its implementation affects the popularity of the local authorities).</li> </ul>

### 3. RECOMMENDATIONS

AREA	Core area	Status/Problems
<b>1.Predominant activities</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Promote modern ways of agricultural and stock breeding productions by way of educating and providing subsidies to small farmers</li> <li>▶ Stimulate the association of farmers into cooperatives for the purposes of securing adequate and timely sale of the products, protecting their rights, making them better informed, etc.</li> <li>▶ Further develop the textile industry along with strengthened control of the operations of the textile businesses, and protect the rights of the workers</li> <li>▶ Invest in tourism in accordance with the potentials and the resources of each municipality</li> <li>▶ Develop other economic branches after making an indebt analysis of the available resources and capacities of a respective municipality, establishing the strategic pathways for development, and achieving these goals in a sustainable and consistent manner</li> </ul>

## 2. Institutional capacities

- 
- Education:*
- ▶ Develop the secondary vocational school network in the urban municipalities
  - ▶ Develop the educational institutions network in the rural municipalities
  - ▶ Improve the access to educational institutions in the rural places located in the highlands
- 
- Health sector:*
- ▶ Further develop the specialist doctor's services in the urban municipalities
  - ▶ Develop the network of healthcare institutions in the rural municipalities that will be available during night time and weekends
  - ▶ Create conditions for opening pharmacies in rural municipalities
  - ▶ Strengthen the capacities and the functioning of the first aid services (emergency medical services)
  - ▶ Establish mobile outpatient stations for the sake of providing access for the remote and poorly populated rural places
  - ▶ Provide incentives for the GP and specialist doctor's offices in those municipalities that need specific medical services
- Welfare:*
- ▶ Open kindergartens in the municipalities that need them, especially in the rural municipalities
  - ▶ Open nursing homes, as well as other forms of institutional and extra-institutional care for the elderly
  - ▶ Analyze the possibilities for opening local offices of the competent Centres for Social Work in the larger rural municipalities
  - ▶ Develop all forms of extra-institutional care in both rural and urban municipalities (day centres for people with special needs, elderly people, clubs, counselling units, etc.)
  - ▶ Analyze the needs for developing institutional care (small group homes, protected housing, etc.)
  - ▶ Open soup kitchens in those municipalities where this form has been absent, and expand the capacity in the existing soup kitchens
- Culture/ sports/ entertain-ment:*
- ▶ Enrich the network of cultural & entertainment institutions in the urban centres
  - ▶ Develop the network of cultural & entertainment institutions and sport facilities in the rural areas
  - ▶ Support by the municipality for developing a local media network
  - ▶ Strengthen the capacities of the NGO sector on the local level
- Business entities:*
- ▶ Stimulate the further growth of the small businesses sector
  - ▶ Analyze the potentials of the municipalities for hosting larger businesses which would absorb more workers
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### 3. Social problems

*Socially  
vulnerable  
groups*

- ▶ Develop local strategic plans, programs and measures for social development and for combating unemployment and poverty
- ▶ Develop strategic measures for dealing with urban poverty
- ▶ Strengthen the activities of the Employment Centres, especially in the field of the active labour market measures
- ▶ Raise the awareness of the population to recognize and react to the forms of family deviant behaviours through preventive measures
- ▶ Develop advisory and counselling services in order to strengthen the family cell structure and to cope with family dysfunctions
- ▶ Measures for mitigating social inequalities between the residents of urban and rural municipalities
- ▶ Develop a strategy for achieving a more balanced local development of the municipalities
- ▶ Elderly people: establish institutional and extra-institutional forms of care such as homes, day centres, clubs, day hospitals, services for providing assistance at home, care provided in foster families, etc.
- ▶ People with disabilities: establish institutional and extra-institutional forms of care such as day centres, protected housing, small group homes, foster families, subsidized employment, eased access to institutions, etc.
- ▶ Beneficiaries of permanent financial assistance (PFA): increased support by the Centres for Social Work for the beneficiaries of PFA; increase the amount of PFA; eased access to institutions; provide continuous financial assistance and assistance in-kind by the municipalities
- ▶ Roma ethnic group: affirmative action measures; programs and measures for advancing their educational status; involvement in the active measures for employment; improve their housing conditions.
- ▶ Turkish ethnic group: measures for advancing their educational status; develop programs for enhancement of Turkish women; involvement in the active measures for employment
- ▶ Residents of mountainous places: special measures for social inclusion of the residents of mountainous places for the sake of improving their access to educational, health, cultural, social and other services

