



NVO MLADI ROMI



UNIONI RROM KORÇE



Tool Kit

Lobbying and advocacy tools

Funding opportunities for
Western Balkans Roma CSOs



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Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

ERASMUS + project

“Roaming – Capacity Building of Roma Organization’s on EU Funding and Partnership Building”
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1. ABOUT THE PROJECT “ROAMING - CAPACITY BUILDING OF ROMA ORGANIZATION’S ON EU FUNDING AND PARTNERSHIP BUILDING”, CO-FINANCED BY ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME OF THE EU

Project idea was built on the need to develop the capacity of Roma CSOs from Western Balkan countries to more effectively utilize EU funding and in that way build their commitment in bringing more European perspective to the local Roma communities, through quality advocacy initiatives. The project aimed to strengthen the capacity of CSOs in Western Balkan to support the EU reforms, advocate for EU integration and become a watchdog for the EU policies related to Roma inclusion matters.

Project team realized that the Roma Civil Society Organizations in Western Balkan do not have sufficient knowledge on available EU funding that could help them address local, national and regional challenges their constituency is facing. Moreover, they do not possess the required capacity to apply and manage such funds. European Commission and number of other intergovernmental and international organizations are often expressing concerns over the disadvantages and difficult living conditions of Roma population, but Roma CSO’s as the most experienced and needed partners do not initiate strategic partnerships, do not apply for EU funds and do not make use of available funding.

Having this as a starting point, project team designed the project *“Roaming – Capacity Building of Roma Organization’s on EU Funding and Partnership Building”* to set up a facilitating structure for (pro) Roma civil society to actively participate in the local and national policy and decision making process and establish a constructive and systematic dialogue with authorities and Roma NGOs/CBOs to influence policies on Roma integration, social inclusion, non-discrimination, inter-ethnic dialogue, socio-economic development and citizens’ rights.

Specific Objectives of the project were:

- 1) to strengthen the professional capacity, legitimacy and accountability of (pro) Roma NGOs and enhance a long-term strategic organisational planning,
- 2) to strengthen the capacity of (pro) Roma organisations to jointly establish a constructive and systematic dialogue with authorities and to keep governments accountable in the policy decision-making and implementation processes,
- 3) to build the confidence, knowledge, skills and leadership of young Roma citizens and Roma grassroots groups to advocate for structural changes in the local public sector by creating strategic partnerships with other CSO actors, local institutions, municipalities and policy makers,
- 4) to foster regular networking of (pro) Roma CSOs at regional and EU level and facilitate the exchange of knowledge, skills and connections, and increasing and widening their impact in campaigning and advocacy.

Through the project realisation following results were reached:

- Improved professional capacity, legitimacy and accountability of the CSOs that give a valuable contribution to the policy and decision making process and overall reform process.
- Improved dialogue with local and national authorities and established partnerships.
- Functioning networks of (pro) Roma CSOs at regional and EU level that proactively advocate and collaborate with other actors, convey joint activities and mutual learning;
- Raised awareness about the reasons for social exclusion of Roma and ‘pathways’ out of exclusion
- Created strategic partnerships with local institutions, municipalities and policy makers;
- Active participation in the ERGO network and benefit from the cooperation, networking and exchange with its members and its European network of stakeholders.

The main target groups of “Roaming” were CSOs active in “SIMURGH” Roma Network - a highly qualified informal platform, established to empower Roma CSOs and advocate for increased employment opportunities, promote innovative tools for comprehensive fight against anti-Gypsyism, challenge leadership concepts in the Roma communities and openly discuss Roma migrations in Europe. The beneficiaries of this project were Roma civil society organizations from Western Balkan that developed needed capacities throughout this process. from Western Balkan that developed needed capacities throughout this process.

2. PURPOSE OF THE TOOL KIT

Publication in front of you is a booklet that can be used as a toolkit covering the following areas:

- Western Balkans Roma and EU projects strategies with concrete funding opportunities and advices;
- EU lobby guide for Western Balkans Roma CSOs;
- Tips from the Roma Youth for improving Roma CSOs efforts when advocating for Roma Inclusion in Western Balkans;

It will be combination of practical tips and unique practices from the project, including lessons learnt from advocacy initiatives and the thematic plans for advocacy. It will be published in 500 copies in English and translated to the local languages.

3. ABOUT THE CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING

The training course was organised under the project Roaming with the aim to develop the competences of participants in EU funding mechanisms including Erasmus+, IPA and EIDHR. The programme included project management cycle, financial management with focus on application procedures, priorities, partnership development, how to build bridge between your national problem and EU funding, and other important aspects of European Funding and support mechanisms. The training, also, included one day training in EU advocacy and lobbying in order to strengthen the partner's ability to advocate about important Roma matters in policy debates.

There was specific emphasis on the links between European Union and civil society, as well as the mechanisms behind EU legislatives and budgetary procedures. The expectation was that participants will at the end of this part be able to prepare one-page advocacy paper on a given local/national Roma issue and propose advocacy action.

The training was composed of 90 minute sessions, four sessions a day plus activities after dinner as envisaged in the original agenda. Trainers with extensive experience in the field of EU funding, Roma Advocacy, EU Integration and Capacity Development delivered the envisaged sessions.

Non-formal education was used as a key methodology in this training. The work focused to imply learning trough providing experts input, sharing experiences, joint work, group work and discussions. Trainers used presentations, elaboration of concepts, introductions, written materials as articles and illustrations and case studies. The Active methods used contained simulations of given situations, working in groups, panel discussions, tips & tricks and energizers.

The training was designed to boost participant knowledge, increase understanding and improve skills.

Selecting priority problem its causes and the consequences was the first step towards designing responses towards problem solutions.

Throughout following paragraphs, main challenges Roma community is facing in mentioned countries are given in a form of short overview of countries reports on Roma integration processes.



4. MOBILITY IN BRUSSELS



Six CSO representatives had the opportunity for the 4 weeks internships in Brussels designed to assist Roma Civil Society Organizations from Western Balkan to better understand how the EU funds, the European Civil Society, the EU structures and the EU Parliament functions. The main objective was to build cooperation between Roma CSOs from Western Balkan and number of relevant European umbrellas, and stimulate European representation of Roma.

The mobility was organized in couple of phases and the interns had 4 weeks full with activities and learning opportunities:

- 1st week – Introduction and getting to know each other, Introduction to topics such as advocacy, lobbying towards international organizations and institutions
- 2nd week – Visit and networking with International organizations
- 3rd week – Visits and advocacy towards international institutions
- 4th week – Closing and preparation of future plans



List of organizations/institutions relevant for civil society organizations participating Mobility in Brussels that could be used as a resource for other CSOs

Organisation	Info	Comment
EPA	European Projects Association (EPA) is politically independent nonprofit organization focused on research and development, innovation and internationalization. The use of innovative information and communication technologies is a distinctive characteristic of this leading cooperation network dedicated to the European projects stakeholders.	https://europeanprojects.org info@europeanprojects.org
ENAR	ENAR (European Network Against Racism) is the only pan-European anti-racism network that combines advocacy for racial equality and facilitating cooperation among civil society anti-racism actors in Europe. The organisation was set up in 1998 by grassroots activists on a mission to achieve legal changes at European level and make decisive progress towards racial equality in all EU Member States. Since then, ENAR has grown and achieved a great deal.	info@enar-eu.org
YEU	Youth for Exchange and Understanding (YEU) was founded in Strasbourg in 1986 by a group of 120 young people from 11 different countries. In 1989 we were recognized as a member association of the European Coordination Bureau (E.C.B.). Today we are a member of the European Youth Forum, which is the independent platform for INGYOs and NYCs in Europe. We have young people from over 30 countries from across Europe and Africa involved in our activities. As an international network, we are the representative body of our members in contacts with the institutions and partners in the youth field.	info@yeu-international.org
YFJ	The European Youth Forum (YFJ) is the platform of youth organisations in Europe. Representing 100 youth organisations, both National Youth Councils and International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations, we believe youth organisations are the tool through which we empower, encourage, involve, represent, reach out and support young people. The Youth Forum brings together tens of millions of young people from all over Europe, organised in order to represent their common interests.	youthforum@youthforum.org

