

Increasing Roma Inclusion via the EEA and Norway Grants:

Results from Romania and Bulgaria

Rapid Assessment report

Final Report, 1 August 2017

Prepared for: Financial Mechanism Office

Reference: Detailed contract 1, implementing Framework Agreement No 2017-01

Date: 1 August 2017



Disclaimer

This report has been prepared as a result of an independent rapid assessment by a team of consultants from CREDA and Blomeyer & Sanz, between June and August 2017. The rapid assessment was commissioned by the Financial Mechanism Office of the EEA and Norway Grants. The views expressed in the document are those of the team conducting the work and do not necessarily reflect those of the Financial Mechanism Office.

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Executive summary

The EEA and Norway Grants support to Roma inclusion

The Roma are Europe's largest minority, counting 10-12 million people, most of which are European Union (EU) citizens. Despite progress with Roma integration policies at different levels, Roma continue to face multiple and interrelated disadvantages. The economic stagnation following the 2008 crisis aggravated their situation further, and Roma impoverishment, social exclusion and discrimination continues.

Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein support initiatives to improve the situation of Europe's Roma communities through the EEA and Norway Grants. Roma exclusion and discrimination is the direct and indirect focus of programmes in countries with a sizeable Roma minority, i.e. Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia, and implicitly addressed in 13 countries via 47 programmes that cover Roma inclusion. In total, an indicative minimum of €50 million is allocated to this aim. In Bulgaria and Romania – countries subject to this assessment – a 10% minimum target is earmarked at national (BG) or programme level (RO) for measures aiming to improve the situation of the Roma.

Beneficiary state authorities implement important programmes relevant to Roma inclusion in the sectors of health, children and youth at risk, justice and home affairs, culture and research. In addition, the Grants are the primary funding for civil society in the beneficiary countries. The NGO funds address Roma empowerment and inclusion either as a specific thematic priority or under other priority areas, such as human rights, anti-discrimination and multicultural dialogue.

The Grants deploy a twofold approach to Roma integration, combining perspectives of fundamental rights with socio-economic inclusion. In line with the EU's ten common basic principles on Roma inclusion, and specifically the principle of explicit, but not exclusive targeting, the Grants work with society at large to promote tolerance and fundamental rights, combat discrimination, and foster the inclusiveness of institutions. Roma are also targeted explicitly, with a focus on their empowerment and on promoting the inclusiveness of mainstream public policies and practices.

Overall, the relevant programmes focus on three Roma inclusion areas:

- *Empowering Roma* – enabling Roma to change their own lives through education and training for work;
- *Enhancing the inclusiveness of institutions* – securing rights, improving access to welfare services and participation in decision-making;
- *Fighting prejudice* – among the general public and public institutions. The programmes target both Roma and non-Roma.

Main questions explored by the Rapid Assessment

This Rapid Assessment documents and assesses the results of the EEA and Norway Grants' support to Roma inclusion and empowerment, based on a sample of four programmes in Bulgaria (BG05 - NGO Fund, BG06 – Children and Youth at Risk, BG07 – Public Health and BG14 – Judicial Capacity Building) and five programmes in Romania (RO09 – NGO Fund, RO10 – Children and Youth at Risk, RO19 – Public Health, RO24 – Judicial Capacity Building, RO25 – Poverty Alleviation).

Two main questions guided the assessment:

- a) What were the most significant results (outputs and outcomes) achieved? and
- b) Which types of interventions have worked particularly well and why?

The methodology was guided by the three main Roma inclusion areas: Roma empowerment, more inclusive institutions and less discriminatory society. The assessment focused on the most successful projects related to Roma. The level of positive results, effectiveness of implementation modality and methodology were among the selection criteria when assessing the initiatives. The 30% sample of successful projects was established on the basis of desk research of all 351 Roma inclusion related projects (159 in Bulgaria and 192 in Romania) funded by the nine programmes and consulted with the relevant

Programme Operators. In addition, a survey was sent to all 351 project promoters, followed by field visits and interviews with project promoters and beneficiaries of 23 projects in both countries (11 in Bulgaria and 12 in Romania).

What was achieved?

The evidence gathered by the assessment outlines *substantial visible achievements and processes of positive changes triggered by the reviewed projects*. Change is observable in the attitudes and behaviour within Roma communities; in local administrations' and various public institutions' knowledge, capacity and policies and in the general public's attitude, especially in the locations where projects were implemented.

Empowering Roma

The interventions in the 30% project sample raised the awareness of Roma on fundamental rights and increased their access to various services in the area of healthcare, education, social service, legal aid, housing and jobs. Altogether, **50,045 Roma** from more than **360 vulnerable Roma communities** in Bulgaria and Romania benefited from these measures.

Impressive health initiatives in both countries organised new types of pro-active outreach campaigns directly in Roma communities, raising the awareness of more than **39,286 Roma** on health issues, rights and services. Projects introduced preventive health care in **92 marginalised Roma communities**, rendering basic health services, and specialised medical equipment and examinations, more accessible especially for Roma women, mothers and children.

As a result, **23,067 Roma** (mostly Roma women, mothers and infants, as well as Roma youth) benefited from medical consultations, examinations and diverse specialised tests. Over 300 doctors, nurses and health care specialists worked directly in Roma communities, thus increasing their knowledge of health risks and needs in Roma communities. Direct interaction between medical specialists and Roma patients helped overcome the mutual bias and mistrust, evidenced by the increasing number of Roma women using mainstream health care services.

The reviewed projects supported by the "Children and Youth at Risk" and the "Civil Society" programmes in both countries, as well as by the "Poverty Alleviation" programme in Romania contributed to enhancing access to school of **4,860 Roma children and youth**. Over **2,090** pre-school Roma children were enrolled in summer or regular kindergarten pre-school classes. More than **2,310** Roma school students improved their attendance and grades thanks to the after-school programmes. The intensive work with Roma parents to raise their awareness on the importance of education, as well as training and work with teachers to improve the quality of the teaching process also contributed to this outcome.

The supported initiatives also motivated over **140** young Roma to attend vocational training and individual counselling or mentorship, and to increase their chances to find jobs or to continue their education in university. This report's 'stories of change' provide evidence of the visible personal development of children, youth and their parents inspired by education.

The new type of primary legal aid services introduced under the "Justice Capacity Building and Cooperation" programmes in both countries helped inform more than **1,640** Roma about their legal rights and practical access to justice.

Despite their smaller scope and duration, the 60 "Civil Society" projects, reviewed in both countries, have visible and meaningful outcomes contributing to Roma empowerment. These projects have increased the awareness on fundamental rights and access to services (social, educational, health, legal, administrative and housing) of **10,062** Roma families, women, children and youth. They also expanded the capacities of **140** Roma NGOs and over **1,013** Roma activists. This, together with initiatives for self-organising of the Roma community and over 20 issue-based local or national campaigns or petitions, has increased the capacity of Roma to participate in decision-making and to have a say on issues that affect their lives.

Enhancing the inclusiveness of institutions

Overall, the activities of the reviewed projects in both countries reached out to (or directly involved) more than **4,127** representatives of local authorities and local institutions (hospitals, public health institutions, schools, kindergartens, social services, employment and legal institutions). This involvement resulted in improved service infrastructure (new or renovated kindergartens, multifunctional centres for children and youth, legal aid offices, mobile medical units or new family planning centres). The participation of local authorities' and public institutions' representatives in numerous trainings and their direct interaction with Roma (health or educational mediators, Roma NGOs, direct work in communities) enhanced their understanding of Roma integration needs and helped improve policies and services. The strengthened capacity of representatives of Roma communities to participate and advocate for their interests has also contributed to enhancing the inclusiveness of local and national institutions considering Roma input to policy consultations, thus increasing the effectiveness of Roma inclusion measures.

Changes in local policies and national measures are an indicator for increased openness of local and national institutions to Roma inclusion. Over **40** municipalities have updated their local Roma integration plans based on the input from Roma NGOs.¹ Several models piloted locally were adopted as national Roma integration measures, thus expanding the relevant services to Roma nationwide. One example is the scaling-up of the Primary Legal Aid centres in Bulgaria (amendment of the Legal Aid Law and establishing eight additional state-funded centres). A further example is the national scaling-up of the "Every child in kindergarten" initiative for social tickets for vulnerable pre-school children (including Roma) piloted by OvidiuRo NGO in Romania.

Fighting prejudice and building support among the general public

Most visible outcomes in overcoming bias and discrimination against Roma were generated by *initiatives that brought together Roma and non-Roma*, especially in the project implementation localities. More than **35,342** non-Roma children, youth and their parents participated in joint activities with Roma (mixed classes, courses, theatre performances, art exhibitions, local campaigns or national campaigns on common issues) or in broader campaigns or training for tolerance and human rights. For some this was the first direct experience of interaction, as in many cases Roma and non-Roma live in parallel societies.

Joint initiatives contributed to overcoming bias at an early age among the participating children and young people. They also triggered communication in families encouraging a gradual change in attitudes towards Roma. Issue-based campaigns on shared problems affecting both Roma and non-Roma created common ground for civic action. This was the case in the campaign for access to clean water or access of rural women to development, organised by NGOs in Romania. Both have stimulated better understanding that the right of decent living is a common need of all citizens, independent of ethnicity.

Projects supported by the NGO funds in both countries have also demonstrated new types of objective media reporting, providing diverse perspectives on important issues, including the perspectives held by Roma themselves. Based on available statistics, the various media products developed by these projects have reached out to over **1,250,000** TV and on-line viewers. Although the impact of these TV products is difficult to estimate (the projects did not have resources for evaluating impact), they have introduced a new interpretation of Roma issues, which can trigger a change in viewers' attitudes to Roma. The positive effect of the 20 episodes of the "Small stories from the Roma world" developed by a Roma journalist and her team (aired on Bulgarian National TV, BNT1), is evidenced by the fact that none of the 750,000 viewers of the episodes reacted with hate comments on the BNT1 website or in social media.

What worked well and why?

Overall, the assessment shows *that focusing the efforts at the local or community level where Roma live proved to be effective in generating outcomes* in all three areas of Roma inclusion. Roma were more empowered when Roma communities had a say in the projects; institutions were more inclusive when the projects were developed and implemented in real partnerships between institutions and community

¹ Roma NGOs are NGOs that are established and led by Roma and have a significant number of Roma staff.

representatives; and changes in the way Roma and non-Roma coexist were more visible when a common space for knowing was created to facilitate getting to know each other and identify shared interests. In particular, several aspects of applied interventions stand out as especially effective towards generating outcomes in the three Roma inclusion areas.

Roma empowerment is about the capacity to stand for one's rights

Interventions that approached Roma with a clear empowerment objective were most successful. This applied both to targeted initiatives (working only with Roma) or mainstream initiatives (working with a broader category of vulnerable groups, including Roma, or mainstreaming Roma inclusion in relevant policies). These initiatives involved Roma as active participants, not merely as passive recipients of services. The focus was on expanding the capacity of communities to be informed and to access basic rights and services, and to enable community members to voice their interests to local institutions.

Projects with genuine Roma involvement were particularly successful – Roma NGOs as promoters or partners, Roma as part of the staff and volunteers, Roma health mediators, Roma pre-school or education mediators, and community facilitators. Giving the community a decision-making role in project design, implementation and monitoring was instrumental in making the initiatives responsive to the needs, and stimulating ownership and sustainability of the emerging positive changes in the Roma communities.

Applied integrated approaches proved to be effective in addressing multiple social exclusion challenges that Roma face. Many of the successful interventions of the multifunctional centres for children at risk (in Romania) or NGO projects combined education issues with practical skills and capacities for entering the labour market. Efforts to improve the educational outcomes of children went hand in hand with helping parents understand the importance of education, and helping teachers improve the quality of teaching. A good example of effective work with parents is the “Ready, Set, Go!” project, supported by the Poverty Alleviation Programme in Romania. It applied a set of five educational programmes with parents of pre-school children, changing their attitudes to their children’s education.

