



**Funded by
the European Union**

Project: "Further Development of Civil Dialogue between Serbia and Kosovo"

Workshop in Senta, December 20, 2025

Topic 1: Maximizing the Application of Public Policy Measures Supporting Increased Birth Rates

Goal: By introducing a responsible budget, find a measure that will effectively connect efforts for economic empowerment of women and the need for increased birth rates. Improve and innovate maternity protection services and childcare and family support services. Plan and maintain long-term support for young couples.

Opportunities - Local Budget Readiness in Implementing Public Policies for Increasing Birth Rates

- The Senta municipal budget does not allocate special funds directly supporting pro-natalist policies or the economic emancipation of women.
- Pro-natalist public measures are implemented through national-level mechanisms.
- Economic empowerment incentives for women are provided through the Prosperitat program and other domestic and international targeted funds.
- In response to unfavorable demographic trends, the municipal budget partially covers the costs for families with children in primary and secondary education, as well as providing high school and student scholarships.
- Investment in childcare and family services improves and raises the quality of social care for children and families.

Value Chain

- Registered employment shows a high degree of gender balance in the municipality of Senta.
- Women make up a quarter of the total registered agricultural households, which is significantly above the Serbian average.
- More than half of the families in the municipality of Senta have only one child.
- Social care for preschool children is emphasized in urban areas through a high coverage rate.
- In rural areas, the coverage of social care for children is low.
- The municipal assembly has decided that preschool attendance will be completely free of charge for the next two years.
- The action of supporting young people through free houses in rural areas has mostly involved members of marginalized groups who find it difficult to integrate into society.

Process Management

- The municipal budget in 2025 will be gender-responsive.
- Logistical support for the economic emancipation of women is primarily articulated through cooperation with the Office for Local Economic Development and the Regional Development Agency PanonReg.
- A significant portion of support for women is provided through donations from the Prosperitat organization (established by the Government of Hungary), which local government has limited influence over.

Challenges and Limitations

- Unfavorable demographic trends in the local community include low birth rates, rapid increases in the elderly population (over 65 years old), and pronounced migration.
- Most measures taken to mitigate these challenges fall outside the scope of local government responsibilities.
- The socio-economic development of the municipality of Senta has been in decline for decades, limiting its capacity to undertake more radical actions within its jurisdiction.
- Global security and economic-political situations, as well as rapid technological changes, impact the overall state of local communities.
- No indication of innovative approaches in social care for children and family support.

Sustainability

- The Senta local government defines its 2025 budget as gender-responsive. This is a significant step in focusing attention on women's economic emancipation and introducing an innovative approach to motherhood and family support.

Social Cohesion

- In the municipality of Senta, women constitute a significant proportion of the total population.
- Women represent 49% of the total workforce. A notable number of women hold leadership positions in local government and the public sector.
- A quarter of individual agricultural households are headed by women.
- The female population has a high level of education.

Recommendation

Women's emancipation, maternity protection, and family support require continuous institutional commitment to achieving planned goals. To implement a gender-responsive budget and allocate more funds from the local budget to address women's issues, synchronization between the national budget planning and local community budgets is essential.

Topic 2: Persisting with Measures in the Municipality Development Plan 2022-2030 to Mitigate Migration

Goal: Provide long-term support to young entrepreneurs through mentorship programs and strategically direct vocational education by opening specialized schools or centers to ensure a qualified and well-paid workforce needed in modern technological times.

Local Budget Opportunities

- The realization of the goals in the current Municipality Development Plan is threatened by the global and regional situation.
- Mitigating migration is not defined as a specific goal in the development plan.
- The development plan prioritizes the localization of sustainable development goals, which involves clearly defining local measures contributing to achieving primary sustainable development goals.
- The local budget does not allocate special funds exclusively aimed at mitigating migration processes.

Value Chain

- In the municipality of Senta, young people make up 14% of the population, which is below the Serbian average.
- The municipal budget allocates targeted scholarships for industries in demand in the local economy, as well as scholarships for studying.
- The local budget does not allocate specific funds to support young entrepreneurs.
- About 5% of the local budget is allocated for youth sports and recreation.
- Financial support for young entrepreneurs is realized through domestic and international funds.

Process Management

- The Municipality Assembly of Senta has established a Youth Council.
- The Youth Office functions within the office of the mayor.
- Its task is to collect, analyze, and consolidate data on youth, collaborate with and support organizations and associations working with youth.
- Key measures that could significantly improve the position of young people are not within the local government's jurisdiction.
- The municipality has four high schools. The profiles offered are competitive in the labor market, and there is no need for new profiles.
- In cases of special requirements or shortages of certain profiles, scholarships are offered through the municipal budget.

Challenges and Limitations

- Over the past two decades, businesses that were key to the municipality's development have shut down.
- This has reduced the potential for opening new jobs.

- The proximity of Hungary, with specific measures (liberalizing passport issuance and allowing dual citizenship for Serbian citizens), has caused excess labor to flow into Hungary and other European countries.
- In the past decade, this has led to a shortage of labor in the municipality.

Recommendation

- Reassess the planned development goals for the municipality of Senta for 2022-2030, particularly regarding youth migration.
- Establish an open social dialogue on mitigating migration processes.
- Search for models that decentralize the application of measures for global migration issues (causes and consequences in specific regions) and, as much as possible, address this problem at the micro level of each local community.



Funded by
the European Union

'Project "Further Development of Civil Dialogue between Serbia and Kosovo" Contract nr.
2022/441-357 Supported by European Commission European Union Office in Kosovo

PODRŠKA AKTIVNOSTIMA IZABRANIH OPŠTINA KOJE DOPRINOSE AKTIVNOM
ANGAŽMANU MLADIH ŽENA I NACIONALNIH MANJINA
SASTANAK FOKUS GRUPE

Senta, 20. decembra 2024.

IME I PREZIME	ORGANIZACIJA	EMAIL/PHONE	POTPIS
Aleksandar Popov	Center za regionalnu	063 537 149	[Signature]
Telena Perović	Centar za regionalnu	063 525 017	[Signature]
Jovanica Jovanović	Demokratska zajednica	jovanica.opinovic @senta-skuto.co.rs	[Signature]
[Signature]	- II -		[Signature]
APARNA PRAONIN	- II -	aparna.praonin@ senta-skuto.co.rs	[Signature]
LIVIA KOPAS MESAROS	- II -		[Signature]
DEZE KECKES	OPŠTINA U P PANA	064 872 5317	[Signature]
EDIT ŠARNAJA ROZA	- II -	r. edit@sentaskuto.co.rs 064 872 5412	[Signature]



Implemented by:



Shoqata Humanitare Bamirëse e Kosovës "Nëna Tereze"
The Kosova Humanitarian and Charitable Society "Mother Tereza"
Humanitarno Dobrotvorno Udruzenje Kosova "Majka Tereza"

38400 Prishtinë Rr. Agim Ramadani pn. Tel:00381 38 542 864, Fax:542 869,
Web site: www.nenatereze.org e_mail: ntereze@yahoo.com



Centar za regionalizam
Center for regionalism