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ERGO Network - office Brussels Rue d'Edimbourg 26	EUROPEAN ROMA GRASSROOTS ORGANISATIONS NETWORK (ERGO) ERGO Network is a young and dynamic organisation established in 2008 by a small group of NGOs who shared the observation that everyday realities of Roma communities were hardly taken into account in policy development and implementation. Founded on a shared philosophy of active citizenship, shared responsibility and grassroots empowerment, ERGO Network members aim to convince policy makers that positive change for Roma is possible when antigypsyism is recognized and tackled as root cause of the inequality they face and when the preconditions are in place for Roma to take part in civic life as equal stakeholders	http://www.ergonetwork.org/ergo-network/who-we-are/
ERIO'S SECRETARIAT Address: Aven ue Edouard Lacomblé 17, 2nd floor, 1040 Brussels, Belgium Phone: +32 (2) 733 34 62	The European Roma Information Office (ERIO) was founded in 2003 as a non-profit organisation under Belgian law, working with an international and European scope. In spite of the role that we play in the advocacy of Roma rights at the European level, we do not seek to replace any other Roma organisations. As an informational platform, ERIO ensures that EU and governmental officials hear the voices of all European Roma. Our work currently focuses on anti-discrimination policies in the fields of education, employment, healthcare and housing.	http://erionet.eu/belgiumoffice@erionet.eu
The International Federation of Human Rights Leagues	FIDH (International Federation for Human Rights) is an international human rights NGO federating 184 organizations from 112 countries. Since 1922, FIDH has been defending all civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. For FIDH, transforming societies relies on the work of local actors. Therefore, FIDH's activities aim to reinforce their capacities and their influence. It acts at national, regional and international levels in support of its member and partner organisations to address human rights abuses and consolidate democratic processes. Its work is directed at States and those in power, such as armed opposition groups and multinational corporations. Its primary beneficiaries are national human rights organisations who are members of FIDH, and through them, the victims of human rights violations. FIDH also cooperates with other local partner organisations and actors of change.	https://www.fidh.org/en/about-us/contact-1776/
FEMYSO (Forum of European Muslim Youth and Student Organisations)	Our vision is to enable each member organisation to achieve their full potential within European society and thus contribute to the development of a diverse, cohesive and prosperous Europe. Our mission is to facilitate development, networking and cooperation between European Muslim youth and student organisations and to	http://www.femyso.org http://www.femyso.org/contact

	be their representative voice within all European institutions.	
Rom en Rom ASBL	During its General Assembly in Bulgaria in November 2012, ternYpe decided to establish a joint international training plan, which contributes to the work of the member organizations, to the annual priorities of ternYpe, to the development of the network identity, the capacity-building of young activists, youth leaders, trainers and facilitators. The ternYpe European Youth Campaign stands up for mutual respect and responsibility of ALL in ONE society. We stand up against extremism, antigypsyism, racism, stigmatization and discrimination in Europe.	https://data.be/fr/societe/Rom-En-Rom-ASBL-0848260743 https://www.facebook.com/rom.enrom
EU-COE Partnership	The EU-CoE youth partnership stems from the close relations that the Council of Europe and the European Commission have developed in the youth field.	
European Commission	The European Commission is the EU's politically independent executive arm. It is alone responsible for drawing up proposals for new European legislation.	
European Parliament	The official website of the European Parliament, the directly elected legislative body of the European Union. Role: Directly-elected EU body with legislative, supervisory, and budgetary responsibilities; Members: 751 MEPs (Members of the European Parliament)	
Council of Europe (office Brussels)	The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It includes 47 member states, 28 of which are members of the European Union.	

5. NATIONAL REALITIES - MAIN CHALLENGES ROMA ARE FACING

• Bosnia and Herzegovina

Roma are the largest national minority in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Moreover, according to available data collected during the process of recording Roma needs and other research, Roma are the most endangered minority according to all social the parameters that measure and determine the status of any community or social group. Out of all the national minorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina no national minority is in a social position which is by its weight and difficulty similar to the position of the Roma minority. Roma are present throughout almost the entire territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, more specifically 71 municipalities.

The social exclusion of the Roma population is primarily reflected in the fact that both individuals and entire communities are socially marginalized and therefore prevented from participating according to their full capacity in economic, social and cultural trends; this is primarily the result of poverty and/ or a lack of basic knowledge and education and employment opportunities.

This position of individual Roma and/or this minority group alienates Roma in terms of educational and employment opportunities and hence restricts their ability to generate revenue. It is for this reason that many members of the Roma national community are excluded and do not participate in social networks or other community activities.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has accepted The Decade of Roma as a practical model for the development of appropriate standards and methodologies, for establishing cooperation between states, international organizations and institutions in the fight against poverty faced by the Roma population and for addressing their exclusion and discrimination within the regional framework.

On the basis of the content of the Strategy of Bosnia and Herzegovina for Addressing Roma Issues and the goals of the Decade of Roma as well as taking into account the fact that Roma in BiH are the most endangered community, according to all socioeconomic parameters, in 2008 the Council of Ministers of BiH adopted the Action Plan of BiH for Addressing Roma Issues in the Field of Employment, Housing and Healthcare.

The research findings revealed that ethnic minorities in BiH are discriminated against on several grounds. The position of the Romani people is particularly worrisome. In addition to various forms of discrimination, the occurrence of hate-motivated incidents is not uncommon. Law enforcement and prosecution agencies, and courts in Bosnia and Herzegovina do not take appropriate measures to identify hate motivation and treat these instances as hate crimes. Bosnia and Herzegovina has a long way ahead before it succeeds in ensuring respects for the rights of ethnic minorities and creating conditions for their equal status in society.

The existing data show numerous problems regarding the safety of Roma people. The Roma population is marginalized, unemployed and socially excluded, which should be taken as a contributing factor to their exposure to safety risks. This is particularly relevant to living in poor housing conditions that often do not meet even the basic safety criteria and where the risk of fire or flood is much higher than in residential units that meet safety criteria. There are also other illegal activities in which Roma people are often forced to participate in order to survive, due mainly to their high unemployment rate. As result they are frequently exposed to verbal abuse and physical attacks. When their property is destroyed, perpetrators are never brought to justice. Violence against women in Bosnia and Herzegovina, particularly in the form of domestic violence, is a huge problem, as well as human trafficking for forced labor exploitation and the trafficking of children for labor exploitation by use of forced begging.

• Serbia

Key issues of social inclusion of Roma in Serbia are the lack of education and unemployment. Beyond economic suffering, Serbia's Roma people bear disproportionate burdens because of the stigma their identity carries.

Serbia is a country of 7,310,555 people, many of whom live in difficult economic circumstances – but none more so than the Roma minority.

About a quarter of all Serbians are unemployed, but for Roma the jobless rate is over 60%.

Nearly two-thirds of Roma live in settlements lacking safe drinking water and more than three-quarters live without any sewage system. One in four Roma even lacks access to electricity.

More than half of Roma people are not educated compared to a fifth of non-Roma Serbians, and one-fifth of Roma children have only attended pre-school. Of all of the Roma children who enroll in primary school, between 70% and 90% drop out at some point. Social discrimination and family financial difficulties hinder Roma children, as do strict school policies and lack of academic support. Serbian authorities tout education as the key to economic advancement for the Roma, but only 8% of Roma people complete high school or the equivalent, and less than one percent attain college degrees.

Amid all of the severe deprivations Roma face in Serbia, Roma women and girls are the most vulnerable. Today in Serbia, almost all Roma women are jobless and 80% are functionally illiterate. Social deprivation of Roma is not characteristic for Serbia alone. In almost all European countries there is a problem of social deprivation, discrimination and marginalization of Roma. The European Union has initiated a recommendation for all the countries of Europe to formulate specific national strategies for Roma integration. After the Roma Decade (2005) and in line with the goals of social inclusion of Roma an „EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies1“(NRIS) was formulated. As its integral part, four key areas were defined in which the progress should be achieved with the purpose of improvement of Roma inclusion: education, employment, housing and health care. When it comes to Serbia, in the National Strategy for Roma Inclusion 2 it has been emphasized that over 60% of Roma in Serbia lives in poverty.

There are two key factors which are generators of social deprivation of Roma and those are the low level of education and unemployment. These two problems are strongly correlated; hence, a low level of education is one of the key impediments to employment. It has also been pointed out that there is institutional discrimination towards Roma in terms of employment. National Employment Service does not have the accurate data on the percentage of unemployed Roma. It has been pointed out that the National Employment Action Plan within the Roma Decade has not been systematically implemented. This is the reason why Roma are mostly engaged in the grey economy.

It is stated in the Strategy that the two key reasons of Roma social deprivation are: low level of education and skills, and discrimination that exists by the majority. One of the key priorities identified by the Strategy is the “integration and reintegration of Roma within the labour market”. Achievement of this objective is encouraged in several ways, one of which is the self-employment of Roma. Thereby, it is insisted in the Strategy that any employment program should include an educational component in order to help strengthening the capacities of Roma in terms of education and professional qualifications.

Social inclusion of Roma is an integral part of the agenda of all the EU countries, and the inclusion problems are similar in almost all of them.

• Albania

Roma face direct and indirect barriers in accessing public services, stemming from eligibility criteria they cannot comply with, lack of information or understanding of administrative procedures, as well as stigma and frequent discriminatory attitude from the majority population. Long-term exclusion has affected their living conditions, treatment by the majority population and relationship with government institutions. Studies show that the level of poverty among Roma is twice as high as the majority population, while their unemployment rate is three times higher than average.

Roma in Albania are recognized as an ethnic-linguistic minority. Official sources say that there are about 1,300 Roma in Albania, however other sources estimate that there are up to 120,000 Roma in Albania; the population is 3.4 million. Official censuses in Albania acknowledge the Roma. Romani communities are found all over the country; the largest are found in central and south-east Albania. Albania joined the Decade of Roma Inclusion in 2008; within this framework the Government adopted a National Action Plan which focuses on education, employment and social protection, housing and infrastructure, health, social infrastructure and equal opportunities and cultural heritage. In 2006, the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports adopted an action plan for Roma in the fields of culture, youth and sports; it aims to raise awareness of Romani traditions and create equal opportunities for the integration of Romani youth in society. In September 2003 the Albanian government approved a National Strategy for Improving Roma Living Conditions, which addresses substandard housing conditions, unemployment and low educational attainment.