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### 5. Infrastructure problems

*Roads*

- ▶ Complete the construction of the road infrastructure in the rural municipalities
- ▶ Rehabilitate the road infrastructure in the urban municipalities
- ▶ Improve the access to the mountainous places

*Waterworks*

- ▶ Gradually cover all the places in both urban and rural municipalities with a water supply network, especially in the remote mountainous places
- ▶ Introduce mechanisms for controlling the quality of the drinking water in the rural municipalities

*Sewerage*

- ▶ Gradually cover all the places in both rural and urban municipalities with the sewerage network
-

## 6. Environmental problems

- ▶ Find solutions for the existing illegal landfills for solid waste, and build landfills on adequate sites according to the standards
- ▶ Establish utility companies for organized waste collection, and extend the capacity of the existing utility companies for the purpose of covering all places (organized waste collection service is usually provided only in the municipal centres)
- ▶ Analyze the possibilities for applying the Public Private Partnership model in coping with environmental problems
- ▶ Find a solution that would eliminate the sources of water pollution

## 7. Inter-institutional cooperation in the municipality

- ▶ Further the forms of cooperation between the municipalities and the central government
- ▶ Develop various forms of cooperation with the NGOs
- ▶ Strengthen the cooperation between the municipality, the Centre for Social Work and the Employment Centre by way of establishing both formal and informal multisectoral thematic bodies
- ▶ Develop the corporate social responsibility (CSR) function of businesses
- ▶ Encourage the social functions of the religious organizations
- ▶ Develop new forms of cooperation between the citizens and the municipality, and promote the importance of citizen initiative and action for resolving local problems and for the overall development of the municipality

*By the municipality:*

## 8. Social care

- ▶ Develop the social protection functions
- ▶ Establish separate social protection units in the municipalities
- ▶ Envisage the position of a social worker in the job classification document of the municipality
- ▶ Systematic, coordinated and informed development and finalization of the municipality's strategic documents
- ▶ Organize and carry out training on strategic planning for the staff of the municipal administration
- ▶ Develop strategies on local development of the social protection function
- ▶ Target the vulnerable groups of the population and develop adequate social protection measures
- ▶ Increase the size of the item for social protection spending in the municipal budgets, followed by adequate budget training and control of spending
- ▶ Regulate the financial assistance provided by the municipality to vulnerable groups of citizens by way of establishing clear criteria for awarding it (produce rulebooks)
- ▶ Develop a local network for cooperation for the purpose of optimizing the local resources in providing social care to the population (including the municipality, educational, health, cultural and sport institutions, the private sector, NGOs, and religious and humanitarian organizations)
- ▶ Educate the local stakeholders about possible forms of social services delivery: co-financing, contracting, etc.

*By the SWC:*

- ▶ Improved targeting of the social financial assistance
  - ▶ Increase the possibilities for employing the beneficiaries of social financial assistance by improving the cooperation between the Centre for Social Work and the Employment Centre in implementing the active labour market measures
  - ▶ Expand the coverage of households that are beneficiaries of social financial assistance with the soup kitchen service, and open soup kitchens in all municipalities
  - ▶ Develop the network of extra-institutional care providers, and analyze the possibilities for developing a regional institutional social care
  - ▶ Make use of the municipal infrastructure for the purpose of establishing the necessary social services (small group homes for the elderly, shelter centres, day centres, soup kitchens etc.)
  - ▶ Make the population better informed about the social protection entitlements
  - ▶ Carry out public awareness programs about the socially vulnerable population in order to overcome prejudices and stigmatizing practices
  - ▶ Engage the beneficiaries of social financial assistance in public works within the municipality in a more intensive, non-selective and law-abiding manner.
-