Roma exclusion has diverse facets, therefore, one-size-fits-all approaches rarely work. A number of the multifunctional centres for children at risk, Ready, Set, Go Project (RO25), and the NGO fund’s projects in both countries designed strategies tailored to the concrete needs of specific groups, including Roma women, youth, and children. Initiatives that stimulated the involvement of women to expand their transformative potential – in the family and in the broader community – proved to be particularly effective. This report’s stories of change on health or educational initiatives provide abundant evidence.

Targeted actions for self-organising of Roma communities appear to be especially promising in terms of empowerment and of building the positive social capital in the communities. A higher level of Roma self-organisation correlates with stronger negotiating power vis-à-vis local authorities and expanded opportunities for practicing fundamental rights.

Making institutions more open to Roma inclusion ensures sustainability

Improving institutions’ practical knowledge of the problems that Roma communities face renders the implementation of Roma inclusion policies more effective. Bringing local administration, healthcare professionals, legal and social workers or teachers closer to the communities by direct visits, meetings, joint workshops and discussions proved to work best. The projects provided space for interaction, contributing to expanded capacities of institutions via trainings, public debates, structured consultative meetings or processes of updating local strategies.

Ensuring the involvement of local institutions was a factor for success and sustainability. The direct involvement of local institutions as promoters (especially when working in partnership with NGOs), as partners or participants in project activities increased their engagement with Roma integration needs. It also increased their understanding that Roma inclusion equally benefits Roma and non-Roma. This change opened the way for improved policies and policy implementation at local level. It also triggered a clear message to the wider public, i.e. Roma inclusion is of benefit to wider local development. This approach increased the chances that Roma inclusion will stay on the agenda of local policies and will be supported by broader constituencies.

Piloted new approaches and methodologies in different service areas created innovation space for new approaches towards Roma inclusion. Having a clear objective for mainstreaming pilots supported their adoption by the responsible institutions. Elements of effectiveness included well-documented evidence of the benefit of the piloted service, legitimacy of the promoter with the relevant institutions, and the partnership with these institutions in developing the model.

International partnership and expertise have contributed to expanding the horizon of institutions and NGOs. Knowledge transfer from Norwegian partners facilitated access to good practices in approaching volunteerism, applying integrated approaches and developing social enterprises.

Overcoming societal prejudice against Roma requires consistent and specific measures

Creating space for direct interaction between Roma and non-Roma children, youth and their families proved to be instrumental. Creative joint initiatives bringing together Roma and non-Roma children and youth, theatre performances, youth campaigns, festivals, and exhibitions contributed to gradually overcoming bias at project locations.

Bringing Roma and non-Roma together around a common cause increased civic solidarity. Local campaigns to identify common issues and solutions, national campaigns engaging Roma and non-Roma together in joint actions addressing shared concerns, proved particularly effective.

In terms of communication to the general public, two approaches stand out as particularly effective in contributing to addressing negative Roma stereotypes. The first relates to specifically designed project components focusing on *targeted communication with different audiences or groups of stakeholders* in the majority population. This allowed more focused messaging, translating into the audience' support for the issues. The second approach focused on developing new media products of non-biased reporting on Roma in both countries. Particularly instrumental were targeted media TV productions providing diverse interpretations of burning societal issues and broadcasted on the national TV in Bulgaria, and initiatives for innovative community journalism in Romania.

1 Introduction

1.1 Context and background

The Roma are Europe's largest minority, counting 10-12 million people, most of which are European Union (EU) citizens. Despite the positive effects of Roma integration policies at European and national levels, Roma continue to face multiple and interrelated disadvantages practically in all areas of life, e.g. access to quality education, employment, access to health care, housing. The recent economic crisis has further aggravated their situation with increasing impoverishment, social exclusion and discrimination.

Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein support initiatives to improve the situation of Europe's Roma communities through the EEA and Norway Grants. Roma exclusion and discrimination is directly and indirectly targeted in relevant programmes in countries with a sizeable Roma minority – Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia and implicitly addressed in 13 countries through 47 programmes that cover Roma inclusion. In total, an indicative minimum of €50 million is allocated to this aim. In Bulgaria and Romania – countries subject to this assessment – a 10% minimum target is earmarked at national (BG) or programme level (RO) for measures targeting the improvement of the situation for the Roma.

Sizeable programmes relevant to Roma inclusion are implemented by state authorities of the beneficiary states in the sectors of health, children and youth at risk, justice and home affairs and culture and research. In addition, the Grants are the primary funding supporter of civil society in the beneficiary countries. The NGO funds address Roma empowerment and inclusion as a specific thematic priority in some of the countries, as well as under other priority areas focused on human rights, anti-discrimination, multicultural dialogue and good governance.

The Grants deploy a twofold approach to Roma integration, combining perspectives of fundamental rights with socio-economic inclusion. In line with the EU's ten common basic principles on Roma inclusion, and specifically the principle on explicit, but not exclusive targeting, the Grants work with society at large to promote tolerance and fundamental rights, combat discrimination, and foster the inclusiveness of institutions. Roma are also targeted explicitly, with a focus on their empowerment and on promoting the inclusiveness of mainstream public policies and practices.

Overall, the relevant programmes focus on three Roma inclusion areas:

- Empowering Roma – enabling Roma to change their own lives through education and training for work;
- Enhancing the inclusiveness of institutions – securing rights, improving access to welfare services and participation in decision-making;
- Fighting prejudice – among the general public and public institutions. The programmes are directed towards Roma, but are also open for non-Roma.

1.2 Objectives of the Rapid Assessment

This assessment documents and assesses the results of the EEA and Norway Grants' support to Roma inclusion and empowerment, based on a sample of four programmes in Bulgaria (BG05- NGO Fund, BG06 – Children and Youth at Risk, BG07 – Public Health and BG14 – Judicial Capacity Building) and five programmes in Romania (RO09 – NGO Fund, RO10 – Children and Youth at Risk, RO19 – Public Health, RO24 – Judicial Capacity Building, RO25 – Poverty Alleviation).

Two main questions guided the assessment:

- a) What were the most significant results (outputs and outcomes) achieved? and,
- b) Which types of interventions have worked particularly well and why?

The methodology was guided by the three main Roma inclusion areas: Roma empowerment, more inclusive institutions and less discriminatory society. The assessment focused on the most successful projects related to Roma. The level of positive results, effectiveness of implementation modality and methodology were among the selection criteria. The 30% sample of successful projects was established

on the basis of desk research of all 351 Roma related projects funded by the nine programmes and consulted with the relevant Programme Operators.

Based on the desk review and again in consultation with the Programme Operators 23 projects were selected for field visits - 11 in Bulgaria and 12 in Romania. During the field visits the assessment team members met with project promoters and representatives of beneficiaries and partners wherever possible.

In addition, a survey was sent to all 351 promoters of projects related to Roma inclusion. Following the overall methodology, the survey questions were structured around the areas of Roma inclusion: Roma empowerment, making institutions more open to Roma inclusion and reducing prejudice of the broader society. The survey had low response rate. This was due to technical problems, as well as the limited time to ask Programme Operators to send reminders to project promoters. The team could do this only in Romania where the rate of answers increased. In addition, the survey and the field work overlapped, and some of the projects that were visited did not complete the survey questions. In total, there were 30 responses from Bulgarian project promoters (18, 8% of the 159 project promoters) and 74 from Romania (38, 5% of the 192 project promoters).

This assessment is not a thorough evaluation, especially since most of the programmes have not been finalised yet. Rather, it is a quick mapping of achievements, outcomes and outputs, as well as of approaches and practices that worked well, aiming to inform the Donor states about the progress made in the area of Roma inclusion through the support provided by the Grants.

The assessment was implemented by CREDA (focus on data collection via desk research and field work) in the period 1 -30 June, and supported by Blomeyer & Sanz (survey and quality control).²

² The following experts worked on the assignment: Mariana Milosheva-Krushe, Nikolay Kirilov, Anna Ivanova, Anna Socoloveschi, Monica Githiu, Nicolò Franceschelli, Roland Blomeyer.

2 What was achieved: Mapping results

The first main question of this rapid assessment was to identify “the most significant results (outputs and outcomes) achieved by the reviewed programmes/projects”.³

The task of the team was to quantify the results wherever possible, assessing both, the quantitative and qualitative progress made. To meet this task, the team analysed: aggregated information from the National Focal Points (NFP) and Programme Operators (POs); final reports or intermediary project reports (as available) and the results of the survey with project promoters.

Challenges faced in aggregating the information related to missing or fragmented information on Roma inclusion at the outcome level (the effect of the intervention on institutions or end beneficiaries). While information on outputs was available, the level of output aggregation differed depending on the PO and country. In a number of programmes working with Roma as part of broader beneficiary groups, there was no data on the exact number of Roma beneficiaries. Moreover, the survey rate of response was too low to provide reliable quantitative data. However, the survey provided valuable qualitative information, supporting the analysis of the working of the different interventions.

The challenges were addressed by using project reports (sample) and reviewing outcomes and outputs on Roma inclusion in clusters. For this, we used the outcome framework based on the three main areas of Roma inclusion and empowerment, as outlined in the table below:

Table1 Roma inclusion outcomes framework

Area	Desired changes in attitudes and behaviour ⁴
Empowering Roma	To enable Roma to change their own lives they need: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better knowledge on their fundamental rights; • Practical access to fundamental rights and services (education, employment, health, housing, social service, etc.); • Increased capacity to participate in decision-making.
Enhancing the inclusiveness of institutions	To make institutions more “open” and willing to include Roma, they need: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be aware of and know how to address Roma integration needs; • To develop a more accessible service provision system; • To consult with Roma and include their input in policy development / implementation.
Fighting prejudice – among the general public and public institutions	To reduce bias towards Roma in society requires: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved interaction reducing prejudice among Roma and non-Roma in locations where they coexist; • Enhanced understanding and support of the broader society concerning the benefits of Roma inclusion; • Less bias in media reporting on Roma.

The next section provides tables with aggregated information on outcomes and outputs for each of the selected programmes in the two countries based on the sample of projects reviewed during desk research. The numbers of the project samples for each of the programmes are noted in footnotes.

³ “Outputs are the products, goods and services delivered (funded) by a programme/project. Typical outputs include: policies drafted, services provided, campaigns carried out, materials and tools developed, infrastructure constructed/restored/upgraded”. “Outcomes are the effects of the outputs on the direct target groups. They normally entail a change in knowledge, attitudes, or behaviour, or an increase in the efficiency or the effectiveness of institutions. In service-delivery initiatives, outcomes can also be an increase in the wellbeing of the end beneficiaries”.

⁴ This is not an exhaustive list of outcomes; but examples of the areas of change required to achieve Roma inclusion.

2.1.1 Map of outcomes and outputs, reviewed projects in selected programmes in Bulgaria

Judicial capacity and cooperation ⁵	
<i>Outcomes achieved</i>	<i>Outputs delivered</i>
Roma empowerment/human rights	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 11,127 vulnerable people (of which 10% estimated to be Roma⁶) received primary legal aid through two regional legal aid centres and a national hotline in Bulgaria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legal aid was provided to 11,127 vulnerable people (of which at least 10% estimated to be Roma) at two pilot regional centres and a national hotline for primary legal aid
More Roma-inclusive institutions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legal aid legislation improved to provide access to justice for vulnerable groups (including Roma). - Pilot regional primary legal aid centres mainstreamed by establishing four new state-funded centres 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Legal Aid Bureau and two pilot regional Legal Aid Centres in Vidin and Sliven established and providing services for vulnerable people (including Roma) from the two regions - National legal aid hotline established in Sofia and providing telephone consultations to vulnerable people (including Roma) from all parts of the country - Amendments proposed in the Law for Legal aid for easing procedures of primary legal aid
Public health ⁷	
<i>Outcomes achieved</i>	<i>Outputs delivered</i>
Roma empowerment/human rights	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 7,286 Roma increased their knowledge of health issues and services due to informational campaigns - 10,663 Roma women, children and youth received specialised medical services in 17 municipalities - 135 Roma medical students increased their educational outcomes due to scholarships and mentorship - 5,402 individual and reproductive health consultations and 4,826 free tests (for HIV, Hepatitis B and C tests, and syphilis) for young Roma people in 15 municipalities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 119 health education events on prevention of sexually transmitted diseases organised in 15 most marginalised Roma communities - 1,600 Roma people in four large Roma neighbourhoods in Sofia reached by 50 informational campaigns and home visits by qualified medical specialists - 785 young Roma trained as volunteers and assisted with organising the informational events and motivating Roma youth in 14 Roma communities to benefit from medical consultations - 11 Roma self-help groups created within the project “Mission possible” in 11 locations - 135 scholarships and mentor support from 34 specialists provided to Roma medical students

⁵ Outcomes and outputs are summarised based on the review of one project relevant to Roma inclusion.