Roma in Albania live in poor conditions in settlements, lacking connections to basic infrastructure like water, electric and public services. There have been cases of forced evictions and instances in which Albanian authorities have discriminated against Roma in the provision of social services, social welfare payments, the provision of municipal infrastructure and health care. In accordance with the Law on Education, school attendance is mandatory for all children in Albania above the age of six. Unfortunately, many Romani children drop out of school before completing the eight years of mandatory schooling. Unofficial estimates indicate that secondary school attendance of Roma in Albania is very low, while 72% of Albanian children attend secondary high school. There are no scholarships available to support Roma education in Albania. According to a UNDP survey, about 52% of Roma have no education, 18% attended just a few years of elementary school and only 14% managed to complete elementary school; only 3% of the Romani respondents had graduated secondary school and only 4% graduated from college or university. Romani women generally have a lower level of education than men: 56% have no education while 11% drop out during primary school. Romani parents site discriminatory treatment by teachers and other students and large distances between their homes and schools as reasons for low school attendance. Due to poverty, many Romani children have to work to contribute to the families' income. About 15% of the Romani children who were surveyed had to leave school in order to work.

Romani families have difficulties accessing adequate healthcare. Many children in large Romani families suffer from malnutrition, which affects their overall health and ability to study. Many Roma are unable to access employment in Albania due to low educational qualifications and discrimination. Most Roma earn a living from occasional informal work in agriculture, public service and construction with very low wages. The average monthly income for a Romani household is 68 EUR while among non-Romani households living in the same vicinity it is 174.50 EUR. There are no elected Romani officials at the national level or local level in Albania. Although they do partake in elections, Romani voters constitute a very small portion of the electorate. Political parties generally encourage and mobilize Roma to vote during the campaigning and elections process, but often neglect their concerns after being elected.

• Kosovo*

Despite relatively strong economic growth over the past years, Kosovo's labour market is facing major challenges characterized by high levels of unemployment and inactivity. Unemployment rates in Kosovo are among the highest in Europe. Protecting and promoting the socio-economic rights of all communities in Kosovo is an area where much remains to be done. Overall, employment rates in Kosovo remain low, with Kosovo Roma, Kosovo Ashkali, Kosovo Egyptian and other vulnerable communities being particularly affected. Lack of employment opportunities in general, both in the public and private sectors, remains a significant challenge to achieving progress towards integration of the three communities. It bears noting that women and youth among the three communities are particularly affected in this regard.

World Bank Country Report Kosovo 2016 and based on the Assessment of employment of minority communities in Kosovo, Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians make only 0.5% of employees in public service and 0.1% in public enterprises, whereas the bigger portion of the lack of employment opportunities is to be blamed on discrimination and unequal treatment.

Strategy for integration of Roma Ashkali and Egyptian communities in Kosovo 2017-2021 is approved by the Kosovo government in April 2017, as in the previous document the monitoring will be done by the Kosovo government.

In order to ensure the implementation of the strategy it is crucial to have active and effective participation of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian civil society involved in monitoring.

Kosovo Roma, Kosovo Ashkali and Kosovo Egyptian children experience low school enrolment and/or low attendance rates, as well as being affected by high drop-out rates, especially among girls, and late school enrolment after the usual initial enrolment age of six.

Several factors contribute to this situation, including extreme poverty rates among the three communities, low levels of education and low awareness of the importance of education among the three communities, inter-ethnic tension, harassment and discrimination in schools, and the lack of teachers of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian origin. Kosovo Progress report in 2016 stated that the Learning Centres continue to play an important role in reducing the significantly high number of school dropouts and in allowing the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities' further integration in the education system. The government continues to provide free textbooks for primary school age children; however students from the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities have lower rates of registration, higher rates of abandonment, and poor levels of academic performance.

While progress has been made in closing down the lead-contaminated camps in northern Mitrovica/Mitrovicë, sustainable housing solutions are still lacking for thousands of families from the Kosovo Roma, Kosovo Ashkali and Kosovo Egyptian communities. In general, the Government has not carried out housing needs assessments or developed municipal and central level housing strategies. More specifically, Kosovo institutions still lack a comprehensive strategy to prevent and regularize informal settlements inhabited by the three communities.

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

• Montenegro

According to the 2011 population census, there are 8305 Roma and Egyptians in Montenegro (6251 Roma and 2054 Egyptians). RE make 1,32 % of overall population, and inhabits 7 of 24 municipalities in Montenegro. NGOs and international organization estimate that the real number of RE population in Montenegro is 20,000. Among other factors, like unwillingness to ethnical self-declaration, and/or technical constrains to reach the migrating population, the reason for this mismatch is the fact that many Roma and Egyptians have unsolved legal status and are "invisible" to official statistics.

Vast majority of RE population - 77% of them, live in segregated settlements, mostly in municipalities of Podgorica, Niksic and Berane, as reported by the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights in 2016. RE community is significantly affected by all types of discrimination and social deprivation, including non-regulated legal status, poverty, unemployment, low education rate, high risk of infectious and chronic diseases, violence, environmental hazards etc. As reported in Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey (MISC), women and children are the most deprived population among Roma and Egyptians and are exposed to additional risks and discrimination.

In the last ten years, general public awareness of Roma issues in Montenegrin society has undoubtedly increased, and certain progress has been made towards implementing key recommendations of the Decade of Roma Inclusion and the Strategy for the Improvement of the Status of RE. in line with the Decade of Roma Inclusion (2005-2015), the Montenegrin government put in place a comprehensive legal framework for Roma, including the National Action Plan for the Roma Decade (2005), Strategies for Improvement of the Status of RAE - NRIS (2008-2012, 2012-2016 and 2016-2020), Law on Minority Rights and Freedoms (2006), the Law on Montenegrin Citizenship (2008 and 2011) and the Law on Foreigners (2009).

However, the legal and policy framework has not been fully implemented, due to lack of political will, financial resources and administrative capacity of the central and local authorities. Also lack of administrative capacity, within the governments to more actively engage the Roma and Egyptians to participate in creation of policies, hampers the proper planning and implementation of policies. Majority of problems persisted and the community still lacks the essential services.

According to Roma Decade Watch, it is evident that there is the lack of human resources in public administration at the national and local level to deal with these issues, and also the lack of political will to undertake the necessary measures to implement the legislation and strategies, like, for example, absence of local action plans, including the capital city Podgorica, on whose territory lives the largest number of members of RE population.

CSOs in Montenegro support enhancing the capacity of Roma activists to monitor the implementation of this Strategy document at the national level and work with municipalities to develop local actions plans for the inclusion of Roma and Egyptians (RE). Real improvement of position of RE population cannot be achieved without their appropriate participation in public life. Development the skills and capacities of young Roma and Egyptians to participate in public life is needed.

• Macedonia

With an area of 25,713 km², in December 2007 the country had a population of 2,045,177 inhabitants in 85 populated municipalities. According to the census in 2002, 62% of the population was Macedonians, Albanians 25.2%, 3.9% Turks, 2.7% Roma, Serbs 0.2%, while other groups filled the remaining 3.8%. As a reflection of the multi-ethnic composition, the state constitution contains articles that guarantee the rights of the minorities. Roma are recognized as a nationality with all available rights, freedoms and protection from discrimination. Located in the urban areas, most of the Roma citizens live in Skopje, Prilep, Kumanovo, Bitola, Tetovo, Gostivar, Stip and Kocani. Members of this nationality are identified in more than 50 municipalities. Despite the official data on a local level, often the NGOs are indicating the possibility of a larger number of Roma citizens. Reasons for the differences in regarding the official statistics, are the large number of Roma citizens without identity documents, the economic migration of Roma to another city and abroad, the lack of awareness on the part of the Roma community for the importance of the census and other reasons. In preparing this program, official data has been taken into account.

The principal challenges identified by the Member States, which are highly compatible with the policies and measures that a country should take in regard to the Roma, are the following:

- creating conditions for increased integration in the labor market for those that are longer unemployed and the vulnerable groups who are poor and socially excluded;
- providing comprehensive social protection systems that offer minimal funds that provide a decent life, but also eliminate lack of motivation for job search;
- developing programs for continuing the education, especially of vulnerable groups and overcoming the premature abandonment of the education system;
- improving the quality and access to public services, especially health, social services, housing and transportation;
- overcoming the high level of social exclusion and discrimination, especially of certain ethnic groups, like the Roma, and other risk groups like people living in institutions and persons with disabilities;
- strengthening of the policies for supporting family, social networks and the protection of children's rights.

The Roma are very active on the political scene: there are nine Roma political parties in the government and in opposition. The employment situation of Roma remains one of the most worrying factors that impede their full participation in the society. Although there is little improvement in the employment rates and activity of Roma, they still have unemployment that is almost twice as high as the national average, and even higher among Roma women. The current situation with the general educational level of the Roma is unsatisfactory. Although the completion of primary and secondary education is a legal requirement, however noticeable deviations are existent. Illiteracy or low educational level in this category of the population, continue to force the spiral of poverty, and thus the related high unemployment rate.

6. ADVOCACY DOCUMENTS DEVELOPED DURING MOBILITY ACTIVITY IN BRUSSELS



Developed Advocacy Plan Albania: Organisation Disutni Albania

In public discourse in Albania, Roma are primarily defined in a mixed narrative between their marginalization as well as their peculiarity as an ethnic-linguistic minority community. This is related to the visibility of their marginalisation and shared history of discrimination in Albania. For DISUTNI ALBANIA, the starting point for both is the development and diffusion of knowledge through Media. We believe that

informed people have greater opportunities to participate on their own terms in the wider society and thus seize whatever empowering opportunity available to them. Main issues to discuss in Media advocacy: 1-Trapping the barriers in the community through daily work with kids and children in school, for a guaranteed future for them

The Roma have been and still are subjected to ghettoisation, discrimination and segregation; they are exposed to racism in all sub-systems of the society: economy, politics, culture, education, information. Numerous specialists in the Roma community, looking for a key solution to the »Roma future« most frequently in economy and the political space, fail to recognise that the most painful forms of ghettoisation and discrimination exist in the sphere of education, information and culture. EU can contribute by giving to Disutni Albania the possibility to develop a local project which can be expanded in a national level, regarding the spread of information through books, lecturers, interviews with testimonies from Roma community members, especially with successful stories of young Roma people whom archived success in their carrier.