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**QUESTIONNAIRE**  
**SURVEY ABOUT THE SOCIAL STATUS OF THE CITIZENS IN THE REPUBLIC OF**  
**MACEDONIA**

No. of questionnaire:

Municipality:

Name of the settlement:

Type of settlement:      1. Urban                      2. Rural                      3. Suburban

Polling date:

Name and surname of the pollster:

Code of the supervisor:

**A. INFORMATION ABOUT THE HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD**

**Q1. GENDER OF THE HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD:**

1. Male
2. Female
999. Refuses to answer (don't read)

**Q2. AGE OF THE HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD:**

1. 15 – 19
2. 20 – 29
3. 30 – 39
4. 40 - 49
5. 50 - 59
6. 60 - 64
7. 65 и повеќе
99. I don't know (don't read)
999. Refuses to answer (don't read)

**Q3. ETHNICITY OF THE HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD:**

1. Macedonian
2. Albanian
3. Roma
4. Turk
5. Serb
6. Vlach
7. Bosniac
8. Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
9. Refuses to answer (don't read)

**Q4. MARITAL STATUS OF THE HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD:**

1. Single
2. Married
3. Out of wedlock
4. Divorced
5. Widow(er)
99. I don't know (don't read)
999. Refuses to answer (don't read)

**Q5. LITERACY OF THE HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD:**

1. Literate (knows how to read and write)
2. Illiterate (doesn't know how to read and write)
99. I don't know (don't read)
999. Refuses to answer (don't read)

**Q6. LEVEL OF FORMAL EDUCATION OF THE HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD:**

1. Without any education
2. Incomplete primary education (up to grade 4)
3. Primary education
4. Secondary vocational education
5. Secondary general education
6. Post-secondary education
7. Higher education (undergraduate)
8. Second level of University education (Master's)
9. Post-university level (Ph.D., specialization)
99. I don't know (don't read)
999. Refuses to answer (don't read)

**Q7. CURRENT OCCUPATION OF THE HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD:**

INSTRUCTION: PLEASE READ ALL THE OPTIONS! ONLY ONE ANSWER!

1. Farmer
2. Worker
3. Clerk
4. Expert
5. Manager
6. Private entrepreneur
7. Free profession (artist, journalist, lawyer, etc.)
8. Military, Police
9. Student/University student
10. Retired
11. Houseman/wife
12. Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
99. I don't know (don't read)
999. Refuses to answer

**Q8. IS THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY A BENEFICIARY OF SOCIAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE?**

INSTRUCTION: ONLY ONE ANSWER!

- 1. Yes
- 2. No
- 99. I don't know (don't read)
- 999. Refuses to answer (don't read)

**B. INFORMATION ABOUT THE HOUSEHOLD**

**Q9. HOW MANY MEMBERS DOES YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAVE? A HOUSEHOLD MEMBER IS CONSIDERED A PERSON WITH A PERMANENT RESIDENCE AT THE ADDRESS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD. THE PEOPLE WHO ARE CURRENTLY ABROAD (ON A TEMPORARY BASIS – UP TO 12 MONTHS), BUT OFFICIALLY REGISTERED ON THIS ADDRESS, ARE ALSO TO BE COUNTED.**

INSTRUCTION: PLEASE WRITE IN THE BOX!

- 1. Number of household members:
- 99. I don't know (don't read)
- 999. Refuses to answer (don't read)

**Q10. TYPE OF HOUSEHOLD:**

INSTRUCTION: ONLY ONE ANSWER!

- 1. Farmer's (the household lives only from farming)
- 2. Non-farmer's (if none of the members engages in agriculture)
- 3. Mixed (the household lives both from farming and non-farming activities)
- 99. I don't know (don't read)
- 999. Refuses to answer (don't read)

**Q11. HOW MANY MEMBERS IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD ARE CURRENTLY:**

INSTRUCTION: READ ALL THE OPTIONS! ONLY ONE ANSWER IN EACH ROW!