⁶ The exact number of Roma serviced by the primary legal aid centres and hotline cannot be provided, as we did not receive data of clients of the service based on their ethnic origin. The estimation that the Roma were at least 10% of the broader vulnerable groups served was provided during the interview with the project promoter.

⁷ Outcomes and outputs are summarised based on review of three projects under the Public health programme.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Qualified medical consultations for 1,957 Roma pregnant women in Sofia and Ihtiman - Free screening for detection of genetic thalassaemia for 2,500 Roma in Sofia 	
More Roma-inclusive institutions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 124 medical, social and municipal specialists have increased knowledge and awareness of the health care needs of Roma women and children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 124 health, municipal and social specialists were trained to work in a multi-ethnic environment in 15 municipalities - A survey conducted by medical specialists with 4,316 Roma people gathered data about the socio-medical risks of new-born babies in Sofia to improve preventive healthcare
Less discriminatory society	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 176 doctors, nurses, medical specialists and experts changed attitudes towards Roma - More Roma visit health facilities due to increased trust in doctors 	176 doctors and nurses working in 17 municipalities with significant number of Roma communities became more sensitised about the health needs of Roma
Children and youth at risk⁸	
<i>Outcomes achieved</i>	<i>Outputs delivered</i>
Roma empowerment/human rights	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased knowledge of 140 Roma about their fundamental rights - 500 Roma youth increased their knowledge on fundamental rights and social skills through participation in youth centres activities - 11 young Roma continued their education in universities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 35 individual and group sessions with Roma parents to motivate them to enrol their children in kindergartens - Mapping Roma youth needs with over 300 young Roma organised by the two youth centres - 140 Roma trained and received training certificate in health and human rights, discrimination prevention, gender equality, domestic violence - Four Roma educational mediators trained and employed in the two established youth centres - Interest clubs, courses, intercultural workshops, dance and theatre groups organised
More Roma-inclusive institutions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1,400 Roma children increased attendance in pre-school education (kindergarten) due to effective work with their parents - 50 Roma children successfully enrolled in first grade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 100 Roma school children received free meals appropriate to their age - 30 kindergarten teachers trained on work methods with Roma children by the Council of Europe - Two youth centres, ten kindergartens and one school cafeteria renovated and equipped to serve the needs of pre-school children and youth (including Roma)

⁸ Results based on desk review of the projects of two youth centers, ten kindergartens in two Municipalities and one school in Krasna poliana – Sofia.

Less discriminatory society	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 880 non-Roma children and their families have better understanding of Roma due to participation in mixed pre-school groups - 1,220 non-Roma young people have better awareness of Roma, and their human rights due to mutual activities together with Roma youth in the two youth centres 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2,067 Roma and non-Roma informed about the services of the Youth centre in Stara Zagora - 20 interest clubs brought together Roma and non-Roma youth - Cultural events involving both Roma and non-Roma (32 inter-cultural workshops, theatre performances, two dance and song groups) - One documentary about shared values - Campaign "No hate speech movement" conducted to combat intolerance
Civil Society/human rights⁹	
<i>Outcomes achieved</i>	<i>Outputs delivered</i>
Roma empowerment/human rights	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5,397 Roma have increased knowledge about their fundamental rights (human rights in general, educational rights, housing and employment rights) - 328 Roma children have improved school performance due to new extracurricular programmes - 1,727 Roma received services in various areas (health care, housing, legal/administrative, education) - 397 Roma activists with increased capacity in leadership and participation - Ten new community based self-organising structures (Roma councils, consumer clubs, self-help groups) increased Roma capacity to voice interests vis-à-vis local authorities - Two regional and two national networks of Roma NGOs increased the capacity to advocate for Roma inclusion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5,197 Roma in 13 localities covered by community campaigns in areas of education, housing, jobs, human rights, trafficking, domestic violence etc. - New mobile legal clinic provided free legal support in 122 cases of violation of human rights of Roma in rural communities - A newly established mobile legal clinic provided assistance to 403 Roma women to fight domestic violence - New extracurricular programmes involving 328 Roma children introduced in 11 schools - Qualification training and career counselling provided to 130 young Roma - 48 Roma children at the Correctional Boarding Schools participated in reintegration programmes - 397 Roma activists trained in advocacy, leadership and participation - Advocacy campaigns for update of local Roma integration plans conducted in 35 municipalities - New Roma community-based civic structures created in ten localities - Monitoring report on the NRIS's implementation published and discussed with government

⁹ Results based on a sample of 30 projects funded by BG05 "Funds for Non-Governmental Organizations".

More Roma-inclusive institutions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 817 representatives of local administration and institutions increased awareness about Roma integration needs through working groups, training, meetings, documentaries, reports - New local Roma integration plans in 36 municipalities adopted, with input from Roma NGOs - Local institutions hired Roma teacher assistants and health mediators, based on input from Roma NGOs - “Roma Integration” measure proposed by NGOs included in the “Human resources” programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 565 representatives of local administration and institutions interacted directly with Roma activists and communities through regular meetings, working groups and round tables - 40 specialists from local institutions in five municipalities trained in dealing with domestic violence in vulnerable communities (including Roma settlements)¹⁰ - Informational documentary on preventing domestic violence in vulnerable communities (including Roma settlements) disseminated among 92 local institutions - New Roma mediation services provided to Roma communities in 12 municipalities (Roma housing, administrative and health mediators) - Database of 60 communal service companies in three large Roma neighbourhoods established - Standards and job description of Roma health mediators in hospitals developed
Less discriminatory society	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5,042 young non-Roma people have improved their understanding of human rights and diversity - 750,000 TV viewers have increased their knowledge of Roma issues from diverse perspective and objective reporting. No hate comments on the website of the Bulgarian national television 1 (BNT1) or in social media about the documentaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 189 on-line publications and nine printed guides or reports publicised results on Roma inclusion - 49 round tables discussed issues of Roma inclusion and recommendations for improvement - 33 public events and 22 press conferences presented positive developments of Roma inclusion - Eight local awareness youth campaigns conducted on human rights and tolerance - Theatre performances, involving both Roma and non-Roma actors organised - Seven public exhibitions of art produced by Roma children presented to the public - Nine documentaries on positive achievements in Roma inclusion spread to non-Roma audiences - 162 students from mainstream schools in three municipalities involved in trainings and discussions on human rights, solidarity, diversity - 20 documentary TV film productions ‘Small stories from the Roma world’ developed and broadcasted on BNT1 reaching to 150,000 Roma and 750,000 TV viewers - 104 cases of discrimination of media reporting about Roma submitted to the relevant institutions by a new NGO coalition fighting hate speech

¹⁰ Domestic violence is an issue equally present in both Bulgarian and Roma families, but not addressed due to lack of access of Roma women to mainstream services.

2.1.2 Map of outcomes and outputs of reviewed projects of selected programmes in Romania

Judicial capacity and cooperation¹¹	
<i>Outcomes achieved</i>	<i>Outputs delivered</i>
Roma empowerment/human rights	
- Over 3,000 Roma are more aware of their legal rights due to an informational campaign	- An awareness raising campaign “I want to know my rights so that I will not remain vulnerable” distributed 3,000 audio versions in Romani language, 5,000 printed booklets, 4,000 promotional kits
More Roma-inclusive institutions	
- 640 Roma received legal assistance from the legal aid offices	- Legal Aid Offices established in seven Court Houses in seven counties with large Roma population - Survey completed on efficiency and accessibility of legal justice system to vulnerable groups, including Roma conducted with 150 legal and human rights institutions and NGOs - Study on “Access to justice for vulnerable groups in Romania, with a special focus on Roma” developed and distributed to decision-makers
Axis: Less discriminatory society	
- 470 lawyers , judges, prosecutors, probation officers from seven counties with significant Roma population increased their knowledge on Roma access to justice	- Training and workshops on access to justice of vulnerable groups, including Roma delivered to 470 judges, prosecutors, representatives of NGOs, probation services, lawyers Mixed working groups of county authorities / institutions, NGOs and Roma experts in seven counties provided input to the informational campaigns in the Roma community
Public health¹²	
<i>Outcomes achieved</i>	<i>Outputs delivered</i>
Roma empowerment/human rights	
- 35,200 Roma increased their awareness on health issues and rights - 15,000 Roma adults and children from 45 communities received medical services - 4,000 PAP tests, 2,000 mammography tests, 800 HPV tests provided to Roma women from vulnerable communities	- Informational campaign on prevention of breast and cervix cancers reached 7,200 women in seven counties - 19,159 (Roma and non-Roma) children and adults from 45 vulnerable communities with significant share of Roma population reached by the health promotion campaigns - 8,000 health promotion kits distributed to Roma children and their parents - Four video-clips “Trust your Community Health Team” on diabetes, hypertension, child viruses produced - 1,200 booklets for pregnant women and 0-1 y/o children distributed to Roma families

¹¹ Results based on the review of one project relevant to Roma inclusion under the programme.

¹² Results based on two projects from the Public health programme.

More Roma-inclusive institutions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 12 counties of Romania with large Roma population improved the medical services offered to Roma persons¹³ - More Roma women use health services in hospitals of seven counties due to increased confidence in doctors and medical specialists 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 30 doctors trained to manage cancer screening programmes in vulnerable communities (incl. Roma communities) - Three functional mobile units (equipped for tests on cervix and breast cancer) organised over 100 trips to vulnerable communities (with significant Roma population) in seven counties - Survey of the health risks of 654 Roma from 45 vulnerable communities (including Roma) conducted - A study on health-related needs of Roma people developed and disseminated - 45 Community Health Centres with community health teams (consisting of Roma health mediator and a community nurse) established - 45 partnership agreements signed with mayors and county-level public health agencies - 50 public health professionals from six counties trained to assist Community Health Teams - 115 health mediators and community nurses trained on efficient tools of promoting health issues in vulnerable communities (including Roma) - 45 new Roma health mediators trained and certified in health mediation in Roma communities - Community Health Centres network created to exchange best practices
Less discriminatory society	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Over 125 participating doctors, nurses, medical specialists increased their knowledge on health issues in Roma communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 125 participating doctors, nurses and public health professionals worked directly in Roma communities
Children and youth at risk¹⁴	
<i>Outcomes achieved</i>	<i>Outputs delivered</i>
Roma empowerment/human rights	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6,257 Roma increased their knowledge of fundamental rights and access to services - 4,290 Roma children and youth with increased access to education due to services provided in 135 local social inclusion centres - 120 Roma pre-school children enrolled in school after participating in summer kindergartens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1,967 Roma parents / tutors of targeted children were trained and counselled on the importance of education and non-violent domestic life - 1,105 Roma youth were trained in Second-Chance-School and in vocational education programmes - 135 social inclusion centres delivered different education programmes to 4,290 Roma children and youth (pre-school kindergartens, school-after school, second chance education programmes)

¹³ In six counties, the services were specifically provided to Roma by the established 45 Community Health Centres). In the remaining seven counties Roma women were among the broader vulnerable groups that received screening or different medical tests, but the PP did not have data on the exact number of Roma women who received screening.