2-Education and promoting intercultural dialogue EU can contribute by pushing the national politics in Albania to create a better control of Roma children that should be enrolled in the obligatory school system. EU can also stimulate national Roma organisations to create special programs for helping those children who left the education. In this context the involvement of the majority population can be discussed in acting as a helpful alternative to continue through this objectives.

3- Overcoming stereotypes about Roma through cultural info. One of the most important things is to give information about our history, our language and our roots. Knowing Roma history and culture could help to construct a better sense of coexistence in the Albanian society. EU can promote a cultural initiative to spread this information regarding Roma Culture, Roma language and tradition in a national level.

To conclude, Disutni Albania is convinced that Roma must be allowed to take the lead on supporting their own communities and articulating their community's needs and interests by having all the necessary space in Media transmissions In Albania, our willingness is to set up a network of community group, Roma Voices in Albania, but for this objective we need international and national support.



Developed Advocacy Plan Bosnia and Hercegovina Organization Mladi Romi Vitez

Organization has been established on 2011, by initiative of larger number of young people, like civil, non-political, non-profit organization. The main objective for establishing of organization was high percentage of discrimination of Roma, especially youngster, low percentage of education, bagging and living in the disadvantage and depressed areas. Main objectives of the organization are: education of Roma youth, fight against discrimination, and involving Roma in to society, cultural and social sphere of life.

Main problems of Roma in Bosnia and Herzegovina are:

- Education
- Employment
- Health care

EDUCATION - reports and other indicators of different provenances, from domestic specialized nongovernmental organizations, to international organizations, professional associations and scientific institutions shows that a high percentage of Roma children do not attend primary school, drop-out from the high school or college is caused because of the poverty and insufficient support to continue their studies. (The number of Roma high school students does not yet reach one thousand and Roma students can is less than ten). European Commission should recommend to the Government of the Bosnia and Herzegovina to implement Affirmative measures for the Roma pupils throw supporting the families in their basic needs in cooperation with the municipality, Social service, larger number of scholarships for the Roma students in High school and at the Universities.

EMPLOYMENT - The three year long implementation of the Action Plan for Roma Employment has not fully met expectations. Numerous defined objectives and support measures were not supported by the necessary resources and clearly assigned tasks that would have led to the achievement of the set targets.

On the one side there are a number of reasons that have contributed to the non-implementation of the ambitiously set objectives, such as significant changes in the global environment that have taken place in the meantime (economic crisis, a rise in unemployment, a reduction in supply and lack of employment opportunities for all, employment restrictions in public institutions etc.) and, on the other side, the problems of the Roma population (low qualification structure, non-registration with the employment services, especially of trained and qualified Roma, the lack of the skills and knowledge required by the labour market, and etc). European institutions should recommend to the Government of the Bosnia and Herzegovina the revision of the Action Plan for Roma employment taking into account the priorities for Roma employment and the actual needs on the one hand and the existing financial constraints on the other. Consequently, when planning the required funds to implement individual activities utmost restraint was exercised taking into the account the scarce resources available. At the same time, focus was placed on identifying new funding mechanisms in order to include a greater variety of funding sources and innovative approaches to funding.

HEALTH CARE / According to data from the Roma Needs' Records (hereinafter referred to as 'RNR') and the information collected in the process of research conducted by the Roma associations as well as the institutions responsible for implementation of the Action Plan, primarily the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the below conclusions may be drawn. There are around 35,000 Roma in Bosnia and Herzegovina, based on real indicators, 16,771 persons were included in the Roma Need's Records (47.9%). Approximately 30 % of the Roma national minority included in the RNR have no health insurance. According to the Roma Need's Records, out of this 30% a total of 5,200 persons or 34.7% are children up to 15 years of age which indicates a lack of familiarity amongst parents concerning the means of accessing health care. Within the frame of the Roma Need's Records a high rate of disability was registered for the age group up to 14 years, with a high percentage of disability (34.7%). The exact number of the children who were categorised is not known. The Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina has a problem concerning the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina Law on Health Insurance as it sets deadlines for registration with the employment bureaus/services and as a result of this Law the majority of Roma have no health insurance. This is not the case with the regulations and practices in Republic of Srpska and Brcko District. These provisions in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina need to be changed during the process of adopting a draft law on amendments to the Law currently in force. This procedure is ongoing and it requires vigorous lobbying by the Roma organisations as well as by the Roma Board with help of European Commission.



Developed Advocacy Plan Kosovo: Organization Advancing Together Kosovo

Unemployment

World Bank Country Report Kosovo 2016 and based on the Assessment of employment of minority communities in Kosovo, Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians make only 0.5% of employees in public service and 0.1% in public enterprises, whereas the bigger portion of the lack of employment opportunities is to be blamed on discrimination and unequal treatment.

Despite relatively strong economic growth over the past years, Kosovo's labour market is facing major challenges characterized by high levels of unemployment and inactivity. Unemployment rates in Kosovo are among the highest in Europe.

Kosovo Strategy for integration

Strategy for integration of Roma Ashkali and Egyptian communities in Kosovo 2017-2021

The strategy is approved by the Kosovo government in April 2017, as in the previous document the monitoring will be done by the Kosovo government.

In order to ensure the implementation of the strategy it is crucial to have active and effective participation of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian civil society involved in monitoring.

Education

Kosovo Progress report in 2016 stated that the Learning Centres continue to play an important role in reducing the significantly high number of school dropouts and in allowing the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities' further integration in the education system. The government continues to provide free textbooks for primary school age children, however students from the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities have lower rates of registration, higher rates of abandonment, and poor levels of academic performance.



Developed Advocacy Plan Macedonia: Organization Romaversitas

The scope of poverty among the Roma in the Republic of Macedonia reaches 88% which points out to the economic state of Roma. The data indicate that the 85% receive state benefits, 70% of unemployment rate, 95% of Roma live in poorer regions (ghettos) or they live in suburban conditions.

Roma are faced with social exclusion due to their rate of poverty, lack of qualifications and possibilities for lifelong learning and discrimination. This social inclusion further distances the Roma from any prospects with regard to employment, earnings, education etc

Secondary school enrolment rate among the Roma aged 16 to 19 which amounts to 27% as opposed to 65% among the non-Roma population. Such indicators point out to the existing differences in the educational segment among the Roma and non-Roma population. Discrimination in the process of enrolling to university.

1. Equal opportunities for education (scholarship, academic support-mentorship and tutorship, languages, digital literacy, practical skills)

- Increasing the enrolment, attendance and graduation rate of Roma in universities

With reference to education, the data demonstrate that 22% of the Roma population lack formal education as opposed to 3% among the other non-Roma population. Moreover, there is a discrepancy concerning the literacy rates. Namely, the literacy rate among the Roma amounts to 60% as opposed to 99% among the Macedonians and Albanians respectively. It is rather alarming that the rate of secondary education among the young Roma aged 16 to 19 is 27% as opposed to 65% among the non-Roma population. 22% of Roma have no formal education as opposed to 3% of the non-Roma population.

2. Qualitative education which creates real opportunities in the labor market

- Competencies need in the labor market

The unemployment rate among the Roma amounts to 70% as opposed to the significantly lower unemployment rate of 31% among the Macedonians and 27% among the Albanians

3. Active measures for employment for Roma high school and Roma graduate students (Professional skills, work experience/internships, qualification and prequalification, lifelong opportunities for youth)

Developed Advocacy Plan Montenegro: NGO Young Roma

NGO Young Roma was registered in May 2005 as a local non-profit organization with the aim to contribute to improving the situation of Roma in Montenegro and their full integration into Montenegrin society. Therefore, the vision of our organization is: Roma men and women as equal, educated and active citizens of Montenegro. Activities of Young Roma are primarily focused on working with the community and monitoring the implementation of national and local action plans in the field of social inclusion and integration of Roma, by encouraging active participation, advocacy, promotion and mediation in the exercise of minority rights.

-Housing: When it comes to housing, especially for Kosovo IDP's, Montenegro has been working on this issue, and we can say that the country is going in right directions because through Sarajevo process 120 apartments are built, and until September it's expected for additional houses to be built. But, more efforts have to be run in order to solve this issue. More than 150 families that are living in the capital city in Montenegro still have unsolved housing issue. Therefore, it is needed to amend the Law of social housing, in order to form a governmental fund, which would be used for the needs of construction of social building and buildings with preferential lease.

-Education. Education is the area where we have good results, according to all reports by state institutions and other organizations that are working for inclusion of Roma people in Montenegro according to the Ministry of Human and minority rights, in 2015-2016 the number of pupils in primary education was 1438, which is a huge positive leap. But, the problem comes later in education (high school and university education), because, the quality of primary educations when it comes to Romany students is very poor, therefore the dropout later in High school happens or they don't even decide to enrol in High school because of the lack of quality support mechanisms. It is more than needed to have a program like Roma versitas in Montenegro (a program of tutorship and mentorship) which should be funded responsible state actors.