Employment status	None	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six	Seven	Eight +
<b>EMPLOYED</b>									
Employed	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+
Employer	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+
Self-employed	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+
<b>UNEMPLOYED</b>									
Unemployed	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+
Redundant worker	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+
<b>INACTIVE PERSONS</b>									
Pensioners	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+
Student/University student/child	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+

Unable to work	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+
Houseman/wife	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+
Other	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+

**Q12. HOW MANY MEMBERS OF THE PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED EMPLOYMENT STATUSES ARE MALE, AND HOW MANY ARE FEMALE?**

INSTRUCTION: FOR EACH EMPLOYMENT STATUS AS LISTED UNDER THE PREVIOUS QUESTION PLEASE ENCIRCLE HOW MANY ARE MALE, AND HOW MANY ARE FEMALE.

Employment status	Male										Female									
<b>EMPLOYED</b>																				
Employed	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+		
Employer	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+		
Self-employed	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+		
<b>UNEMPLOYED</b>																				
Unemployed	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+		
Redundant worker	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+		
<b>INACTIVE PERSONS</b>																				
Pensioners	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+		
Student/University student/child	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+		
Unable to work	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+		
Houseman/wife	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+		
Other	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+		

**C. LIVING STANDARD**

**Q13. HAVE YOU OR ANY OTHER MEMBER OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD RECEIVED ANY OF THE FOLLOWING TYPE OF INCOMES OVER THE PAST 12 MONTHS?**

INSTRUCTION: PLEASE READ ALL THE OPTIONS! For each element of the table please encircle if the respondent answered “yes” or “no”! Only one answer per row!

Income sources in the household:	Yes	No	I don't know (don't read)	Refuses to answer (don't read)
Incomes from regular employment	1	0	99	999
Incomes outside of regular employment	1	0	99	999
Incomes from pensions	1	0	99	999
Incomes from abroad	1	0	99	999
Incomes from farming	1	0	99	999
Incomes from property (lease, sale)	1	0	99	999
Loans	1	0	99	999
Assistance from children/parents/relatives	1	0	99	999
Incomes from social protection	1	0	99	999
Other income sources (please specify):				

**Q14. WHICH OF THE BUSINESS ACTIVITIES BELOW GENERATED INCOMES OUTSIDE REGULAR EMPLOYMENT OVER THE LAST 12 MONTHS?**

INSTRUCTION: PLEASE READ ALL THE OPTIONS! For each element of the table please encircle if the respondent answered “yes” or “no”! Only one answer per row! Answer Q14 ONLY IF the answer to Q13 is “yes”

Activities	Outside employment	
	Yes	No
Trade/resell	1	0
Construction	1	0
Load-unload-transport	1	0
Work at houses	1	0
Seasonal work	1	0
Other (please specify):		

**Q15. WHAT IS THE AMOUNT OF MONEY THAT YOUR HOUSEHOLD EARNED AS INCOME IN THE LAST MONTH?**

INSTRUCTION: DON'T READ. ONLY ONE ANSWER!

1. Up to 5.000 MKD
2. 5.001-10.000 MKD
3. 10.001-14.000 MKD
4. 14.001-18.000 MKD
5. 18.001-23.000 MKD
6. 23.001-30.000 MKD
7. Over 30.001 MKD
99. I don't know (don't read)
999. Refuses to answer (don't read)

**D. HEALTH AND NUTRITION**

**Q16. DO THE MEMBERS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAVE HEALTH INSURANCE?**

INSTRUCTION: PLEASE READ ALL THE OPTIONS! ONLY ONE ANSWER!

Health insurance of the members of the household:

1. Yes – they are all insured.
2. Partially – not all are insured.
3. Nobody is insured.
99. I don't know (don't read)
999. Refuses to answer (don't read)

**Q17. IN CASE OF AN ILLNESS (WITH THE EXCEPTION OF HOSPITALIZATION) MOST OFTEN:**

INSTRUCTION: READ ALL THE OPTIONS! ONLY ONE ANSWER!

1. I go to a public doctor and buy medicines on prescription.
2. I go to a public doctor and buy medicines privately.
3. I go to a private doctor.
4. I don't go to a doctor; I use alternative ways of treatment.
5. Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
99. I don't know (don't read)
999. Refuses to answer (don't read)

**Q18. HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE YOU TO GET TO THE CLOSEST HEALTH CENTRE FROM YOUR HOME?**

INSTRUCTION: READ ALL THE OPTIONS! ONLY ONE ANSWER!