¹⁴ Results based on 29 projects funded under the Children and youth at risk programme in Romania.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2,232 Roma children improved their school attendance rate and grades due to School-After-School programmes of the local centres 	
More Roma-inclusive institutions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2,700 specialists have increased and used their knowledge and abilities to work with Roma as part of vulnerable children and youth - 156 localities with high percentage of Roma population have improved their capacity to provide educational services for increased school attendance and results of Roma students by the established local centres 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 19 antidiscrimination networks of local / county / national stakeholders developed - More than 700 representatives of local / county authorities trained on anti-discrimination measures - Eight local / county strategies and action plans for combating discrimination developed in consultation with Roma experts - 135 Roma children and youth inclusion centres established - 160 measures and methodologies developed for improving the access to education and to the labour market of vulnerable children and youth (including Roma)
Less discriminatory society	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Over 15,000 non-Roma persons increased their understanding of the benefits of Roma inclusion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Over 150 local campaigns conducted for combating intolerance - Over 50 intercultural workshops, theatre performances, exhibitions to familiarise with Roma culture - Five video spots on the benefits of education for Roma children received over 3,000,000 views
Poverty alleviation¹⁵	
Outcomes achieved	Outputs delivered
Roma empowerment/human rights	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 570 Roma children aged 3-6 benefited from quality early childhood education and achieved 80% or higher attendance rate in kindergartens - More than 627 Roma parents improved parental skills due to social and educational services - 81 Roma children prevented from dropping out from school and improved school attendance and performance, due to afterschool programmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 570 kindergarten places created in 14 newly established kindergarten groups across 11 localities - More than 700 Roma families benefited from material support (including vouchers) to cover the needs of pre-school or school children - 90 “Home-School-Community Liaison” sessions and 1,000 “Your story” sessions organised - Over 20,000 household visits carried out, transportation and accompaniment services ensured for the Roma parents / families across 11 localities - Two afterschool programme (operating three times per week) set-up in Iași and Ploiești - On average, 50 social services to 50 Roma children and adults provide on a monthly basis in two community centres - 80 medical services provided to Roma beneficiaries in two community centres on a monthly basis

¹⁵ Results are based on the review of two predefined projects funded by the Poverty Alleviation programme in Romania.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 97 Roma families and 137 Roma children received social and medical services in two community centres - 599 people living in the street (mostly Roma) supported to meet their basic needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One mobile health clinic opened in Bucharest providing medical services for the homeless (incl. Roma) - Social economy structures developed: Six Salvatex shops in four different localities, One warehouse for sorting and reconditioning clothes and one Salvajob programme - Over 24 Roma received vocational / on-the job training, and counselling
More Roma-inclusive institutions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 14 kindergartens in 11 localities increased their capacity for quality early childhood education through 14 new groups for 570 Roma children, inclusive teaching and 42 Roma facilitators and mediators - Two municipalities with increased capacity for integrated services to Roma communities - Regional stakeholders from six counties increased their understanding of Roma integration needs and measures in education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ten kindergartens newly rehabilitated / extended and 14 new kindergarten groups established across 11 localities with high share of Roma population - 14 educators hired and trained in inclusive teaching - 14 community facilitators, 14 Your story facilitators, 14 preschool mediators trained and hired - Ten toy libraries created and equipped with over 2,000 games and educational toys - Two community centres established in two municipalities (Iași and Ploiești) - Two afterschool programmes (functioning three times per week) in the two community centres - One Health Mobile Unit designated for homeless people functioning in Bucharest - Six Salvatex shops and one clothes sorting and reconditioning warehouse established and functioning - Six forums of “Mayors on Sustainability” and two regional roundtables with local councils and school inspectorates conducted
Less discriminatory society	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6,000 Roma and non-Roma improved interethnic communication due to joint events - More than 60 children per month (both Roma and non-Roma) able to connect and understand each other due to joint extra-curricular activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 100 community events involving Roma and non-Roma organised - Ten playgrounds for Roma and non-Roma children set-up in ten localities - One Facebook page and one Tumblr page developed¹⁶ - Extracurricular activities (football, excursions) attended by more than 60 children monthly, both Roma and non-Roma - Two TV programmes on the local TV channel about the Community Centre Ploiești reached 100,000 TV viewers - Three videos with Roma beneficiaries created and showcased to various audiences

¹⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/Ready-Set-Go-1631293610472840>; <http://readyssetgo-ro.tumblr.com/RSG>

Civil society /human rights¹⁷	
Outcomes achieved	Outputs delivered
Roma empowerment/human rights	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1,824 Roma parents are more aware of the importance of education - 2,820 Roma children improved their school performance due to various educational (formal, informal and non-formal) programmes - 100 Roma survivors of deportations accessed their pensions rights in Romania and Germany - At least 60 Roma NGOs increased their capacity to voice their communities' interests - 554 Roma activists have an increased capacity in advocacy, leadership and methods for public participation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training / counselling provided to 1,824 Roma parents on the importance of education - Formal and non-formal educational programmes provided to 2,820 Roma children - 200 Roma Holocaust survivors assisted to access their pensions rights in Romania and Germany - 48 Roma NGOs benefiting from various organisational development measures - Five NGOs developed and enabled a monitoring system of segregation across five counties - 12 new Roma and interethnic NGOs / civic associations established - 554 Roma activists trained in advocacy, leadership and public participation methods - 15 petitions filed by young Roma asking for concrete interventions by municipal councils - Two petitions regarding cases of segregating Roma in schools filed at the National Council for Combating Discrimination - Petition for access to potable water with 21,397 signatures of both Roma and non-Roma submitted to the Romanian Parliament
More Roma-inclusive institutions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 8,716 representatives of local institutions have an increased awareness of the importance of Roma inclusion - Formal commitment and joint partnerships of various public institutions and civil society organisations towards Roma inclusion - A law was adopted stipulating a national scaling-up of the "Every child in kindergarten" initiative piloted by OvidiuRo 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 8,716 representatives of local institutions participated in awareness events / trainings - 144 teachers trained on non-discrimination and quality childhood education - 107 private / public partnership, cooperation agreements signed between local authorities and local / regional public institutions and pro-Roma and Roma NGOs - Five watchdog NGOs monitored the degree of Roma segregation "Every child in kindergarten" initiative successfully implemented across 12 localities with significant Roma population

¹⁷ The matrix is based on the review of 30 projects funded under RO09 Fund for NGOs.

Less biased society

<ul style="list-style-type: none">- More than 10,000 non-Roma have better understanding of human rights and benefits of diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Audio/video archive of Roma survivors of Holocaust testimonies developed to be used for educational goals- Over 300 Roma and non-Roma volunteers involved in joint motivational community events, interethnic sports competitions organised, intercultural clubs, inter-ethnic socio-educative events- One mobile newsroom created, five Cafe Journalism for Justice editions organised, six public media advocacy events organised- Close to 500,000 TV and on-line viewers are more acquainted with Roma reality from a different perspective than the one usually presented in the mainstream media
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3 Successful interventions: what worked and why?

3.1 Public Health

This assessment finds two types of interventions to have performed particularly well in achieving outcomes in terms of increasing Roma access to health services.

3.1.1 Provision of highly specialised examinations and tests for Roma

Two of the visited projects contributed to increased access to preventive health care in vulnerable communities (including Roma).¹⁸ The projects made equipment and specialised medical expertise accessible to the target group by working directly inside Roma communities to raise awareness and provide consultations and medical examinations.

Both interventions worked very well because they brought specialised preventive health services close to Roma women and children. Doctors' visits in the communities (RO) and home visits of doctors with Roma families (BG) provided for direct interaction between medical specialists and Roma. This increased the health literacy of Roma women and their families and reduced the mutual mistrust between doctors and Roma patients. As a result, more Roma women and young mothers have started to visit the existing mainstream medical institutions / hospitals.

3.1.2 Pro-active work inside the Roma communities and provision of medical consultations

In Bulgaria, the project "*Mission possible*" combined raising community awareness with providing sexual and reproductive health consultations and free specialised tests to young Roma people in 14 marginalised (predominantly Roma) communities.¹⁹ In Romania, the project "*Strengthening the National Network of Roma Health Mediators to Improve the Health Status of the Roma Population*" increased Roma access to basic health care information and services with the help of Community Health Centres set up in 45 vulnerable communities with a significant share of Roma population.²⁰ Community Health Teams of Roma health mediators and community nurses worked intensively with Roma families and children to study their health needs, organise specialised informational campaigns and facilitate their access to the general practitioners (family doctors).

Both projects are excellent examples of effective preventive health care services provided directly in the targeted communities, including increased awareness of health rights and basic literacy on health issues as a preparatory step for increased access to mainstream health care services. Several elements were highly effective in generating visible Roma inclusion outcomes, namely:

Partnerships with Roma and pro-Roma NGOs, especially with the national networks of Roma health mediators raised the trust in / support for the initiatives. Good knowledge of the cultural codes of the Roma community motivated Roma to get involved. In Bulgaria, the project trained Roma community volunteers and created community groups for self-help. In Romania, the community health teams organised a door-to-door survey of Roma health risks and developed creative campaigns on different health issues, mobilising Roma children and parents.

¹⁸ RO19-0006 – "Increase the Capacity of the Romanian Health Sector to Implement Organised Screening for Cancers Amenable to Cost-Effective Early Detection Interventions", PP: Institute for Oncology 'Prof. Dr. Ion Chiricuță', Cluj-Napoca (IOCN). Project partner: Oslo University Hospital; BG07 - Improving maternal and child health by providing home health services for pregnant women and children up to three years of age. PP: Second specialised obstetric and gynaecological hospital for active treatment "Sheinovo". Partner - Multi-profile Hospital for Active Treatment – Ihtiman.

¹⁹ BG07-0060. "Mission possible: better sexual and reproductive health for young people from vulnerable communities – overcoming health inequalities". PP: Bulgarian Family Planning and Sexual Health Association. Project partner: National Network of Health Mediators.

²⁰ RO19-0003. "Strengthening the National Network of Roma Health Mediators to Improve the Health Status of the Roma Population". PP: National Centre for Public Health. Project partner: Roma Centre for Health Policies – Sastipen.

Partnership with local, country or national institutions were an important factor for sustainability. The local authorities' involvement in training and joint work with Roma health mediators improved local health policies (hiring of health mediators or new health care measures in local strategies) in eight municipalities with marginalised Roma communities in Bulgaria. In Romania, the partnership of the National Institute for Public Health and the NGO Sastipen legitimised the initiative with local and county institutions, and led to proposals for national policy changes related to the Government Emergency Ordinance on community medical assistance.

3.2 Judicial capacity building and cooperation

The two reviewed projects on judicial capacity building and cooperation improved access to primary legal aid of vulnerable people (including Roma).²¹ The final beneficiaries received services from nine regional centres / offices and a hotline in Bulgaria. The two interventions' effectiveness is explained with:

Setting up the primary legal aid centres or offices in regions with a high percentage of Roma made the piloted services more accessible to the target groups.²² In Romania, the involvement of the National Agency for Roma as project partner, and of Roma experts and community leaders at county and local level contributed to outreach in the Roma communities. In Bulgaria, the established national legal aid hotline made primary legal aid services accessible beyond the piloted regions.

Cooperation with relevant institutions (legal system, local and regional authorities, other public services) increased the effectiveness of provided services. In Romania, the establishment of mixed working groups of county level institutions and Roma NGOs, contributing to the design of the information campaigns with Roma, is considered a best practice. In addition, specialised training workshops for judges, prosecutors, probation services, and lawyers were reported to have increased their knowledge of the needs for Roma inclusion.

Having a policy component proved to be instrumental from a point of view of sustainability. In Bulgaria, the project made proposals for amending the Legal Aid Act to simplify the procedures of primary legal aid and make it more accessible to vulnerable groups, including Roma. Adopted in 2017, the amendment was followed by the opening of seven new regional centres for primary legal aid by the end of June 2017 – all funded by the state budget.

Last, but not least, the international expertise and support of the Council of Europe (in both countries) and of the Norwegian Courts Administration (in Romania) were reported as beneficial for increasing in-country capacities.

3.3 Children and youth at risk

3.3.1 Integrated education-centred services for children at risk and their parents in Romania

Three of the visited projects established eight local centres with a focus on education.²³ Despite the differences among these projects, they share the feature of providing **focused educational programmes** for pre-school, school or out-of-the-school system vulnerable children and youth (including Roma). In total, the eight centres helped Roma children of different age to enrol in school, stay in school or return to school.