-Employment-Most Roma and Egyptians in Montenegro live in poverty, barely surviving. Due to the transition process and the large number of internally displaced persons, the past year was marked by an even more dramatic fall in their living standards. Given the low level of education of Roma and lack of investment and economic stagnation, it can be assumed that the situation of Roma in the coming period will not be significantly repaired. In addition to the "old poor", will appear in the "new poor" - Roma generations to come, and that will not be prepared for all the harsh competition in the labour market. On average, per year, in the records of the State Employment Agency is about 1000 persons who identify themselves as members of the Roma and Egyptian population. In order to decrease the unemployment of Roma it is needed the implementation

of all of the strategic documents concerning the field of employment of Romany people in Montenegro, especially those which recognize the specific problems of Roma and their position in the market, also, a full consensus and engagement of institutions and government bodies of Montenegro (employers, unions, authority of local government and other stakeholders).



Developed Advocacy Plan Serbia: Association of Coordinators for Roma Issues

The Government of Republic of Serbia adopted Action plan for implementation of measures from Strategy. Even if Government of Serbia doesn't respect the set quote related to the employment in public sector, when we are talking about participation of Roma in institutions more than ten years, but still their legal status is not resolved. During the Roma Decade it was obvious that key problems are Employment, Education, Housing and access to Social and Health care. Each of these areas are connected by cause and consequence.

- **EMPLOYMENT** - Some good examples of Roma employment are the Roma Coordinators, Pedagogical Assistances and Roma Health Mediators. Results of their work are more than visible. They are most important grassroots stakeholders when we are talking about issues of the Roma people in Serbia. EU could recommend to the Government of Serbia to implement the following points.

- It is necessary to determine the role of the Coordinators that was officially integrated into the structure of local government. Past experience has shown that Coordinators have very important factor in the process of inclusion of Roma at the local but also at national level, to continue the process of inclusion of Roma is most important that the Act of internal job classification in local self-governments provide the position of the Coordinators but also to adopt the municipal budget funds for activities to improve the situation of Roma. Moreover, the question of the future position of Roma Coordinators and their future importance and influence in municipalities and their community is rising mainly related to the implementation of the Action Plan for Chapter 23, National Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma. The local projects and measures are directed towards the Roma Coordinators and local self-governments where they work, who share the values of a community and show a clear orientation towards beneficiaries.

- **RETURNERS FROM EU COUNTRIES ASYLUM SEEKERS** - In Serbia on a yearly level, either their own will or under pressure after denial of their asylum applications, around 10.000 Roma are returning from Germany, and around 5.000 Roma come from the rest of the countries in the EU, which puts great pressure to the system, and the municipalities bear the most, where the returners are going back say the officials from the UNDP in Serbia. The people which return after their asylum applications in some of the EU countries are returned in their home countries. That's a very unfortunate tendency which is noticeable for many years, the numbers are increasing rapidly.

EU Institutions could recommend to the Government of Serbia to provide elements for the Reintegration by insuring of better access to Education, Employment, Social and Health Care. Each municipality should have in their budget funds for coverage of administrative and other costs of document creation and to assist in receiving schooling documents from abroad in the shortest possible time and in their tax free nostrification. Creation of support mechanisms to the returnees under an agreement on Readmission in representation before Institutions and legal aid.

- **DISCRIMINATION** – Roma face discrimination and exclusion in all spheres of life. And the Romani girls and women are facing with multiple discrimination. The number of cases of societal antigypsyism, discrimination and hate speech towards Roma by the report of the 124 complaints about discrimination on the basis of ethnicity submitted to the Commissioner for Equality in 2014, 40% refer to discrimination against Roma. Small number of procedures concerning discrimination of Roma ever get processed in courts, which leads to impunity. On the other hand, the discrimination against Roma is expressed both in institutions and in public life, as well as in the private sphere. for Roma and that they should be intensified in the future and through efforts to strengthen a culture of human rights and social solidarity. EU Institutions could recommend to the Government of Serbia to advance Anti-discrimination policy and to implement it together with a policy of integrative multiculturalism and intercultural dialogue.

7. PROJECT LABS – GENERATING IDEAS TO ADDRESS RECOGNIZED CHALLENGES



“European Roma Projects Lab” is aimed to increase the interest of local and national Roma organizations because it is supposed to be the hub for Roma organizations to discuss together about the priorities their community has and the ways in which they could make joint initiatives to advocate for better legislative, but also plan project that could be financed from direct EU funds. Following the training course and internships, Project Labs were organized and the partner organizations engaging various CSO representatives in an open brainstorming and carefully facilitated process generated ideas for advocacy projects on Roma inclusion.

The Project Lab is a thematic workshop organized during 2 working days around the following topics:

- (1) working against discrimination of Roma
- (2) social inclusion of Roma youth, and
- (3) sustainable development of Roma CSOs

CSO representatives met to discuss original ideas, agree on a joint idea and new ways of looking towards Roma advocacy initiatives in the context of EU Integration process, generated concrete advocacy proposals for Roma inclusion that can be implemented on national level in each country participating in the project.

The labs engaged at least 12 CSO representatives selected by the partners. Labs gathered representatives of organizations with experience and expertise in Roma Inclusion matters.

The realization of the “European Roma Initiatives Labs” was fully implemented by partner organization.

Advocacy Projects and Initiatives are practical initiatives to be implemented on local and national level, from the CSOs participating in the “European Roma Initiative Labs” after the Lab. As part of their advocacy plans, each group had to implement one advocacy initiative in their country using EU funding possibilities and also their partnership building capacity developed during their mobility in Brussels. The advocacy initiatives will be organized on national level tackling the challenges of the Roma minority in the context of Euro integration process, in particular in adoption of the EU aquis, and will focus on influencing the public opinion on

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national and local level, or involvement in policy making process related to EU integration and EU reforms.

It is expected to come with an output - an advocacy project or advocacy plan composed of concrete advocacy actions and proposals on how to further increase the involvement and role of Roma CSOs in advocacy in a given country.

The advocacy actions will additionally involve more CSOs, as well as the European civil society umbrellas which in line with the follow up of the study visit will provide guidance and ideas on

1. How to advocate using the EU standards and acquis as an argument and
2. Which good practices from Europe can be applied locally and nationally?

The advocacy initiatives will be designed by the members of the “European Roma Initiative Labs”, and supported by the participants taking part in Brussels’ motilities. It is expected to apply variety of methods like campaigns, round tables, presentations within Parliament commissions and similar. All the project partners will provide their expertise in supporting the realization of the advocacy initiatives. The representative of the partner organization who took part in the motilities in Brussels is expected to be fully available and contribute to the labs.

The workshop was composed of 90 minute sessions, four sessions a day plus activities after dinner as envisaged in the original agenda. Trainers with extensive experience in the field of EU funding, Roma Advocacy, WB EU Integration and Capacity Development delivered the envisaged sessions.

Non-formal education was used as a key methodology in this training. The work focused to imply learning trough providing experts input, sharing experiences, joint work, group work and discussions. Trainers used presentations, elaboration of concepts and introductions. Active methods used contained simulations of given situations, working in groups, panel discussions, tips & tricks and energizers.

The training was designed to boost participant knowledge, increase motivation and produce a clear output to be later used for joint initiatives.



Conclusions from LABs

What is the solution that the Roma are no longer a marginalized minority? What can we do for Roma families in order to avoid discrimination and raise the willingness of vulnerable groups to participate with equal opportunities in the different areas of life?

For some, the answer comes from the co-operation with international institutions, with the EU and other international organizations in support of Roma rights. It should be the way to solve the problems we face every day. Through this, we know that one of the most important things is to give information about our history, our language, and our roots. The knowledge of Roma history and culture can help build a better sense of coexistence in society. The EU can promote a cultural initiative to disseminate this information about Roma culture and Roma language and tradition at the national level.

Participants in each country designed the “Problem Three” in which they assessed the reasons and consequences of the problem, as well as objectives. Examples bellow.

Problem: Lack of capacities to influence public policies

Reasons identified jointly:

- Lack of adequate education both in quantity and quality for reaching level of being influential;
- Discrimination in many fields of daily life;
- Very low interest in the R&E community to take part in decision making processes;
- Internal disagreements and misunderstanding mostly in the CS leadership;
- Lack of capacity to start processes of influence;

Consequences identified jointly:

- Being used at every elections and votes of the community are bought;
- Not being able to advocate for necessary changes for the community;
- R&E continuously discriminated and ignored both from individuals and institutions;
- Number of policies and programs designed not to serve the R&E or sometimes against the interest of the most marginalized and poor communities;
- Initiatives are not being taken seriously into consideration;

Problem: Lack of educated and capable Roma Youth cadre to commit for improving the situation of Roma

Objectives identified:

- Establishing a group of 10 politically capable Roma ready to enter political challenges in the interest of the Roma community;
- Establishing a group of 20 Roma with very well developed leadership capabilities as communication skills, project management, advocacy, lobby, community organizing, academic English, courage and self-confidence for entering in challenges in the interest of the Roma community;
- Establishing Roma Intellectual Political organization consisted of competent young Roma who will influence everyday politics. Participants identified most useful tools for advocating for Roma issues. The proposed guidelines list the following recommendations:
- Effective mobilization of the community;
- Increasing awareness of the community about the importance of the problems they are facing, detailed information related to the problem and potential approach for reaching a change;
- Increasing the awareness of the community for supporting change makers;
- Establishing a system/mechanism to ensure accountability and credibility of future Roma representatives in national and local organizations (partisan and non-partisan)
- Request of transparency;
- Make aware the institutions for the Roma problems;
- Building bridges between political parties and Roma NGOs;
- Ensure support of key players.

8. FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Erasmus +

Erasmus+ is the EU Programme in the fields of education, training, youth and sport for the period 2014-2020. Education, training, youth and sport can make a major contribution to help tackle socio-economic changes, the key challenges that Europe will be facing until the end of the decade and to support the implementation of the European policy agenda for growth, jobs, equity and social inclusion.

The Erasmus+ Programme is designed to support Programme Countries' efforts to efficiently use the potential of Europe's talent and social assets in a lifelong learning perspective, linking support to formal, non-formal and informal learning throughout the education, training and youth fields. The Programme also enhances the opportunities for cooperation and mobility with Partner Countries, notably in the fields of higher education and youth. In accordance with one of the new elements introduced in the Lisbon Treaty, Erasmus+ also supports activities aiming at developing the European dimension in sport, by promoting cooperation between bodies responsible for sports. The Programme promotes the creation and development of European networks, providing opportunities for cooperation among stakeholders and the exchange and transfer of knowledge and know-how in different areas relating to sport and physical activity. This reinforced cooperation will notably have positive effects in developing the potential of Europe's human capital by helping reduce the social and economic costs of physical inactivity. The Programme supports actions, cooperation and tools consistent with the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy and its flagship initiatives, such as Youth on the Move and the Agenda for new skills and jobs. The Programme also contributes to achieve the objectives of the Education and Training Strategic Framework for European cooperation in Education and Training and of the European Youth Strategy through the Open Methods of Coordination. This investment in knowledge, skills and competences will benefit individuals, institutions, organisations and society as a whole by contributing to growth and ensuring equity, prosperity and social inclusion in Europe and beyond.

Erasmus+ promotes the open access to materials, documents and media that are useful for learning, teaching, training, youth work and are produced by projects funded by the Programme. Beneficiaries of Erasmus+ grants producing any such materials, documents and media in the scope of any funded project must make them available for the public, in digital form, freely accessible through the Internet under open licences. Beneficiaries are nonetheless allowed to define the most appropriate level of open access, including limitations (e.g. interdiction of commercial exploitation by third parties) if appropriate in relation to the nature of the project and to the type of material. The open access requirement is without prejudice to the intellectual property rights of the grant beneficiaries.

Erasmus+ includes a strong international dimension (i.e. cooperation with Partner Countries) notably in the fields of higher education and youth. In the field of higher education, Erasmus+ supports the following main Actions targeting cooperation with Partner Countries:

- International credit mobility of individuals and Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees (under Key Action 1) promoting the mobility of learners and staff from and to Partner Countries;
- Capacity-building projects in higher education (under Key Action 2) promoting cooperation and partnerships that have an impact on the modernisation and internationalisation of higher education institutions and systems in Partner Countries, with a special focus on Partner Countries neighbouring the EU;

http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/sites/erasmusplus/files/files/resources/erasmus-plus-programme-guide_en.pdf

- Support to policy dialogue (under Key Action 3) through the network of Higher Education Reform Experts in Partner Countries neighbouring the EU, the international alumni association, policy dialogue with Partner Countries and international attractiveness and promotion events;
- Jean Monnet activities with the aim of stimulating teaching, research and reflection in the field of European Union studies worldwide.

In the field of youth, Erasmus+ supports the following main Actions:

- Mobility for young people and youth workers (under Key Action 1) promoting Youth Exchanges, European Voluntary Service and mobility of youth workers in cooperation with Partner Countries neighbouring the EU;
- Capacity-building projects in the field of youth (under Key Action 2) promoting cooperation and mobility activities that have a positive impact on the qualitative development of youth work, youth policies and youth systems as well as on the recognition of non-formal education in Partner Countries, notably in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP), Asian and Latin American countries;
- Involvement of young people and youth organisations from Partner Countries neighbouring the EU in the youth Structured Dialogue (under Key Action 3) through their participation in international meetings, conferences and events that promote dialogue between young people and decision-makers.

In addition, other Actions of the Programme (Strategic Partnerships, Knowledge Alliances, Sectors Skills Alliances, Collaborative Partnerships) are also open to organisations from Partner Countries in so far as their participation brings an added value to the project.

WHAT IS THE STRUCTURE OF THE ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME?

In order to achieve its objectives, the Erasmus+ Programme implements the following Actions:

KEY ACTION 1 – MOBILITY OF INDIVIDUALS

This Key Action supports:

- Mobility of learners and staff: opportunities for students, trainees, young people and volunteers, as well as for professors, teachers, trainers, youth workers, staff of education institutions and civil society organisations to undertake a learning and/or professional experience in another country;
- Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees: high-level integrated international study programmes delivered by consortia of higher education institutions that award full degree scholarships to the best master students worldwide;
- Erasmus+ Master Loans: higher education students from Programme Countries can apply for a loan backed up by the Programme to go abroad for a full Master Degree. Students should address themselves to national banks or student loan agencies participating in the scheme.

KEY ACTION 2 – COOPERATION FOR INNOVATION AND THE EXCHANGE OF GOOD PRACTICES

This Key Action supports:

- Transnational Strategic Partnerships aimed to develop initiatives addressing one or more fields of education training and youth and promote innovation, exchange of experience and know-how between different types of organisations involved in education, training and youth or in other relevant fields. Certain mobility activities are supported in so far as they contribute to the objectives of the project;
- Knowledge Alliances between higher education institutions and enterprises which aim to foster innovation, entrepreneurship, creativity, employability, knowledge exchange and/or multidisciplinary teaching and learning;

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- Sector Skills Alliances supporting the design and delivery of joint vocational training curricula, programmes and teaching and training methodologies, drawing on evidence of trends in a specific economic sector and skills needed in order to perform in one or more professional fields;
- Capacity-building projects supporting cooperation with Partner Countries in the fields of higher education and youth. Capacity-building projects aim to support organisations/institutions and systems in their modernisation and internationalisation process. Certain types of capacity-building projects support mobility activities in so far as they contribute to the objectives of the project;
- IT support platforms, such as eTwinning, the School Education Gateway, the European Platform for Adult Learning (EPALE) and the European Youth Portal, offering virtual collaboration spaces, databases of opportunities, communities of practice and other online services for teachers, trainers and practitioners in the field of school and adult education as well as for young people, volunteers and youth workers across Europe and beyond.

KEY ACTION 3 – SUPPORT FOR POLICY REFORM

This Key Action supports:

- Knowledge in the fields of education, training and youth for evidence-based policy making and monitoring, in particular: o country-specific and thematic analysis, including through cooperation with academic networks; o peer learning and peer reviews through the Open Methods of Coordination in education, training and youth.
- Initiatives for policy innovation to stimulate innovative policy development among stakeholders and to enable public authorities to test the effectiveness of innovative policies through field trials based on sound evaluation methodologies;
- Support to European policy tools to facilitate transparency and recognition of skills and qualifications, as well as the transfer of credits, to foster quality assurance, support validation of non-formal and informal learning, skills 12 Programme Guide management and guidance. This Action also includes the support to networks that facilitate cross-European exchanges, the learning and working mobility of citizens as well as the development of flexible learning pathways between different fields of education, training and youth;
- Cooperation with international organisations with highly recognised expertise and analytical capacity (such as the OECD and the Council of Europe), to strengthen the impact and added value of policies in the fields of education, training and youth;
- Stakeholder dialogue, policy and Programme promotion involving public authorities, providers and stakeholders in the fields of education, training and youth for raising awareness about the European policy agendas, in particular Europe 2020, Education and Training 2020, the European Youth Strategy, as well as the external dimension of European education, training and youth policies. These activities are essential to develop the capacity of stakeholders to actively support the implementation of policies by stimulating the exploitation of the Programme results and generating tangible impact.

JEAN MONNET ACTIVITIES

The Jean Monnet Activities will support:

- Academic Modules, Chairs, Centres of Excellence in order to deepen teaching in European integration studies embodied in an official curriculum of a higher education institution, as well as to conduct, monitor and supervise research on EU content, also for other educational levels such as teacher training and compulsory education. These Actions are also intended to provide in-depth teaching on European integration matters for future professionals in fields which are in increasing demand on the labour market, and at the same time aim at encouraging, advising and mentoring the young generation of teachers and researchers in European integration subject areas;

- Policy debate with academic world, supported through: a) Networks to enhance cooperation between different universities throughout Europe and around the world, foster cooperation and create a high knowledge exchange platform with public actors and the Commission services on highly relevant EU subjects; b) Projects for innovation and cross-fertilisation and spread of EU content aimed to promote discussion, reflection on EU issues and to enhance knowledge about the EU and its processes;
- Support to associations, to organise and carry out statutory activities of associations dealing with EU studies and EU issues, and to publicize EU facts among a wider public enhancing active European citizenship. The Jean Monnet Activities also provide operating grants to designated institutions which pursue an aim of European interest and organises Studies and conferences with the purpose of providing policy-makers with new insights and concrete suggestions.

