

Evidence-based policies for improving access to housing

**Doris Andoni, Director of Housing Department
Ministry of Finance and Economy**

**Presentation at the Workshop: Evidence-based policies to achieve
Sustainable Development Goals**

Kiev, 30 January, 2019

Evidence-based policies to improve access to housing

- Content:
 - Why evidence-based policies
 - How evidence-based policies is understood by the Albanian stakeholders
 - The use of evidences for policy making – the case of Roma
 - What next?

Why evidence-based policies?

Individuals

- When we buy a home we know:
 - what we need
 - where we need
 - when we need
 - what we can afford

Governments

- When governments develop a housing policy they don't know:
 - who are the people (target groups)
 - what do they need (what tenure)
 - where do they need (location)
 - what they can afford (subsidies)

Why evidence-based policies?

- Evidences - to avoid political motivation
- Evidences - for government to operate effectively and efficiently
- Evidence – to feed the decision-making process (rather than be collected afterwards to validate decisions taken)

How much the evidence is known and used by the Albanian policy-makers?

- A study focused on the approach and obstacles faced by officials for using the evidence in policy making (Dauti and Kurti, 2016 – **not to be cited**):
 - How evidence is understood by public employees;
 - Relying on evidence;
 - Access to evidence;
 - Collaboration with universities and research institutes;
 - Organizational culture and cooperation;
 - Political environment;
 - Capacities

How “evidence” is understood?

- Knowledge about the evidence varies:
 - Common understanding is that the evidence is closely related to the data;
 - Data may be collected for a purpose or they may exist
- Perspectives on how the evidence is produced differ:
 - The information that is collected on the blog is evidence;
 - Evidence consists of data based on studies;
 - Evidence implies that the basis of evidence is scientific