1. Up to 15 minutes
2. 16 – 30 minutes
3. More than 30 minutes
4. There is no health centre on my settlement
99. I don't know (don't read)
999. Refuses to answer (don't read)

**Q19. HOW MANY TIMES A WEEK IS A HOT MEAL WITH MEAT USUALLY COOKED IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD?**

INSTRUCTION: DON'T READ! ONLY ONE ANSWER!

1. Not even once
2. Once
3. Twice
4. Three times
5. Four times
6. Five times
7. Six times
8. Every day (seven times a week)
99. I don't know (don't read)
999. Refuses to answer (don't read)

**Q20. AMONG THE SEVERAL ITEMS LISTED, PLEASE INDICATE UP TO 5 (MOST IMPORTANT ONES) THAT YOU LACK MONEY FOR?**

INSTRUCTION: Please read the list exhaustively. Only one answer per row is possible! Maximum five "1" in the column "Indicated", and for all the others encircle 0 in the column "Not indicated".

What do you lack money for the most (encircle five items?)	Indicated	Not indicated
Food and soft drinks	1	0
Alcoholic drinks and tobacco	1	0
Clothes and shoes	1	0
Housing, water, electricity, fuel	1	0
Household homeware and furniture	1	0
Hygiene and health (medicines, aids)	1	0
Traffic (transport, car)	1	0
Communications (telephone, Internet)	1	0
Recreation and culture (newspapers, books, travels, entertainment)	1	0
Education	1	0
Other (please specify)		

**E. EDUCATION**

**Q21. ARE THERE ANY SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD (AGED 6+)?**

INSTRUCTION: ONLY ONE ANSWER!

1. YES
2. NO >>>> GO TO Q27

**Q22. PLEASE INDICATE HOW MANY OF THEM ATTEND PRIMARY, SECONDARY OR HIGHER EDUCATION, AND HOW MANY DON'T?**

INSTRUCTION: WRITE THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN THE COLUMN AND INDICATE THE SUM UNDER "TOTAL CHILDREN"!

Type of education	Number of children (write down)	I don't know (don't read)	Refuses to answer (don't read)
In primary education		99	999
In secondary education		99	999
In higher education (University)		99	999
They have never been involved in the education process, despite being at school age (for primary or secondary school)		99	999
TOTAL children:			

ONLY IF the number of children in PRIMARY EDUCATION is indicated in Q22

**Q23. HOW FAR IS THE PRIMARY SCHOOL IN WHICH YOUR CHILDREN ARE STUDYING FROM YOUR HOME?**

INSTRUCTION: ONLY ONE ANSWER!

1. Up to 1 km
2. 1.01km - 2 km
3. 2.01 - 4 km
4. More than 4 km
99. I don't know (don't read)
999. Refuses to answer (don't read)

ONLY IF the number of children in PRIMARY AND/OR SECONDARY education is indicated in Q22

**Q24. HOW MANY OF THE CHILDREN ATTEND SCHOOL REGULARLY, IRREGULARLY OR NOT AT ALL (ONLY FOR CHILDREN IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION)?**

INSTRUCTION: ASK SEPARATELY FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION! WRITE DOWN THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN AND INDICATE THE SUM UNDER "TOTAL CHILDREN"!

Attendance	Children in primary education			Children in secondary education		
	Number of children (write down)	I don't know (don't read)	Refuses to answer (don't read)	Number of children (write down)	I don't know (don't read)	Refuses to answer (don't read)
Regular attendance		99	999			999
Irregular attendance		99	999		99	999
Stopped going to school		99	999		99	999
TOTAL children:						

ONLY IF it is stated in Q24 that the attendance is irregular or zero

**Q25. HOW MANY OF THE CHILDREN DO NOT ATTEND SCHOOL OR DO IT IRREGULARLY DUE TO SOME OF ONE OF THE FOLLOWING REASONS?**

INSTRUCTION: ASK SEPARATELY FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION! READ THE REASONS AND WRITE DOWN THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN THAT ATTEND SCHOOL IRREGULARLY OR NOT AT ALL, AND INDICATE THE SUM UNDER "TOTAL"!