In terms of the educational process, the success of the interventions was due to ***the individually tailored approach to the different groups of children at risk of dropping out.*** This allowed responding to each

²¹ BG14-0005. "Improving access to justice for vulnerable groups, particularly Roma, via the implementation of a Pilot Scheme for "primary legal aid and amendment to legislation". PP: National Legal Aid Bureau. Project Partner: CoE RO24-0005. Improving access to justice. An integrated approach with a focus on Roma and other vulnerable groups. PP: Superior Council of Magistracy, Bucharest, Project Partners: CoE, National Agency for Roma, National Institute of Magistracy, Norwegian Courts Administration.

²² In Romania, the primary legal services offices were established with a considerable delay due to procurement issues.

²³ RO10-0002. *Centres for Inclusive Education - Integrated Services for Children from Vulnerable Groups*. PP: "Save the Children" Organisation, Bucharest; Project Partner: National Authority for the Protection of the Rights of the Children and Adoption, Bucharest; RO10-0041. *Educational Centre "Equal Opportunities"*. PP: Ocna Mureş Municipality, Project Partner: Asociația Alternativă Sociale prin Măsurile Educaționale Active (ASME); RO10-0013. *Multifunctional Social Centre*, PP: Verguleasa Commune, Olt County.

child's individual needs, considering educational and social challenges. Providing incentives to children (hot meals in the after-school programmes, or transport to the centres) increased their class attendance. The specialised trainings delivered to teachers and Roma mediators (in some of the locations) also contributed to the Roma children's improved educational performance.

Another success factor was the **integrated approach** – this was particularly important in marginalised Roma communities. Work with children combined with activities with parents increased the parents' awareness and support for the education of their children. Often, parents were also assisted for resolving social issues (for example issuing ID papers, or access to social services or attending vocational courses), contributing to their trust in the process.

Last but not least, the **commitment of local and / or county authorities** to support the centres was a success factor, strongly contributing to sustaining the centres' capacity in terms of achieving positive outcomes in the future. For example, the Ocna Mures municipality covered all running cost of the centre, and Olt County's Council has committed to further fund the Verguleasa Centre.

3.3.2 Preventive measures to overcome health risk of Roma children in Romania

The visited project addressed the issue of low vaccination / immunisation levels among Roma children, by testing an early intervention risk prevention model.²⁴ This resulted in educating parents about the importance of vaccination / immunisation and providing vaccines to Roma children and youth in two counties.

Introducing **multi-disciplinary teams on county level** involving local health institutions, family doctors (General Practitioners), schools, Roma experts and community leaders, worked especially well towards consolidating different stakeholders' efforts. **The awareness of the cultural specificities of Roma communities** was another important element, because it helped identify the best "entry point" to Roma families. For example, child immunisation was most effective when mothers-in-law were approached first, as in some traditional Roma groups they are the decision-makers in the family.

Specialised training of participating family doctors on antidiscrimination provided by the National Council against Discrimination (CNCD) was also instrumental to trigger change in attitudes to Roma patients, subsequently, overcoming prejudice against Roma among General Practitioners.

Last, but not least, the project successfully applied **evidence-based advocacy for mainstreaming a measure piloted at local level**. As a result of the partnership with central and county level institutions and the advocacy efforts of the participating NGOs, the pilot measure was adopted in both counties and is currently being considered for advocacy and application at national level.

3.3.3 Poverty Alleviation Programme in Romania

The rapid assessment reviewed two pre-defined large-scale projects, both of which implemented successful interventions contributing to increased access to education of Roma children and youth.

The project "Ready Set Go!" improved access to quality early childhood services for Roma pre-school children in 11 rural localities.²⁵ What worked particularly well was the applied **multilevel integrated approach to early childhood development**. Several aspects of this approach stand out, resulting in 80% increase in Roma children's kindergarten attendance rates.

First, the premises of ten kindergartens were renovated, well equipped and teachers trained. Moreover, 40 Roma pre-school mediators and Roma facilitators working both with Roma families and with local institutions were engaged. All this expanded the institutional capacity of kindergartens and the access of Roma children to quality early childhood development services.

²⁴ RO10-0079 *Non-Discrimination Means Equal Rights!* PP: Institute for Public Policy, Bucharest. Project Partners: Bacau County Council, Giurgiu County Council, Ministry of Health, National Council Against Discrimination (CNCD), National Institute of Public Health, Roma Centre for Health Policies- SASTIPEN.

²⁵ Project number, "Ready Set Go!" PP: Roma Education Fund Romania. Partners: Ruhama Foundation; DIVERS Association; Justice and Brotherhood; Centre for Education and Human Rights, REF Hungary.

Second, the project focused on both Roma children and their environment, changing **the parents' attitudes towards education**. The interventions were effective because the parents were key stakeholders of their children's education. Especially effective was the focus on empowering mothers as main caregivers in the family. In addition, **providing incentives (social vouchers / food coupons)** conditional on kindergarten attendance helped overcome poverty – the main barrier to enrolment of children in pre-school education. Last, but not least, more than 100 events **brought Roma and non-Roma children and families together**. This fostered community cohesion in the 11 project locations.

Among the key success factors for the initiative was **the partnership implementation modality involving experienced Roma and pro-Roma NGOs**, as well as building upon methodology tested already by the Roma Education Fund in Romania. Involvement of Roma in the local implementation teams also contributed significantly to better assessing the needs, facilitating access and developing trust and support in the Roma communities.

The project "Community centres in Iași and Ploiești" combined a set of targeted interventions, encouraging early childhood education of vulnerable children, preventing school drop-out, socio-medical support, employment training and job creation through new social economy structures.²⁶ It applied an **integrated approach** to assisting families in need by addressing education, together with social needs and services, access to medical assistance and employment, all through the established multifunctional community social service centres. This approach addressed the multiple social exclusion challenges faced by Roma families, which together affect the potential for educational outcomes of children. Maintaining children in school through material support (hot meals) and afterschool programmes was combined with counselling, mediation, vocational training of parents and youth (provided by the community centres) and jobs for some of them (in the newly established social enterprises).

Another important element of the intervention was the **set of specifically targeted activities in the field of employment**. Offering vocational training and counselling, mediation, on the job trainings within the "Salvajob" programme and jobs (up to one-year contracts) at the "Salvatex" warehouse equipped the participating Roma with skills and confidence needed to access the labour market.

A key factor for the effectiveness of the initiative was the **transfer of experience from the Norwegian partners** in effective community work, as well as in setting up social enterprises.

3.3.4 Mainstreaming Roma inclusion into local youth policies in Bulgaria

Two youth centres supported in Bulgaria, in Plovdiv and in Stara Zagora,²⁷ both cities with large Roma neighbourhoods, included targeted activities involving young Roma within the overall policy for youth ensuring development of young people based on European democratic values. The centre in Stara Zagora was particularly successful and received the Council of Europe "High quality intervention" award. The two centres have contributed to increased knowledge on fundamental rights and diversity of Roma and non-Roma youth, resulting in reduced prejudice and the reduced ethnic divide.

In terms of specific activities targeting Roma youth, several aspects worked well. **Involvement of Roma NGOs as formal and informal partners** helped reach out to Roma communities, map young Roma people's needs and develop a targeted set of activities to meet these needs. In addition, each centre strengthened their teams by including two Roma educational mediators who benefited from Council of Europe training.

A series of informal education sessions with Roma youth on human rights, civic participation, fighting discrimination, and domestic violence helped increase youth awareness of basic rights. Each centre defined the training topics based on the Roma youth needs mapping. As a result, **11 young Roma decided to continue their education**. The systemic approach applied in Stara Zagora was particularly successful in this regard. It combined the identification of those who dropped out of school, encouragement to continue

²⁶ RO25-003 "Community centres in Iași and Ploiești", PP: "Salvation Army" Romania. Project partners: Salvation Army" in Norway and Salvatex S.R.L.

²⁷ BG06-0002. "Establishing a Youth Centre in the city of Plovdiv". PP: The municipality of Plovdiv. Partners: Foundation National Alliance for Volunteer Action, Adger Research; BG06-0004 "International Youth Centre to work with children and youth at risk in Stara Zagora. PP: the municipality of Stara Zagora. Project partner: World Without Borders.

education; assistance for secondary school graduates to get scholarships to continue with university studies; and mediation with the Labour Office for Registration of Unemployed Youth.

Including Roma youth into the centres' mainstream courses and activities (theatre and dance groups, interest clubs, intercultural workshops, etc.) was a further successful element of the interventions. About 25% of all young people involved in the activities of the Plovdiv centre and 40% of those in Stara Zagora were Roma. Bringing together Roma and non-Roma youth helped start the process of overcoming bias and prejudice.

3.4 Civil Society/human rights

The NGO funds in the two countries supported a total of 212 projects related to Roma inclusion. The reviewed sample of 60 projects provided substantial evidence of achieving meaningful outcomes in different areas of Roma inclusion in over 95 localities.

3.4.1 Fostering Roma empowerment

The most successful projects had a *clear Roma empowerment objective*. Their focus was on expanding the individual and group capacity of Roma community members **to access fundamental rights** and to acquire the skills to interact with local institutions for improved access to services and resolving community problems. A success factor for many of the projects was that they involved Roma NGOs, activists and experts in a variety of different roles (project promoters or partners, community facilitators, mediators of different services, and volunteers).

Participatory methods involving Roma as *active participants, not just as a passive target group* worked particularly well. Asking people about their real needs and considering their views increased community trust and involvement. In addition, the individual approach to the needs of diverse groups within the Roma community – children, women and youth – increased their motivation and their individual and group empowerment.

Initiatives focusing on assisting *Roma community organising through establishing locally based civic structures* (Roma community councils, local women's and/or youth self-help groups) helped mobilise the resources of the Roma community and its ability to voice its members' collective interests vis-à-vis decision makers. Other initiatives contributed to expanding the base of Roma NGOs by involving young Roma volunteers to advocate for improvement of the wellbeing of their communities. An excellent example is the Project of Ruhama Foundation (RO), which empowered 100 young Roma volunteers from five poor rural communities to advocate for their interests. It also benefited from the experience of the Norwegian partner on effective community-based volunteer work.

NGO projects that focused on youth empowerment in the area of education proved to be successful. A number of projects achieved tangible results in pre-school education of Roma children, reducing drop-out rates of Roma students and providing assistance for continuing their personal development and education.

The *integrated approach of assisting young Roma* in interrelated areas of exclusion (education, employment and social issues) and of engaging diverse stakeholders (teachers, employers and local institutions) also proved effective. The initiative "Arethe Youth" is a good example from Bulgaria, demonstrating effectiveness in terms of educational achievements of Roma students. It applied targeted assistance and mentorship to Roma students on three levels: to help them graduate successfully from secondary school, enter and perform well in university and fulfil their professional interests.

Last, but not least, projects that focused on *building Roma identity* through cultural events raising Roma awareness of their history made a significant contribution to Roma empowerment. These projects increased the participating Roma communities' self-esteem and cohesion.

3.4.2 Making institutions more open to Roma inclusion

Several of the NGO projects focusing on Roma access to fundamental rights and advocacy for improved services involved meetings, debates, round tables or trainings of local institutions. These interventions increased the understanding of local authorities and public institutions. This, together with the on-going

interaction with Roma representatives, opened local institutions to the NGO's proposals for policy changes.

Targeted advocacy action resulted in a number of updated local plans for Roma integration, as well as changes in national measures for Roma integration in both countries. NGO projects that piloted new services such as Roma mediators in the area of housing, health, administration, pre-school education, were especially effective. These interventions developed clear service provision methodologies and tested them in partnership with the relevant local institutions. Some of the piloted services, like the social coupons for vulnerable children (most of them Roma) were subsequently included in mainstream national policies funded by the state budget in Romania.²⁸

Based on the project experience, an important success factor is the safeguarding, from the outset, that the project has the political support of the local government, for example in the form of local council decisions and partnership agreements. Clearly defined cooperation helped reach the targets and made the results sustainable. Initiatives that did not face political changes due to elections were particularly successful.

3.4.3 Overcoming prejudice and discrimination against Roma in the society.

NGO projects ***bringing together Roma and non-Roma children and youth in joint activities*** were particularly successful in overcoming prejudice against Roma. This contributed to overcoming bias at an early age among the participating children and young people, but also facilitated encounters and communication among their families.