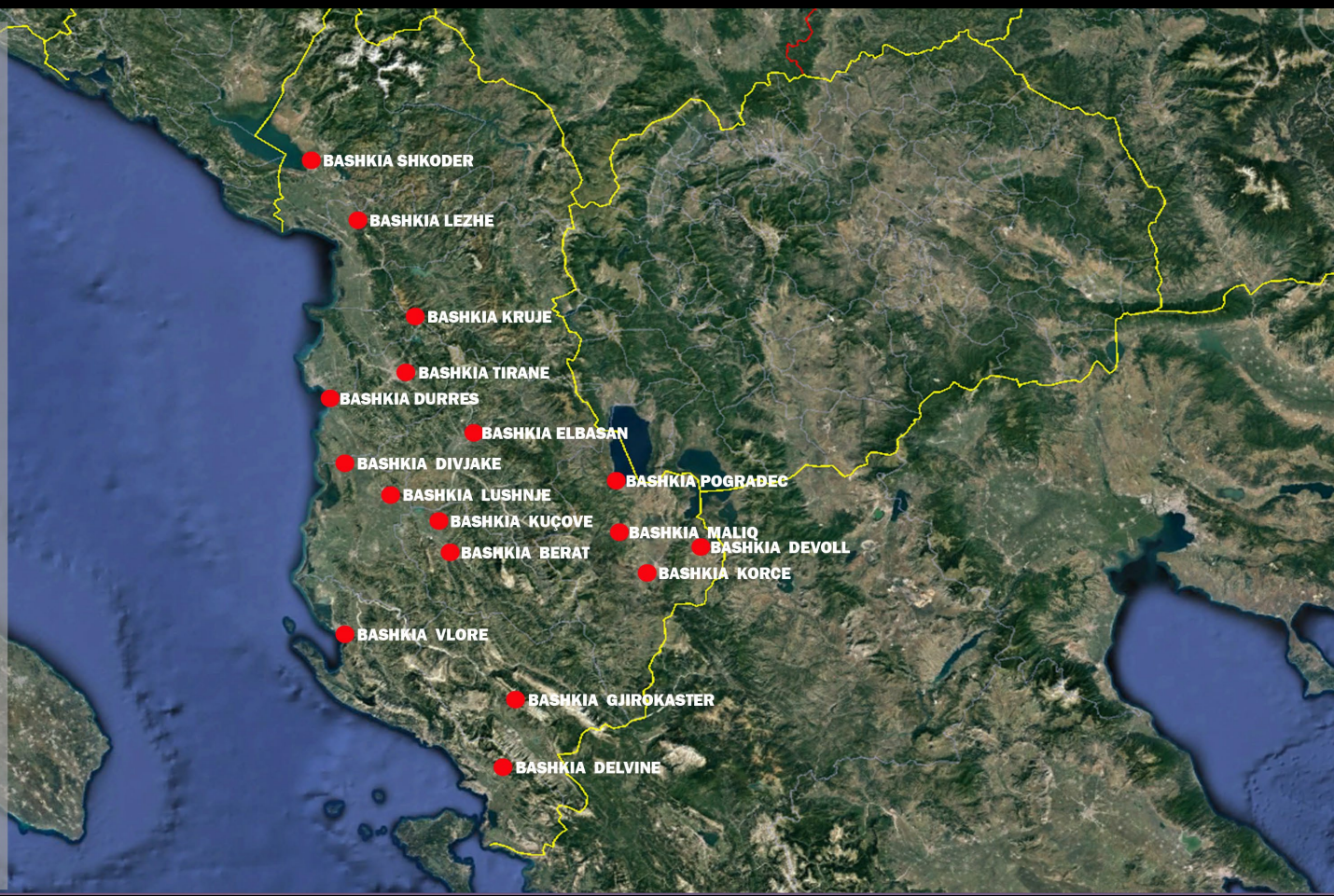
Understanding evidence

- Evidences includes data, but are not just data;
- Data shows where the problems are, but they don't show the origin of the problem neither how to cure them;
- Evidences should integrate data with studies and research;

The importance of evidence for efficient and effective policy – case of Roma minority

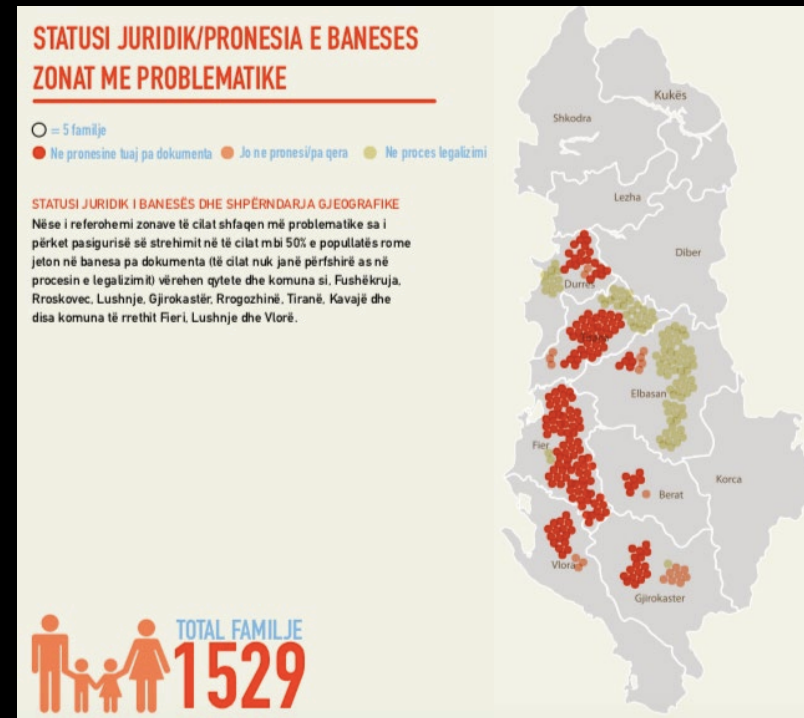
LEGJENDA

- BASHKIA SHKODER
FAMILJE ROME 106
FAMILJE EGJIPTIANE 316
- BASHKIA LEZHE
FAMILJE ROME 300
FAMILJE EGJIPTIANE -
- BASHKIA KRUIJE
FAMILJE ROME 140
FAMILJE EGJIPTIANE 100
- BASHKIA TIRANE
FAMILJE ROME 200
FAMILJE EGJIPTIANE 67
- BASHKIA DURRES
FAMILJE ROME 350
FAMILJE EGJIPTIANE 115
- BASHKIA ELBASAN
FAMILJE ROME 210
FAMILJE EGJIPTIANE 800
- BASHKIA POGRADEC
FAMILJE ROME 116
FAMILJE EGJIPTIANE 235
- BASHKIA MALIQ
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FAMILJE EGJIPTIANE 235
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FAMILJE EGJIPTIANE 25
- BASHKIA BERAT
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- BASHKIA DIVJAKE
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FAMILJE EGJIPTIANE 38
- BASHKIA KUÇOVE
FAMILJE ROME 138
FAMILJE EGJIPTIANE 68
- BASHKIA LUSHNJE
FAMILJE ROME 65
FAMILJE EGJIPTIANE 380
- BASHKIA VLORE
FAMILJE ROME 118
FAMILJE EGJIPTIANE 450
- BASHKIA GJIROKASTER
FAMILJE ROME 150
FAMILJE EGJIPTIANE 4
- BASHKIA DELVINE
FAMILJE ROME 78
FAMILJE EGJIPTIANE 63