REASONS	Children in primary education				Children in secondary education			
	Irregular attendance due to:	Doesn't attend due to:	I don't know (don't read)	Refuses to answer (don't read)	Irregular attendance due to:	Doesn't attend due to:	I don't know (don't read)	Refuses to answer (don't read)
Sickness			99	999			99	999
Seasonal work			99	999			99	999
Assist parents in securing their livelihood			99	999			99	999
Poverty (no clothes, no money)			99	999			99	999
Social misbehaviour			99	999			99	999
Tradition			99	999			99	999
Other (specify) _____			99	999			99	999
TOTAL								

ONLY IF it is indicated in Q22 that there are children involved in the educational process

**Q26. HAVE YOU USED OR ARE YOU USING NOW ANY OF THE FOLLOWING FORMS OF ASSISTANCE FOR EDUCATION?**

INSTRUCTION: Please read the items one after the other. Only one answer per row is possible!

Forms of assistance for education	Yes	No	I don't know (don't read)	Refuses to answer (don't read)
<b>Primary education</b>				
Free transport	1	0	99	999
Free snack	1	0	99	999
Fellowship	1	0	99	999
Credit	1	0	99	999
Enrolment in quotas	1	0	99	999
Other (please specify)				
<b>Secondary education</b>				
Free transport	1	0	99	999
Free snack	1	0	99	999
Fellowship	1	0	99	999
Credit	1	0	99	999
Enrolment in quotas	1	0	99	999
Other (please specify)				
<b>Високо образование</b>				
Free transport	1	0	99	999
Free snack	1	0	99	999
Fellowship	1	0	99	999
Credit	1	0	99	999
Enrolment in quotas	1	0	99	999
Other (please specify)				

**F. SOCIAL PROBLEMS AND SOCIAL PROTECTION**

**Q27. HAS YOUR FAMILY EVER BEEN FACED OR IS NOW FACING ANY OF THE SOCIAL PROBLEMS BELOW?**

INSTRUCTION: PLEASE READ THE ITEMS ONE AFTER THE OTHER. ONLY ONE ANSWER PER ROW IS POSSIBLE!

	Yes	No	I don't know (don't read)	Refuses to answer (don't read)
<b>Problems associated with the social development:</b>				
Unemployment	1	0	99	999
Poverty	1	0	99	999
Divorce	1	0	99	999
Conflicting family relations	1	0	99	999
Children without parents and parental care	1	0	99	999
Sickness	1	0	99	999
Disability	1	0	99	999
Domestic violence	1	0	99	999
Ethnic conflicts/wars	1	0	99	999
<b>Problems associated with deviant behaviour</b>				
Asocial behaviour (playing truant, brawls, wandering children)	1	0	99	999
Juvenile delinquency	1	0	99	999
Adult delinquency(gambling)	1	0	99	999
Adult delinquency (crime)	1	0	99	999
Alcoholism	1	0	99	999
Drug addiction	1	0	99	999

Prostitution	1	0	99	999
Wandering adults	1	0	99	999
Homicides/suicides	1	0	99	999
Problems associated with natural environmental processes:				
Fire	1	0	99	999
Flood	1	0	99	999
Drought	1	0	99	999
Earthquake	1	0	99	999
Other (specify)				

**Q28. HAS YOUR HOUSEHOLD EVER USED OR IS NOW USING ANY OF THE BELOW MENTIONED SOCIAL PROTECTION MEASURES?**

INSTRUCTION: Please read the items one after the other. Only one answer per row is possible!