Issue-based campaigns were also successful, in particular when applying ***a citizen-based approach of bringing Roma and non-Roma together around a common issue***. Examples include the local women groups fighting for women's rights (both Roma and non-Roma),²⁹ as well as the campaign "Water is no luxury",³⁰ which organised 30 initiative groups collecting signatures from a large number of both Roma and non-Roma. These campaigns proved that the right of decent living is a common need that can bring Roma and non-Roma together in joint initiatives regardless of their ethnicity.

Other successful interventions developed ***targeted communication with specific audiences of the majority population*** – awareness raising campaigns among businesses and employers, teachers or representatives of local institutions. Messaging focused on the interests of the relevant stakeholder group and increased their support to the issues of Roma.

Finally, several projects ***demonstrated that a new type of non-biased media reporting on Roma*** was possible. A TV show titled "Small stories from the Roma world" was shown on Bulgarian National TV1 (BNT1). It addressed basic democratic values through personal stories of both Roma and non-Roma. Based on BNT1 statistics, 750,000 TV viewers have watched the documentaries, which provided them with a new way of interpreting Roma issues. The effectiveness of this intervention is evidenced by the absence of hate comments on the website of the Bulgarian national television 1 (BNT1) or in social media about the documentaries.

In Romania, teams of young community reporters (both Roma and non-Roma) developed new types of unbiased media products, thus presenting an alternative to the predominant negative reporting in the mainstream media. The established partnership with two media platforms was a success factor of these initiatives.

²⁸RO09-0131 Every child in kindergarten in Braşov, Dâmboviţa and Dolj County. PP: **OvidiuRo**.

²⁹RO09-0189 I am a role model for my community **ERomnja**.

³⁰RO09-0121 Participatory Democracy: Piloting a Citizens Initiative for interethnic communities from Romania." Împreună Agency.

4 Stories of change

4.1 Stories of change from Bulgaria

4.1.1 New personal development choices for Roma youth

Borislava grew up in one of the large Roma neighbourhoods in Sofia, often referred to as ghettos or places of no hope. She had a dream of continuing her studies at a university, but with little hope that this would ever happen. Now, she is a student at the Chemistry and Technology University in Sofia.

Borislava was one of the 1,200 young Roma targeted by informational campaigns and one of 70 young Roma students assisted by the project *“Model of integrated development of Roma youth”* supported by the EEA Grants-funded NGO fund in Bulgaria.

The project worked with young Roma and their families to reduce the number of school drop outs and to increase their motivation for further personal development in three large Roma communities in Sofia and in Kjustendil. Young people participated in programmes for social skills development, professional orientation and training in entrepreneurship. This, together with proactive work with local school teachers and with 90 potential employers, led to the success of the project.

Due to this project, many secondary school drop outs managed to continue their secondary education. A number of young people, who graduated from secondary school found jobs. Some like Borislava continued their studies in the university, following their dream.

“Without preparatory direct work inside the community, any employment activation measure for Roma youth from the segregated Roma quarters will only have a temporary effect and will create dependency,” comments Elena Kabakchieva, from the Health and Social Development foundation (HESED), the project promoter of this initiative. *“It is amazing how this project became visible in these large communities in the course of a few months. New skills and educational and employment success of participating young people has created new role models and a shift of community norms towards other development choices. There were visible changes in the attitudes towards early marriages, responsible parenthood, and education.”*

In addition to her university studies, Borislava became a volunteer, helping young Roma school students improve their knowledge in chemistry. *“There is no better reward than seeing that people who we helped achieved so much and are now helping others,”* adds Elena Kabakchieva.

4.1.2 “Mission Possible!” Improving access to health in marginalised communities

The village of Kovatchevci is about 40 km from Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria. The Roma “mahala” (quarter) is at the outskirts of the village, with about 300 people living in 43 houses, most of them in bad conditions. Only three of them have running water. Most of the families are marginalised, with no education, no jobs and a reliance on social benefits. The majority of the people have no health insurance and respectively no access to health services. Due to early marriages and pregnancies, girls are dropping out of school. Most of them have never seen a doctor before giving birth.

The village is one of the 14 most marginalised communities included in the project *“Mission possible”* aiming to reduce social inequality by improving the sexual and reproductive health of young people. The project was funded under the Public Health Programme of the EEA and Norway Grants.

Elena, the new health mediator in the village, started working as a volunteer to help establish a self-help group of 13 women. They were of different ages – between 18 and 55 years old – mothers of many children. As Elena shared with us, *“in the beginning nobody wanted to talk about birth control or sexually transmitted diseases. Women were ashamed and left the meetings. Our people are illiterate and they do not want to talk with outsiders, but they knew and trusted me. Gradually, we started talking with them about the consequences of early marriages and early pregnancies – a child giving birth to children one after another. I think that this project was the first to start talking about early marriages, as well as the need of medical tests to reduce sexually transmitted diseases”*.

The mayor of the village suggested to Elena that she should become a health mediator; people trusted her, and she was one of the few in the community who graduated from secondary school. Elena

comments: *“I went to the training for this job in Sofia, even though my husband did not want me to go there. Now I feel happy. As a health mediator, I can help people and they respect me. I do so many things - accompany them to health institutions, fill in their documents if they cannot write, teach them how to take care of their babies, motivate them to clean up the neighbourhood”.*

According to Elena, there are tangible changes in the community due to the project. *“People now talk about health issues and go to medical examinations. Women started to use contraception and family planning. Some of the young girls do not leave school now and this is a big success. My parents stopped me from going to school and had me married off when I was 15. I had my first child when I was 16, but decided to go back to school. This helped me change. I know many people respect me for that. Now I am trying to help other girls do the same – to go to school and become somebody who people respect and trust,”* adds Elena.

4.1.3 “Small stories from the Roma world” send big messages to society and institutions.

Kremena Budinova is a well-recognised journalist with over 17 years of experience in working for Bulgarian television, radio and print media. She is the author of the TV documentary production “Small stories from the Roma world” shown on the Bulgarian National TV 1 (BNT1), awarded the prestigious CIVIS MEDIA PRIZE (2014) for unbiased reporting on interethnic issues and human rights. Despite this recognition, the production is not supported by BNT1 or national funding. Kremena, together with her team from “Roma World – 21 Century Foundation”, is constantly trying to raise funds from different donors to continue the production.

The support provided by the NGO Fund of the EEA Grants gave new life to the “Small stories from the Roma world.” Twenty new documentary films were shown in the course of five months in 2015 on Bulgarian National TV, reaching over 700,000 viewers. The concept is unique. Instead of the typical negative reporting on “gypsies” as criminals, ignorant and violators of public norms, the series presents the issues that Roma face in an unbiased way.

The stories and people portrayed in the documentaries are carefully selected. The focus is on their burning issues such as life in the ghettos, the challenges of being a Roma woman, discrimination (including the reverse discrimination of Roma towards Bulgarians), the failures of integration and educational policies, crime within Roma communities, illegal housing, and the passiveness of state institutions that have “written off” Roma quarters as “hopeless.” The stories look at these issues from diverse perspectives – of Roma and non-Roma, journalists, teachers, children, mixed marriages, and others. The “Small Stories from the Roma World” are still alive on YouTube – both in Bulgarian and English.

Born in the “Fakulteta” – the largest Roma neighbourhood in Sofia with over 45,000 people—Kremena lost her sight at the age of 14. Despite this and the ethnic stereotyping of her Roma origin, she was an excellent university student and is a skilled journalist with a clear vision *“not only to report and change individual human lives, but to ring the bell and to try to provoke reflection, talking and meaningful discussions about change within the society, the Roma community and the institutions.”*

At present, new episodes of the “Roma World Small Stories” are no longer produced. For more than a year, there has been no other financing to support its continuation. But Kremena and her colleagues are determined to continue as they believe that society needs to hear stories from the Roma world.

4.1.4 Building a new generation of educated Roma

The project “M.E.N.T.O.R.S” (implemented by Arethe Youth and supported by the NGO Fund of the EEA Grants in Bulgaria) aimed at achieving higher educational, professional and personal development of young Roma. At the heart of the initiative is the idea of mentoring and helping each other – Roma university students helping Roma students at school, academic mentorship linking university students with professors and career mentorship – creating support for Roma who graduated from universities and linking them with mentors from different industries.

The initiative introduced a new practice to Roma educational development. It involved 170 young Roma from secondary school and universities (16-25 years old) and university graduates (21-35 years old). All of

these young Roma have their own story of change due to the work with Arethe Youth. Here are the stories of two of the participants.

Natali Angelova is a young Roma from the town of Radomir. She had the dream of studying business administration at the American University in Blagoevgrad (AUBG), one of Bulgaria's most prestigious universities. After receiving project support for additional English language training, her dream came true in September 2016. She is one of the few Roma students enrolled in this university. *"In my family nobody has university education, but this did not stop me. It motivated me to become a role model for my young brother and sister. Now I am happy and very proud that a "gypsy" - as some call us – is breaking the stereotypes,"* she says.

Ani Kamenova was supported by the project's academic mentorship component. She says she learned a lot from her mentor, both specific knowledge on her subject and broader social skills. *"Some in my family are proud of me, others consider me an outsider. A number of my relatives look at education as something useless. I am not angry at them, because I know that they do not understand why one needs to be educated in order to live better,"* says Ani.

According to Ani *"when someone is illiterate, then it is easy to manipulate them."* She strongly believes that change will come and that Roma will become part of society. *"But to succeed we need to become aware that education is a value that we need. Even if one person understands this, it will be a success. I think that every educated Roma needs to help with what he or she can do, so that all Roma become full citizens,"* she adds.

After graduating from university, Ani decided to work as a teacher at a secondary school in the town of Vratza. She wants to be not only a teacher, but also a role model for the children she teaches.

4.2 Stories of change from Romania

4.2.1 Sastipen (Health) – a new chance for social inclusion of Roma

Sastipen means health in Romani language. *Sastipen* is also the name of the Roma Centre for Health Policies, a Roma NGO in Romania that promoted, tested, and is further expanding the practice of health mediators to increase access to basic health rights and services for disadvantaged Roma communities. It acted as a partner of the National Centre for Public Health, the project promoter of the project *"Strengthening the National Network of Roma Health Mediators to Improve the Health Status of the Roma Population"*. The good partnership between the two organisations was a key success factor.

The project was successful in establishing effective community health centres and teams of Roma health mediators and community nurses. They organised several creative informational campaigns and services focusing on mother and child health, reproductive health and multidrug resistant tuberculosis control that reached 31,351 people from 45 disadvantaged communities across six counties, all with a high percentage of Roma population.

The established Community Health Centres, trained and hired 45 Roma women who were previously unemployed. Each of them has their own story of stepping out of the dependency on family and traditional community norms. Here are three of them.

Dana comes from a very traditional "Kalderash" group of the Roma community. When she started working as a health mediator, she was beaten by her husband because he didn't want to let her "knock on other men's doors." But she found the strength and support from the project team and kept performing her job. Now, she is insisting that her husband let their daughter attend high-school.

Lenuta is 24 years old. She grew up with a single mother, who had divorced Lenuta's father, a highly unusual happening in their traditional "Kalderash" community. When she got the health mediator job, Lenuta became a role model for other young women from the community. Seeing her working in the health centre, they succeeded in persuading their families to let them work too. Now they are shop-assistants at the shopping mall in the neighbouring town.

Viorica had only eight years of education when she was hired by the project as a health mediator. Now she attends the Second Chance programme to complete the remaining two years of education. During her

training course, Viorica got a homework task to convince the mayor in her village to clean the well in her Roma community. She went to the mayor and said: *"I have to convince you to clean our well, but as we don't have a well, why not make one?"* The mayor agreed. Now the Roma community has a well.

Health mediators like Dana, Lenuta and Viorica contributed to the behavioural change of thousands of women in their communities. A number of women, who had never been to a doctor, went to a gynaecologist and learned about family planning. Others had the chance to start working for the first time in their life.

4.2.2 Roma women - agents of change for their communities

Mothers tend to be the primary caregivers in families. In traditional Roma families, they usually stay at home with infants and toddlers. *"Your Story"* was one of the educational programmes within the *"Ready, Set, Go!"* project funded by the Norway Grants Poverty Alleviation programme in Romania. It aimed at empowering mothers and grandmothers – the main caregivers in the families – by providing them with skills and knowledge that would improve early child development outcomes for their children.