SPORT

Actions in the field of sport will support:

- Collaborative Partnerships, aimed at promoting the integrity of Sport (anti-doping, fight against match fixing, protection of minors), supporting innovative approaches to implement EU principles on good governance in sport, EU strategies in the area of social inclusion and equal opportunities, encouraging participation in sport and physical activity (supporting the implementation of EU Physical Activity Guidelines, volunteering, employment in sport as well as education and training in sport), and supporting the implementation of the EU guidelines on dual careers of athletes. These partnerships include also Small Collaborative Partnerships, aimed at encouraging social inclusion and equal opportunities in sport, promoting European traditional sports and games, supporting the mobility of volunteers, coaches, managers and staff of non-profit sport organisations and protecting athletes, especially the youngest, from health and safety hazards by improving training and competition conditions.
- Not-for-profit European sport events, granting individual organisations in charge of the preparation, organisation and follow-up to a given event. The activities involved will include the organisation of training activities for athletes and volunteers in the run-up to the event, opening and closing ceremonies, competitions, side-activities to the sporting event (conferences, seminars), as well as the implementation of legacy activities, such as evaluations or follow-up activities;
- Strengthening of the evidence base for policy making through studies; data gathering, surveys; networks; conferences and seminars which spread good practices from Programme Countries and sport organisations and 13 Part A – What is the structure of the Programme reinforce networks at EU level so that national members of those networks benefit from synergies and exchanges with their partners;
- Dialogue with relevant European stakeholders, being mainly the annual EU Sport Forum and support to Sport Presidency events organised by the EU Member States holding the Presidency of the EU. Other ad hoc meetings and seminars relevant to ensure optimal dialogue with the sport stakeholders may also be organised as appropriate.

WHAT IS THE BUDGET?

The Programme has an overall indicative financial envelope of 14.774 billion EUR under Heading 1 and of 1.680 billion EUR under Heading 4 of the EU Budget for the seven years (2014-2020). The annual budget is adopted by the Budgetary Authority. The different steps for the adoption of the EU budget can be followed at:

http://ec.europa.eu/budget/explained/management/deciding/deciding_detail/decide_detail_en.cfm

For information about the available budget by action, planned number of projects to be granted as well as indicative average grants, please consult the 2017 5 Erasmus+ Annual Work Programme (http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/more_info/awp/index_en.htm)

Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance - IPA

The Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) is the means by which the EU supports reforms in the 'enlargement countries' with financial and technical help. The IPA funds build up the capacities of the countries throughout the accession process, resulting in progressive, positive developments in the region. For the period 2007-2013 IPA had a budget of some € 11.5 billion; its successor, IPA II, will build on the results already achieved by dedicating € 11.7 billion for the period 2014-2020. Current beneficiaries are: **Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo*, Montenegro, Serbia, and Turkey.**

Purpose

EU pre-accession funds are a sound investment into the future of both the enlargement countries and the EU itself. They help the beneficiaries make political and economic reforms, preparing them for the rights and obligations that come with EU membership. Those reforms should provide their citizens with better opportunities and allow for development of standards equal to the ones we enjoy as citizens of the EU. The pre-accession funds also help the EU reach its own objectives regarding a sustainable economic recovery, energy supply, transport, the environment and climate change, etc.

Pre-accession assistance: an investment in

- **Public administration reform**
- **Rule of law**
- **Sustainable economy**
- **People**
- **Agriculture and rural development**

IPA II (2014-2020)

Prepared in partnership with the beneficiaries, IPA II sets a new framework for providing pre-accession assistance for the period 2014-2020.

The most important novelty of IPA II is its strategic focus. Country Strategy Papers are the specific strategic planning documents made for each beneficiary for the 7-year period. These will provide for a stronger ownership by the beneficiaries through integrating their own reform and development agendas. A Multi-Country Strategy Paper will address priorities for regional cooperation or territorial cooperation.

IPA II targets reforms within the framework of pre-defined sectors. These sectors cover areas closely linked to the enlargement strategy, such as democracy and governance, rule of law or growth and competitiveness. This sector approach promotes structural reform that will help transform a given sector and bring it up to EU standards. It allows a move towards a more targeted assistance, ensuring efficiency, sustainability and focus on results.

IPA II also allows for a more systematic use of sector budget support. Finally, it gives more weight to performance measurement: indicators agreed with the beneficiaries will help assess to what extent the expected results have been achieved.

IPA planning and programming

Planning and programming of assistance to candidate countries and potential candidates is organised as follows:

- **Indicative Strategy Papers**

The Strategy Papers are the overarching strategic planning documents that set the priorities and objectives for the 7-year period. They replace the Multi-annual Indicative and Planning Documents (MIPDs) used until 2013.

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/funding/ipa/

The indicative **Country Strategy Papers** provide the frame for financial assistance **for each individual IPA II beneficiary**. They identify key sectors where substantial improvements and reforms are necessary for beneficiaries to advance on the path to EU membership. For each of these, the Strategy Paper also defines the results expected to be achieved by 2020 through the assistance, the actions that are necessary to reach them, as well as identifies indicators that will allow monitoring of progress towards achievement of those results. Similarly, an indicative Multi-Country Strategy Paper highlights priorities and conditions for horizontal support to sector policies and reforms (including assistance to civil society), regional structures and networks, regional investment support, as well as territorial cooperation including cross-border cooperation programmes.

• IPA II Programmes

The priorities outlined in the Strategy Papers are translated into detailed actions, which are included in annual or multi-annual Action Programmes. IPA II Action Programmes take the form of Financing Decisions adopted by the European Commission.

The bulk of the assistance is channeled through the Country Action Programmes for IPA II Beneficiaries, which are the main vehicles for addressing country-specific needs in priority sectors as identified in the indicative Strategy Papers.

Multi-Country Action Programmes aim at enhancing regional cooperation (in particular in the Western Balkans) and at adding value to the Country Action Programmes through other multi-beneficiary actions.

Cross-Border Cooperation Programmes represent the focus of assistance in the area of territorial cooperation between IPA II beneficiaries, another important form of financial assistance.

Assistance for agriculture and rural development is also addressed via Rural Development Programmes.

Implementation

IPA II funded activities are implemented and managed in various ways, in accordance with the Financial Regulation

- Under direct management; i.e. the implementation of the budget is carried out directly by the Commission until the relevant national authorities are accredited to manage the funds.
- Under indirect management; i.e. budget implementation tasks are delegated to and carried out by entities entrusted by the Commission; they can be:
 - o the IPA II beneficiary or an entity designated by it (one of the main objectives of IPA II is to encourage beneficiaries to take ownership and responsibility for implementation; indirect management by the IPAII beneficiary is therefore expected to become the norm);
 - o an agency of a Member State or, exceptionally, of a third donor country;
 - o an international organisation; or
 - o an EU specialised (but not executive) agency.

In other words, the Commission delegates the management of certain actions to external entities, while still retaining overall final responsibility for the general budget execution.

- Shared management; i.e. implementation tasks are delegated to EU member states (only for cross-border cooperation programmes with EU countries).

In the context of direct management, Sector Budget Support is yet another tool for delivering pre-accession assistance and achieving sustainable results under IPA II. It consists of financial transfers to the national treasury account of an IPA II beneficiary and requires performance assessment and capacity development, based on partnership and mutual accountability. It is delivered through Sector Reform Contracts.

Monitoring and evaluation of assistance

Implementation of IPA II will include a comprehensive monitoring mechanism. It will contain a review of overall performance of the progress in achieving results at the strategic, sector and action levels (i.e. results-based performance), in addition to monitoring of financial execution.

Performance measurement will be based on indicators set out in the indicative Strategy Papers and the Programmes.

Joint monitoring committees (Commission and beneficiaries) will continue to monitor the implementation of financial assistance programmes, as was the case for the previous period of IPA.

The Commission publishes an annual report on pre-accession assistance. This report covers the previous budget year.

2013 annual report on financial assistance for enlargement

THE EUROPEAN INSTRUMENT FOR DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The EIDHR is designed to help civil society to become an effective force for political reform and defence of human rights. Building on its key strength, which is the ability to operate without the need for host government consent, the EIDHR is able to focus on sensitive political issues and innovative approaches and to cooperate directly with local civil society organisations which need to preserve independence from public authorities, providing for great flexibility and increased capacity to respond to changing circumstances.

The EIDHR instrument can grant aid where no established development cooperation exists, and can intervene without the agreement of the governments of third countries. It can support groups or individuals within civil society defending democracy as well as intergovernmental organizations that implement the international mechanisms for the protection of human rights. Work with, for and through civil society organizations gives to the EIDHR its critical profile. Assistance under EIDHR complements other tools which are used to implement EU policies for democracy and human rights. These range from political dialogue and diplomatic initiatives to various instruments for financial and technical cooperation, including the Development Co-operation Instrument and ENPI. It also complements the more crisis-related interventions of the Instrument for Stability.

Assistance under the EIDHR may take the following forms:

- projects and programmes,
- grants to finance projects submitted by civil society and/or international/intergovernmental organizations
- small grants to human rights defenders,
- grants to support operating costs of the **Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation (EIUC)**
- human and material resources for EU election observation missions
- public contracts

Based on the new Financial Regulation, the EIDHR includes the possibility under certain circumstances to finance not only registered organizations, but also non-legal entities. It furthermore provides the possibility of "re-granting" meaning that in order to enhance human rights in situation where they are most at risk, civil society organizations in charge of the project implementation can award small grants to other local organizations, non-legal entities or individual human rights defenders.

You will find more information in the funding section.

ROMACT

Many of Europe's 10-12 million Roma continue to face discrimination, exclusion and the denial of their rights. Cooperative and strategic action is needed at all levels to address the many causes of social exclusion faced by the Roma communities throughout Europe. It is our view that the social integration of Roma is a joint responsibility of all Member States and the European Union. Successful integration of the Roma community will not only benefit the Roma and allow them to exercise their rights as full citizens, but they will also contribute to both the social and economic development of our society.