Social protection measures	Yes	No	I don't know (don't read)	Refuses to answer (don't read)
<b>Extra-institutional care:</b>				
Information-giving, consultative, advisory and counselling work in the SWC	1	0	99	999
Providing the family with professional assistance to resolve marital disputes, family crises, and parent-child issues	1	0	99	999
Home care and assistance	1	0	99	999
Day centre	1	0	99	999
Placement in a foster family	1	0	99	999
Small group home	1	0	99	999
Independent living with support	1	0	99	999
<b>Institutional care:</b>				
Training for a job/production activity	1	0	99	999
Placement in a social care institution	1	0	99	999
<b>Social financial assistance:</b>				
Social financial assistance	1	0	99	999
Permanent financial assistance	1	0	99	999
Financial assistance provided to a person who had had a status of a child without parents and parental care up to the age of 18	1	0	99	999
Financial compensation for assistance and care by a different person	1	0	99	999
One-time financial assistance and assistance in kind	1	0	99	999
Compensation in addition to the salary for a part-time job for caring for a child with physical or mental disabilities	1	0	99	999
Financial assistance for social housing	1	0	99	999
<b>Child protection:</b>				
Child allowance	1	0	99	999
Special child allowance	1	0	99	999
One-time financial assistance for a newborn	1	0	99	999
Co-payment (kindergarten)	1	0	99	999
Parental allowance for a child	1	0	99	999
<b>We have received another type of financial or in-kind assistance from:</b>				
NGO	1	0	99	999
Municipality	1	0	99	999
Religious/humanitarian organizations	1	0	99	999
Private individuals	1	0	99	999
Other (specify)				

ONLY IF it was indicated in Q28 that they haven't used any social protection measure from the subgroup "Social financial assistance"

**Q29. WHY HAVEN'T YOU USED ANY SOCIAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE?**

INSTRUCTION: READ ALL THE OPTIONS! ONLY ONE ANSWER!

1. Because I was not informed
2. We were rejected
3. Our documentation was incomplete/not in order
4. Because of shame
5. We have no need for that
6. Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

ONLY IF it was indicated in Q28 that they haven't used any social protection measure from the subgroup "Child care"

**Q30. WHY HAVEN'T YOU USED ANY CHILD CARE?**

INSTRUCTION: READ ALL THE OPTIONS! ONLY ONE ANSWER!

1. Because I was not informed
2. We were rejected
3. Our documentation was incomplete/not in order
4. Because of shame
5. We have no need for that
6. Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

ONLY IF it was indicated in Q28 that they haven't used any social protection measure from the subgroups "Institutional care" and / or "Extra-institutional care"

**Q31. WHY HAVEN'T YOU USED ANY OTHER FORMS OF SOCIAL CARE (INSTITUTIONAL AND EXTRA-INSTITUTIONAL CARE)?**

INSTRUCTION: READ ALL THE OPTIONS! ONLY ONE ANSWER!

1. Because I was not informed
2. We were rejected
3. Our documentation was incomplete/not in order
4. Because of shame
5. We have no need for that
6. Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**G. SPORTS, ENTERTAINMENT, CULTURE**

**Q32. PLEASE TELL ME IF YOUR SETTLEMENT HAS ANY OF THE FOLLOWING FACILITIES?**

INSTRUCTION: PLEASE READ THE ITEMS ONE AFTER THE OTHER. ONLY ONE ANSWER PER ROW IS POSSIBLE!

	Yes	No	I don't know (don't read)	Refuses to answer (don't read)
Cinema	1	0	99	999
Theatre	1	0	99	999
Library	1	0	99	999
Sports ground	1	0	99	999
Swings	1	0	99	999

Restaurant	1	0	99	999
Markets	1	0	99	999
Internet cafe	1	0	99	999
Cafe	1	0	99	999
Sports betting shop	1	0	99	999

**Q33. DOES AT LEAST ONE MEMBER OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD USE THE INTERNET?**

INSTRUCTION: READ ALL THE OPTIONS! ONLY ONE ANSWER!

1. Yes, usually from the home computer
2. Yes, usually from an Internet cafe
3. Yes, usually from work
4. I don't use Internet
5. Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
99. I don't know (don't read)
999. Refuses to answer (don't read)

**H. HOUSING**

**Q34. HOW MANY ROOMS ARE THERE IN YOUR HOME (WITHOUT THE KITCHEN, WC OR BATHROOM)?**

INSTRUCTION: ONLY ONE ANSWER!