The women participating in *"Your Story"* received a new children's story book every week. Their homework was to read to their children every evening. Later, there were discussions in the groups with other women – about reading to children, and about other issues related to health and education of the children. The programme also included informal teaching to increase the reading and writing competencies of illiterate parents.

The *"Your Story"* groups became an informal learning environment for 530 parents, mostly women who increased their confidence in reading. The small group sessions also created a space where women could describe their struggles as parents, share stories, discuss problems and help each other.

"Your Story" trained and hired 14 Roma facilitators from the local communities facilitating the discussions of the women's groups in their locality. Dana from Dumbrava in Bihor County is one of them. After completing seventh grade, Dana dropped out of school and soon got married. Now she already has two preschool children, both attending kindergarten in the newly established groups of the *"Ready, Set, Go!"* Even though she is in her 9th month of pregnancy with her third child, she continues to attend educational activities.

As Dana noted, this project was a turning point in her life. It provided her with a rewarding job. Travelling to other locations and meeting new people expanded her world view. She did not have such opportunities before. In the beginning, it was not easy because her husband did not allow her to travel on her own. Supported by the project team, Dana managed to overcome these barriers. As she is getting ready to give birth, she can benefit from paid maternity leave because she is employed. She is considering taking advantage of this break to enrol in a Second Chance School to finish her compulsory education.

4.2.3 Inclusive Education for children at risk – making change happen!

The Centres for Inclusive Education established in six schools by *"Save the Children"* Romania with the support of the EEA and Norway Grants under the Children and Youth at Risk programme have changed many lives – of vulnerable children and their parents, of volunteers, and of teachers working with the children. Below are the stories of two of the 79 children from Lupeni, who benefited from the centre.

Marius is a 9-year-old Roma boy who lives with his parents and his three brothers in a rented apartment with minimum facilities. He was excited to join the *School After School* programme of the Lupeni centre after accompanying his brother to the *Summer Kindergarten* programme in the same centre. The family is poor. The parents are struggling to provide for the children and are often risking being evicted because they cannot pay the utilities. After joining the programme, Marius' school results improved visibly. He managed to complete the first semester with high grades. As a result, Marius is much more self-confident than he used to be.

Marius' parents are very proud of his school progress. *"Marius is very happy, and we can never thank you enough for everything you've done for us and our children at a time when no one had any hope here. Now there is hope; we think he will do something in his life"* says Marius' mother. Inspired by her son's success, she also decided to join the Second Chance School organised by the Lupeni centre to learn how to read.

Alexia is a six-year-old Roma girl who lives with her pregnant mother, two sisters and paternal grandmother in a rented house with only one room and tiny kitchen at the outskirts of the town. The father is in prison. They survive on children's benefits, social welfare and what the grandmother can make from collecting and recycling scrap metal and coal. Both parents have little education. They think that education is not important and that the children must learn to survive by themselves.

Alexia has serious problems with her left eye and constant headaches. The grandmother took her to a doctor, but they could not afford the treatment. Alexia was very shy when she first started the Summer Kindergarten programme and did not play with the other kids. After the summer kindergarten, Alexia was enrolled in school. She has not missed a single day. The teacher says that Alexia is studious and hardworking, despite her health problems. Alexia has now made two friends in her class. Her mother, after giving birth to a baby boy, resumed school within the Second Chance School programme of the centre to learn how to write and to be able to help Alexia.

4.2.4 "Hand in hand" – changing mentalities in Sângeorgiu de Mureş

Sângeorgiu de Mureş is a locality in the Mureş County in central Romania. Of the 9,304 inhabitants, 1,200 are estimated to be Roma.

The Association Caritas-Social Assistance started the project "Hand in hand" funded by the EEA Grants NGO Fund in Romania. The initiative aimed at tackling the problems facing Roma, such as the low levels of school enrolment and high risk of school drop-out, as well as the lack of communication between the ethnic communities.

The local authority was an active participant in this project. The mayor provided a fully equipped, renovated room where the after-school activities and summer school of Roma children took place. Work with children was carried out in a professional, child-centred and individualised manner. Many of these children had no experience in attending formal education classes.

This is where creativity came into play and this is how Samu was born. Samu is a big smiling doll – the mascot of the "Hand in hand" project. He accompanied dozens of children throughout the project and continues to do so. Samu wrote the children letters every day to inform them about their progress and to encourage them to continue. In no time, he became the best friend of 58 children attending the after-school programme and the 70 pre-school children attending summer school.

One of them is Mândra, a 10-year-old girl, coming from a traditional Roma family. The project helped her enrol in school after finishing the summer school. Her mother bursts with pride when talking about Mândra's achievements. She also acknowledges the key role that the Caritas social worker had in helping Mândra discover education.

The project's achievement went well beyond reaching educational objectives – it changed mentalities. It managed to bring more than 50 volunteers of different age, gender, ethnicity groups together to work for change. They found the trainings on intercultural communication given on site by a highly experienced trainer from Norway inspiring. The exchange visits with Caritas Norway provided insights into how intercultural living can actually work.

The municipality's involvement ensured success and sustainability. As a result, a local action plan on Roma inclusion was elaborated and approved. The Mayor, Mr. Sovalfy Szabolcs is the driver of change in his community. He is satisfied with what was achieved so far. He is proud of winning the title "Cultural Village of Romania" at an event organised by the French Embassy and the Wallonia Brussels Delegation in Romania. *"I could have kept my better paid job that I had before, but I like what I do and I want all people from my community to be happy. The Roma, they told me, we like it here, we feel good here. Why should we go abroad?"* he adds.

5 Conclusions

5.1 What was achieved?

The evidence gathered by this Rapid Assessment illustrates many *tangible achievements of positive change of the attitudes and behaviour* within Roma communities, of local administration and institutions, and of the general public, especially in the locations where projects were implemented.

Roma empowerment:

The interventions reached out to 50,045 deprived Roma from more than 360 vulnerable Roma communities in Bulgaria and Romania. They increased Roma awareness of human and civil rights, providing them with skills and a better environment to practice these rights, and access services in the areas of healthcare, education, social service, legal aid, housing and jobs.

Impressive health initiatives in both countries organised new types of pro-active outreach campaigns directly in 92 Roma communities, thus raising the awareness of more than 39,286 Roma on health issues, rights and services. As a result, 23,067 Roma (mostly Roma women, mothers and infants, as well as Roma youth) received medical consultations, examinations and diverse specialised tests. Over 300 doctors, nurses and health care specialists worked directly within Roma communities. Increased trust between medical specialists and Roma patients has raised the number of Roma women, who have started visiting health care facilities.

Projects working with vulnerable children contributed to improving the access to education of 4,860 Roma children and youth. Over 2,090 pre-school Roma children were enrolled in pre-school classes and received quality early childhood development services provided by kindergartens or local multifunctional centres for children at risk. More than 2,310 Roma school students improved their attendance and grades thanks to 'school after school' programmes. The supported initiatives also motivated over 140 young Roma to embark on vocational training, individual counselling or mentorship to increase their chances to find jobs and some of them to continue their education in University and become professionals in their areas.

The new type of primary legal aid services introduced by the projects under the "Justice Capacity Building and Cooperation" programmes in both countries assisted more than 1,640 Roma to be more informed about their legal rights and have practical access to justice.

The reviewed 60 NGO Funds' projects have contributed to raising the awareness on fundamental rights and access to services of 10,062 Roma families, women, children and youth. They have also increased the capacities of 140 Roma NGOs and over 1,013 Roma activists to participate in decision-making processes that affect their communities' life.

Making institutions more open to Roma inclusion:

More than 4,127 representatives of local administrations and various local institutions (hospitals, schools, kindergartens, social, employment and legal institutions) were addressed or directly involved in the activities of the reviewed projects. There is visible improvement of local service infrastructure in areas predominantly inhabited by Roma (new or renovated kindergartens, multifunctional centres for children and youth, legal aid offices, mobile medical units or new centres for family planning). Trainings, as well as direct interaction of representatives of local authorities and institutions with Roma (health or educational mediators, Roma NGOs, direct work in communities) enhanced their understanding of Roma integration needs. This helped improve local policies, often considering input from the Roma themselves and/or civil society.

Overcoming prejudice against Roma of broader society:

More than 35,342 non-Roma children, youth and parents from both countries participated in joint activities with Roma (mixed classes, courses, theatre performances, art exhibitions, local or national campaigns on common issues or in broader campaigns for tolerance and human rights). Joint initiatives contributed to overcoming bias at an early age among the participating children and young people, but also opened the communication among their families, encouraging a gradual shift in their attitudes to Roma.

Projects supported by the NGO funds in both countries have also demonstrated a new type of objective media reporting providing diverse perspectives. The available data confirms that the various media products developed by these projects have reached out to over 1,250,000 TV and media viewers who improved their knowledge about Roma via different non-biased interpretations.

5.2 What worked well and why?

This assessment shows that there is a clear correlation between the level of Roma involvement and ownership in an intervention and the results of the intervention. Roma empowerment outcomes were more visible if Roma communities were involved and had a say about the provided resources (projects). Sensitising public institutions to Roma inclusion worked better when projects were developed and implemented in genuine partnerships between institutions and community representatives. Changing the way Roma and non-Roma coexist was more effective when the projects created a common space for knowing each other and for identifying shared interests that can lead to common action.

Several aspects of the interventions stand out as especially effective.

Roma empowerment:

- Focusing on Roma empowerment is a key factor for success, both at the individual and community level;
- Giving the beneficiary community a decision-making role in project design, implementation and monitoring;
- Applying integrated approaches to address the multiple social exclusion challenges that Roma face;
- Developing individually tailored strategies to meet the diverse interests of different segments of Roma communities – Roma women, youth, and children;
- Targeting actions for self-organising of Roma communities in community structures or campaigns.

Making institutions more open to Roma inclusion:

- Boosting institutions' awareness of the challenges facing Roma communities and ensuring the involvement of local institutions in addressing these;
- Making the best use of international partnership and expertise to adapt well –established practices of participation, social enterprises and human rights;
- Assisting local and national institutions with new solutions through piloting and testing new models with clear objectives and commitment for replicating them.

Overcoming prejudice against Roma of broader society:

- Bringing Roma and non-Roma around a common cause of importance for both groups;
- Creating space for direct interaction between Roma and non-Roma children and youth;
- Changing the negative attitude of the general public of Roma as a “problem of society” through success stories about Roma - as an opportunity and resource of society.