The EU has an important role through coordination of Member State actions and to support the efforts that are carried out by other partner organizations such as the Council of Europe. [read more](#)

The ROMACT programme

Our desire to support and coordinate actions to assist the Roma community prompted the European Commission and the Council of Europe to launch the ROMACT Programme in 2013. This joint initiative seeks to assist mayors and municipal authorities to work together with local Roma communities to develop policies and public services that are inclusive of all, including Roma.

ROMACT aims to improve the responsiveness and accountability of local authorities, particularly elected and senior civil servants, towards marginalised Roma communities. ROMACT focuses on generating long-term sustained political commitment which are designed compel member states to sustainable and measures for Roma inclusion. [read more](#)

The ROMACT principles and methodology

The ROMACT programme aims to build the capacity of local authorities to develop and implement policies and public services that are inclusive of all, including Roma.

Policy change and capacity building are long term processes which require a variety of inter-connected methods and interventions. [read more](#)

The ROMACT management

The ROMACT programme is a joint programme of the European Commission and the Council of Europe (who are also responsible for ROMACT management and implementation).

The ROMACT central team is based in the Council of Europe, Strasbourg and they are responsible for the overall management of the programme. Their responsibilities include development video of methodologies, the provision of ROMACT implementation guides to National Support teams, monitoring, administrative and financial management of the ROMACT programmes. [read more](#)

9. PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

The main target groups of “Roaming” project were CSOs active in “SIMURGH” Roma Network - a highly qualified informal platform, established to empower Roma CSOs and advocate for increased employment opportunities, promote innovative tools for comprehensive fight against anti-Gypsyism, challenge leadership concepts in the Roma communities and openly discuss Roma migrations in Europe.

The beneficiaries of this project were Roma civil society organizations from Western Balkan that developed needed capacities throughout this process. These organizations were partners in the project (6 of them) and they recruited other CSOs through the co-based open calls in the second part of the project. Partners were selected due to their experience and expertise. Out of the Box International provided EU funding, partnership building and advocacy expertise, while six partners from Balkan brought extensive expertise in dealing with Roma youth issues, knowledge from the ground and capacity to select and support participants in their growth. In that way they did benefit in knowledge, experience and learning. As applicant, Young Roma ensured good management and coordination in the consortium.

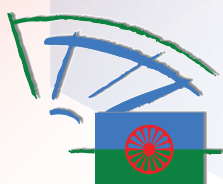
About partners

NGO Young Roma - Herceg Novi

NGO Young Roma - Herceg Novi was registered in May 2005 as a local non-profit association of citizens, with the aim of contributing to the improvement of the situation of Roma and Roma women in Montenegro and their full integration into Montenegrin society. Therefore, the vision of our organization: Roma and Roma women are equal, educated and active citizens of Montenegro.

Activities the NGO Young Roma is primarily focused on is working with the community and monitoring the implementation of national and local action plans in the field of Roma integration through encouraging active participation, advocacy, promotion and mediation in the realization of minority rights.

In order to achieve its goal, the organization animates and encourages young Roma and Roma women to be active participants in the decision-making process related to Roma integration; provides an active contribution to the development of education of Roma children and youth; works on resolving the issue of citizenship and identity documents; contributes to the improvement of living conditions for the Roma community; works to preserve Roma culture and tradition; initiates the development of local action plans and strategic documents at the local level in the field of Roma integration; cooperates with all relevant national and international organizations aimed at improving the situation of the Roma community.



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Out of The Box- International

Out of The Box- International is an international social enterprise that joins different actors working on social innovations and advocates a more creative Europe, with the main task of providing new ideas and solutions that act as a catalyst for positive change across Europe.

Members of the company are expert non-governmental organizations, small and medium enterprises, municipalities and universities that provide different expertise and experience in implementing various innovative social projects. We are experts in various fields such as education, culture, business, research, public policy, and we believe that innovation, fresh ideas and active participation of citizens in the political process together represent the basis for our society to be better, more just and sustainable.

The organization's headquarters are in Brussels. It is the place for those who want to shape policies that affect the lives of everyone in Europe and beyond.



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NGO Young Roma - Bosnia and Herzegovina

Association "Young Roma" from Vitez was founded on March 7, 2011 as a social, non-party, non-profit organization. It was founded on the initiative of a large number of young people. As an incentive for founding the organization, there is a great deal of discrimination against Roma, especially young people, poor education, non-education, begging as well as uncomfortable Roma life, as well as the initiation of the establishment of the folklore section. Within the association, KUD "Roma" is active and its activity is complemented by the activism of the association itself.

The basic constructive goals of this association are: education of Roma youth (through the introduction of their own cultural forms and basic categories of different cultural identities of a particular spatial domain); the fight against discrimination (the introduction of a marginalized group in the context of equality); inclusion in the social, cultural and social domains of coexistence (occupation of fixed positions in the sphere of public life). In the context, work on the set goals, the mission of this association refers to the way in which they are realized. Accordingly, this association seeks to realize the objectives of the project categories. The mission is related to the analysis and systemic inclusion of the Roma population in the context of public life. The path to this is the path of educational, cultural and enlightenment, because the only knowledge of one's own cultural identity enables knowledge of another cultural identity.

The vision refers to the long-term, prototypical plan of our state and activities in a particular area. Of this, the most important involvement is in general cultural discourse, emancipation, material, Existential care and, most importantly, awareness of oneself as a key moment in getting to know all cultural categories.



Udruga "Mladi Romi" Vitez

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Association of Coordinators for Roma issues – Serbia

ASSOCIATION OF ROMA QUESTIONS COORDINATORS was established with the aim of unifying individual local initiatives and actions and synchronizing the work on the implementation of the Roma Decade at the local level, strengthening cooperation, sharing examples of good practice, intensifying communication, and protecting the position of all actors working in this field. The Association was established to achieve goals in the field of promotion and protection of human and minority rights, and in particular the rights of the Roma national community.

Association of Coordinators for Roma Issues Serbia seeks to improve access to fundamental rights, education, health, social welfare, adequate housing and job creation. The role of the Coordinators is to provide technical support to local authorities in the development and implementation of existing and new policies and programs of inclusion of Roma in accordance with national and local strategic framework; to collect and analyze data on the socio-economic needs as a basis for the development and monitoring of local strategic documents related to the inclusion of Roma; to communicate and mediate between the Roma community and the local administration; to support civil society organizations dealing with the inclusion and improvement of the Roma community at the local level; to promote sectorial and cross-sectorial cooperation, cooperation with local mechanisms for Roma inclusion such as the Pedagogical Assistants (PA) and Roma Health Mediators, Mobile Teams for Roma Inclusion, but also representatives of the Centre for Social Work, National Employment Service (branches of local governments) and civil society organizations.

Specific objectives: Participate in the creation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the success of local policies for the Roma; Strengthening the role of representatives of the local Roma national community in the processes of Roma integration at the national level (Strategies, National Action Plans, Law and by-laws); Networking local initiatives and joint fundraising activities from existing national, bilateral and EU Funds; Building awareness is tolerant.



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RomaVersitas Macedonia

RomaVersitas is a civil society organization and a recognized leader in Macedonia in developing and supporting proactive and quality Roma education, and improving the status of Roma in the community. The organization participates actively in the creation and adoption of public policies at the local and national level. Romaversitas is a civil society organization that is actively working to strengthen the personal and academic capacities of high school and young Roma in Macedonia, and to provide academic and informal support, as well as support for the personal development of Roma and Roma women in Macedonia.

Strategic objectives of the organization

1. Increase college access, affordability, quality and competition for Roma secondary students entering university
2. Increase educational opportunities for Roma students so that all students are well-positioned to succeed
3. Improve Roma student's achievement aligned with academic standards while providing effective support services to close achievement and opportunity gaps, and ensure all students graduate on time and career-ready
4. Enhance the transition school – job for Roma students and lifelong opportunities for youth
5. Building Romani student community of current and alumni Roma students in Macedonia



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Disutni Albania

Disutni Albania is one of the first non-governmental organizations in Albania, formally established in Korca in 1995. This organization is part of the Balkan Union of Roma. As one of the most active organizations in the defense of Roma rights in Albania, the organization has collaborated and participated in numerous projects over the years. Thanks to its dedicated work and its precious activities, the Disutni Albania organization has built a serious profile, a reputation and a team formed by academically educated individuals, media representatives and employees in the education system. The organization successfully executes projects and creates a space for cooperation on national and international level using all its capacities. The opportunities and potentials of this association for serious support to the Roma community in Korca, region and beyond are great.

UNIONI RROM KORÇE



DISUTNI ALBANIA
SH.D.A

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Advancing Together Kosovo

Advancing Together is an organization that bases its work on universal principles of human rights and promotes values of equality, inclusion, diversity, dialogue and solidarity. It promotes social justice and social-economic development for all individuals and groups, regardless of their ethnic, religious or social background.

Vision

Improving a multi-ethnic society based on respect for universal, individual and collective rights and equality, where all persons have the opportunity to express their talents and skills. In our vision of the future, the voices of the most vulnerable are heard and their rights are recognized.

Mission

In pursuing this vision, Advancing Together conducts a mission to advocate, promote and develop measures and programs to ensure that the rights of all communities and their members are respected. By actively engaging in political debates, monitoring, advocacy and lobbying, education and active engagement in the community to build a social protection network, we commit ourselves to promoting the rights of vulnerable groups in Kosovo and abroad.



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