Number of rooms in the home:

1. Studio
2. One room
3. Two rooms
4. Three rooms
5. Four rooms
6. Bigger
99. I don't know
999. Refuses to answer (don't read)

**Q35. WHAT IS THE APPROXIMATE SIZE OF YOUR HOME (NOT INCLUDING BASEMENT, ATTIC, WORKSHOP, AND GARAGE)?**

INSTRUCTION: ONLY ONE ANSWER!

Home area

1. Up to 10 m<sup>2</sup>
2. 11-20 m<sup>2</sup>
3. 21-40 m<sup>2</sup>
4. 41-60 m<sup>2</sup>
5. 61-80 m<sup>2</sup>
6. 81-100 m<sup>2</sup>
7. Over 101 m<sup>2</sup>
99. I don't know (don't read)
999. Refuses to answer (don't read)

**Q36. DOES YOUR HOME HAVE:**

INSTRUCTION: PLEASE READ THE ITEMS ONE AFTER THE OTHER. ONE ANSWER PER ROW!

	Yes	No	Refuses to answer
<b>Latrine</b>			
WC in the yard	1	2	999
WC inside the home	1	2	999
WC with a bath inside the home	1	2	999
<b>Sewerage</b>			
None	1	2	999
Septic tank	1	2	999
City sewerage network	1	2	999
<b>Water supply</b>			
From another place (e.g. public fountain)	1	2	999
Tap in the yard	1	2	999
Tap inside the home	1	2	999

**Q37. HOW DO YOU HEAT YOUR HOME IN WINTER? PLEASE INDICATE THE MAJOR SOURCE OF ENERGY THAT YOU ARE USING?**

INSTRUCTION: ONLY ONE ANSWER!

1. Central heating
2. One's own steam heating
3. Heating with an electric stove
4. Heating with a solid fuel stove
5. Heating with a liquid fuel stove
6. Other (specify)\_\_\_\_\_
99. I don't know (don't read)
999. Refuses to answer (don't read)

**Q38. HOW MANY ROOMS IN YOUR HOME ARE HEATED?**

INSTRUCTION: ONLY ONE ANSWER!

1. One
2. Two
3. Three
4. Four and more
99. I don't know (don't read)
999. Refuses to answer (don't read)

**Q39. WHICH KIND OF CLOTHES DOES YOUR HOUSEHOLD LACK THE MOST?**

INSTRUCTION: READ ALL THE OPTIONS! ONLY ONE ANSWER!

1. Shoes
2. Summer clothes
3. Winter clothes (jackets, sweaters)
4. Festive attire
5. Underwear
6. The household does not lack any clothes
7. Other (specify)\_\_\_\_\_
99. I don't know (don't read)
999. Refuses to answer (don't read)

**Q40. I WILL READ OUT SOME HOME APPLIANCES THAT A FAMILY CAN HAVE. PLEASE TELL ME IF YOUR FAMILY:**

1. Owns the respective appliance,
2. Doesn't own it because you don't need it, or
3. Doesn't have it because you can't afford it?

INSTRUCTION: Please read the items one after the other. Only one answer per row is possible!

Home appliances	The household has it	The household doesn't need it	The household can't afford it	Refuses to answer (don't read)
Solid fuel cooker	1	2	3	999
Electric cooker	1	2	3	999
Oven	1	2	3	999
Boiler	1	2	3	999
Refrigerator	1	2	3	999
Deep freezer	1	2	3	999
Washing machine	1	2	3	999
Dish washer	1	2	3	999
Vacuum cleaner	1	2	3	999
Air conditioner	1	2	3	999
Radio/record player/tape recorder	1	2	3	999
TV set	1	2	3	999
Video camera	1	2	3	999
Video recorder/DVD	1	2	3	999
Camera	1	2	3	999
Computer	1	2	3	999
Telephone	1	2	3	999
Mobile phone	1	2	3	999
Bicycle	1	2	3	999
Motorcycle	1	2	3	999
Car	1	2	3	999
Tractor/agricultural machinery	1	2	3	999

FILL THIS IN AFTER YOU HAVE LEFT THE HOME!!!

**Q41. TYPE OF CONSTRUCTION:**

INSTRUCTION: ONLY ONE ANSWER!

1. Improvised construction
2. Dilapidated/prefabricated building
3. Solid construction
4. Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