The importance of evidence for efficient and effective policy – case of Roma minority

- 2012 - UNDP:
 - A Needs Assessment Study on Roma and Egyptian Communities in Albania
 - Housing Policies and Practice for Roma in Albania
- 2014 SOROS Foundation: Census on Roma population and housing
- 2016 – UNDP: Investments needs assessment for Roma and Egyptian settlements' improvements
- GoA – National Action Plan for Roma and Egyptian integration
- ROMACTED – CoE and ROMALB - UNDP



Evidence generated

- Concentration of Roma population;
- Housing conditions and need for improvements;
- Access to infrastructure and services;
- Level of education;
- Employment/unemployment;
- Income and income generation
- Family composition, number of children, elderly, health problems

Results



- Extended projects
“Improving the living conditions of poor and marginalized groups”



- Housing and employment of residents in construction works

Next steps: Establish an on-line system of application for housing

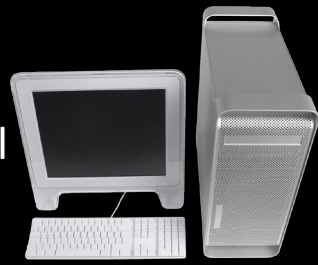
Advantages

- One-stop shop – shorten the time for applicants;
- Generates information in real time;
- Reduces bureaucracy in communication;
- Avoid mistakes.

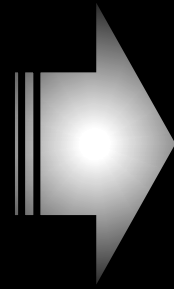
Challenges

- Needs maintenance and management;
- Requires continuity of staff and work;
- Requires good quality of internet connection and back-up system for protecting data.

Central server
Generates real
time evidence



- Social Categories
- Housing program applied
- Income
- Housing conditions



**National
policies**

Cadastral
Office

Social
service

Employment
office

Municipality 1

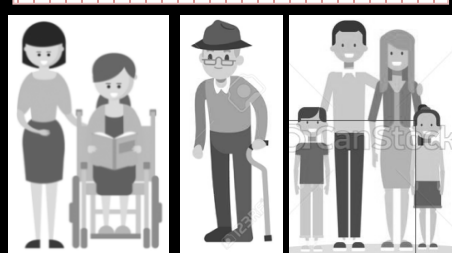
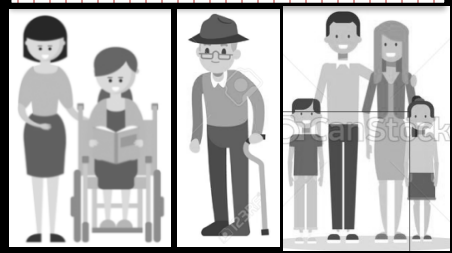
Municipality n



**Local
policies**

Apply on-line

Apply on-line



Unified software for
on-line application in
each municipality

How to generate evidences

Data generated by the system

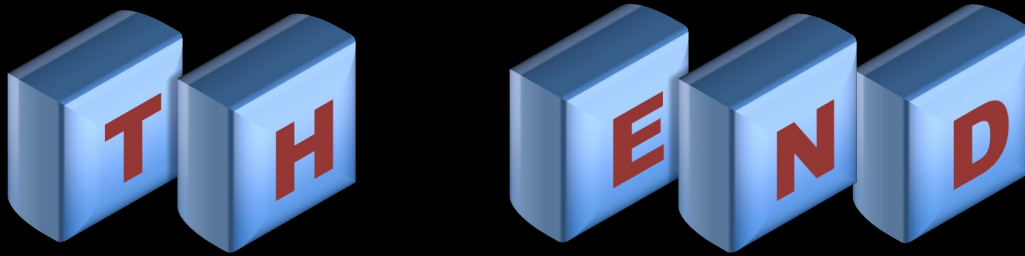
- **Social Categories:**
 - Disabled, orphans, divorced persons with children, violated woman, Roma, etc.;
- **Housing conditions:**
 - uninhabited premises, unhealthy houses, overcrowding, etc.;
- **Income** – medium, low, very low, with social assistance;
- **Family conditions:**
 - big family, family with many children, elderly, new couple, etc.;
- **Type of program applied:**
 - Social Housing;
 - Low-cost housing;
 - land for housing;
 - Specialized housing

Missing data

- Land available;
- Location;
- Availability of empty homes;

- Housing market availability and prices
- Rental market availability and prices;
- Trends in prices
- Average income for the city

THIS IS ...



Thank you for your attention!

Any question?

My question:

Do you have example on market
housing data collection ?