Annex 1 List of interviews and visited projects

I. List of interviewed stakeholders in Bulgaria

National Focal point

1. Ivan Ivanov, Director of "Central Coordination Unit" Names, positions people met
2. Miroslava Pigova, State Expert in the Strategic Planning and Programming Department
3. Gergana Mitreva, State Expert in the Monitoring and Analysis Department

Programme Operators

1. Ministry of Education and Science, Program BG 06 Children and young people at risk, Maria Vasileva-Valova, Head of External European Programs Department
2. Ministry of Health, Program BG 07 Public Health Initiatives:
 - Tsvetan Spasov, Director of the International Activities, Projects and Programs Directorate,
 - Nina Sherbetova Chief Expert European Projects and Programmes Unit International Affairs, Projects and Programmes Directorate,
 - 5 experts from the ministry for program implementation
3. Ministry of Justice- Program BG 14 Capacity building and cooperation in the judiciary- Veneta Stoilova, Director of the Strategic Development and Programs Directorate

II. List of interviewed stakeholders and visited projects in Romania

National Focal point

1. Ms. Diana Săcărea - EEA and Norway Grants Officer, Norwegian Embassy in Bucharest
2. Ms. Diana DUMA - Deputy General Director, General Directorate for Non-reimbursable European Financial Mechanisms and Instruments, Ministry of Regional Development, Public Administration and European Funds, National Focal Point for the EEA and Norway Grants

Programme Operators

1. Ms. Mihaela Peter – Director, Romanian Social Development Fund, RO10 - Children and Youth at Risk and Local and Regional Initiatives to Reduce National Inequalities and to Promote Social Inclusion
2. Ms. Paula Constantin – Head of Unit, Romanian Social Development Fund, RO10 - Children and Youth at Risk and Local and Regional Initiatives to Reduce National Inequalities and to Promote Social Inclusion
3. Ms. Sanda Vasile – Operational Department Officer, Romanian Social Development Fund, RO10 - Children and Youth at Risk and Local and Regional Initiatives to Reduce National Inequalities and to Promote Social Inclusion
4. Mr. Cosmin Câmpean – Operational Department Officer, Romanian Social Development Fund, RO10 - Children and Youth at Risk and Local and Regional Initiatives to Reduce National Inequalities and to Promote Social Inclusion
5. Ms. Susana Matei, Programme Manager, Ministry of Health, RO19 – Public Health Initiatives
6. Ms. Diana Mihaela Popescu, Director, SPO, Department for European Programmes, Ministry of Justice, RO24 - Judicial Capacity-building and Cooperation
7. Ioana Florea, The Foundation for Developing Civil Society, RO 09- NGO Fund
8. Anca Nicovescu, The Foundation for Developing Civil Society, RO 09- NGO Fund
9. Florin Moisa, The Center of Resources for Roma Communities, RO 09- NGO Fund
10. Claudia Macarie, The Center of Resources for Roma Communities, RO 09- NGO Fund
11. Radu Lăcătuș, The Center of Resources for Roma Communities, RO 09- NGO Fund
12. Marta Herki, The Center of Resources for Roma Communities, RO 09- NGO Fund

III. Field work: Visited/ interviewed projects Bulgaria

Country Bulgaria			
#	Programme	project	Interviewed stakeholders
BG05 NGO Fund			
1.	BG05 NGO fund	BG05/206 Establishment of a Roma Community Concii In IZTOK quarter in the town of Kystendil	Liberal Alternative for Roma Civil Unification - LARGO Association– Sasho Kovachev CEO, Stefan Lazarov, chairman of the Roma council; two representatives of the Roma neighbourhood
2.	BG05/ 1136	Promoting democratic values with the TV program “Small stories from Roma world	Foundation Roma world- 21century Kremena Budinova CEO Zornica Moskova – executive assitant.
3.	BG05-255	To become active citizens and consumers	Equal opportunities Daniela Mihailova CEO
	BG05/ 582	Improving the access to health care for vulnerable groups and communities through advocacy and strengthening the sustainable development of good practices on local level	Foundation Ethnic Minority Health Problems Prof. Ivaylo Turnev Tsveta Petkova Ognian Kamenov
5.	BG05/861	M.E.N.T.O.R.I.	Youth Foundation Arete Radost Chaprazova
6.	BG05/1221	Model of integrated development of Roma youth	Health and Social Development Foundation Elena Kabakchieva CEO
BG06 Children at Risk			
1.	BG06 - 101	Youth Center Stara Zagora	Vesela Mareva - Director of the Center Milena Ilieva - Representative of the World Without Borders Association, project partner Representatives of the Roma neighbourhood
2.	BG06 - 103	Youth Center Plovdiv	Dimitria Todorova Andova - Director of the Center Asen Karagyozev - Youth Club NGO Stolipinovo - Director, Project Partner 1 Mediator of Roma origin
BG14 Judicial capacity building and cooperation			
1.	BG14	National Legal Aid Bureau	Elena Nikolova Cherneva Chair of the National Bureau Vilma Görgieva Deputy President

			Two experts responsible for the two pilot regional offices
BG07 Public Health Initiatives			
1.	BG07	Mission possible: Better sexual and reproductive health for young people from vulnerable communities – ways of overcoming healthcare inequalities	<p>Project promoter - Bulgarian Family Planning and Sexual Health Association (BFPA) – Md.d. Radosveta Stamenkova</p> <p>Partner: National Network of Health Mediators (NNHM) – Cveta Petkova - coordinator.</p> <p>2. Beneficiaries –</p> <p>Elena Mitkova – volunteer and later health mediator in Kovaczevci village, representative of Roma community,</p>
	BG07	"Improving maternal and child health by providing home health services for pregnant women and children up to 3 years of age"	<p>Project promoter – II Second specialized obstetric and gynecological hospital for active treatment "Sheinovo" EAD – M.dm. – Rumen Velev</p> <p>Partner - Multi-profile Hospital for Active Treatment Ihtiman</p>

IV. Field work visited projects in Romania

Country Romania			
#	Programme	Project	Interviewed Stakeholders
1.	RO10 - Children and Youth at Risk and Local and Regional Initiatives	RO10-0002, Centres for Inclusive Education - Integrated Services for Children from Vulnerable Groups	<p>Project Promoter: "Save the Children" Organisation, Bucharest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Lavinia Varodi, Project Manager Ms. Olguța Negrea, Bucharest Centre Coordinator
2.	RO10 - Children and Youth at Risk and Local and Regional Initiatives	RO10-0013, Multifunctional Social Centre, Verguleasa Commune, Olt County	<p>Project Promoter: Verguleasa Municipality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Valemtin Piciu, Mayor of Verguleasa, Project manager Ms. Aurora Szocs, Project Psychologist <p>Beneficiaries: mother and grandmother of two children assisted by the Centre</p>
3.	RO10-0079	Non-Discrimination Means Equal Rights!	<p>Project Promoter: Institute for Public Policy, Bucharest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Elena Tudose, Project Manager

Country Romania			
#	Programme	Project	Interviewed Stakeholders
4.	RO19-0003	Strengthening the National Network of Roma Health Mediators to Improve the Health Status of the Roma Population	<p>Project Promoter: National Institute of Public Health, Bucharest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Adraiana Galan, Project Manager <p>Project Partner: Roma Centre for Health Policies- SASTIPEN, Bucharest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Mariana Sandu, Coordinator of Community Health Centers <p>Community Health Centre in Herăști, Giurgiu:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stanciu Steluța, Roma Community Mediator Iancu Mihaela, Community Nurse
5.	RO24-0005,	Improving access to justice. An integrated approach with a focus on Roma and other vulnerable groups	<p>Project Promoter: Superior Council of Magistracy, Bucharest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Marius Tudor, Project Manger Alina Bărbulescu, Project team member
6.	RO09-0189,	I Am a Role Model for my Community	<p>E-Romnja Association (Association for Promoting Roma Women's Rights), Bucharest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anca Nica, Project Manager
8.	RO 09- Funds for NGOs, Component 2, Social Justice, Subcomponent 2.1. Developing inter-ethnic rural communities	RO09-0391/ Racoș -sustainable community development	<p>Project promoter</p> <p>- The Association for Community Integration/ Racoș Commune Hall (project partner), 1 person- local activities coordinator / Roma local expert)</p> <p>Racoș Commune Hall- 2 social workers</p> <p>Beneficiaries - 6 representatives Roma community, 1 teacher</p>
9.	RO09-0189	I am a role model for my community	<p>Project promoter: E-ROMNJA (The Association for Promoting Roma Women's Rights):</p> <p>1 project manager, 1 project staff member, 1 RRA expert</p>

Country Romania			
#	Programme	Project	Interviewed Stakeholders
10.	RO09-0117	"Hand in hand" în Sângeorgiu de Mureş	Project promoter: The Association Caritas – Social Assistance: 1 project manager, 1 volunteer coordinator, 1 social worker Project partner: Sângeorgiu de Mureş Commune Hall- 1 mayor Beneficiaries: 2 Roma mothers and their children
11.	RO09-0092,	Young people from Romania and Norway - Promoters of Civic Community Volunteering	Project promoter: Ruhama Foundation- 1 team member
12.	RO09-0087	Inter-sector partnership - the base for quality social services	Project promoter: Stea Association: 1 project manager, 1 assistant manager, 1 team member responsible for PR Beneficiaries: 2 children
13.	RO 09- NGO Fund	Social Inclusion Gardening	Project promoter: Stea Association: 1 project manager, 1 assistant manager
	RO25 –Poverty Alleviation		
1	RO25-0005	Ready Set Go! - improving early childhood development outcomes for Roma children	Project promoter: 1 project manager, 1 project promoter director Project partners: 1 project manager Beneficiaries: 1 school director, 1 preschool teacher, 1 Commune Hall Secretary, 1 Your story facilitator/preschool mediator, 1 woman from the Roma Community
2	RO25-0003	Community Centres Armata Salvarii Iaşi and Ploieşti	Project promoter: The Salvation Army in Romania – 2 social workers in charge of coordinating activities, 1 social mediator working in the community centre Salvatex (project partner) Beneficiaries: 8 women working at Redesign and in the warehouse

Annex 2 List of projects included in the desk research sample

Bulgaria

#	Project number	Project name	Project promoter	Partners
BG 06 Children and Youth at Risk				
1	BG06 - 103	Establishing a youth Centre in the city of Plovdiv	Municipality of Plovdiv	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agder Research и Foundation "National Alliance for Volunteer action" - Plovdiv
2	BG06 - 101	International youth center for work with children with and young people at risk in Stara Zagora	Municipality of Stara Zagora	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-profit Association "World Without Borders"
3	BG06 - 216	Sustainable development through multicultural education – support for children at risk in Sredets municipality	Municipality of Sredets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dialog NGO
4	BG 06 - 221	A creative space for young and older in municipality Sliven	Municipality Sliven	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CC-Intro AS
5	BG06-C4	Educational Integration, Health, and Social Development – Region of Krasna polyana	Municipality Sofia	
BG05 NGO Fund				
1.	Project number	Project name	Project promoter	Partners
	BG05/94	More transparent! more visible! more solvable!	Roma academy fo culture and education	
2.	BG05/ 498	The world is for everybody	Association for the development of children and young people in the city of Vratza	Association "Oryahovo Forever
3.	BG05/579	For better homes"	Habitat for Humanity Bulgaria	Club of NSO – Targovishte; Primary school Vasil Levski;

#	Project number	Project name	Project promoter	Partners
				Foundation for Health and Social Development
4.	BG05/584	Empowerment of young people who are vulnerable to trafficking in human beings	Ravnovesie association	National Commission for Trafficking in Human Beings
5.	BG05 NGO fund	Theatre "Emergency"	Association Replica	
6.	BG 05/6068	Youth actions for civic rights. (Trough knowledge for tolerance)	C.E.G.A. – Foundation	
7.	BG05/614	Our lives in- our hands	Integro association	Foundation Roma solidarity
8.	BG05/625	Civil society and Roma participation in the implementation of the National Roma integration strategy- guaranty for effectiveness	Amalipe center interethnic Dialog and Tolerance	Association World Without Borders, Association New Way, Association Faithful Guardian
9.	BG05/640	Dignity - life without violence"	Association NAIA"	
10	Bg05/793	The therapeutic power of the rhythm against school violence	Institute for arts and therapy	Liberal Alternative of Roma Civil Unification- LARGO Association
11	BG05/841	Together for us	Bulgarian Association for Personal Alternative	
12	BG05/947	Equal rights and opportunities	European Centre for Mediation and Arbitration	
13	BG05/959	Ethnic Youth Conflicts/	"Debut" Association	
14	BG05/966	Roma Administrative Mediators Network/	Youth Alliance - Varna	Association LARGO Bulgarian Institute for Legal Initiatives
15	BG05/988	Future for our children - social skills development for children in primary school/	National Centre for Social Emotional Development	
16	BG05/1240	Mentorship program for support of children and families in the community and prevention of school drop-out/	Gulliver Clearing House Foundation	

#	Project number	Project name	Project promoter	Partners
17	BG05/1020	Step forward!/ /	Mladenovo Foundation	
18	BG05/1024	Together against discrimination, domestic violence and xenophobia - social inclusion and empowering of young Roma people/ /	Thirst for Life Association	
19	BG05/1171	Integration of one society trough the integration of individual/ /	Foundation Avocado	
20	BG05/1359	Encouraging civic participation of young Roma/ /	New Road	
21	BG05 NGO fund	Mentoring for self help/BG05/1599	United Professionals for Sustainable Development Association	
22	BG05/1639	Consultancy center for individuals and families "Together with hope"/ /	Hope for the Little Ones	
23	BG05/1676	"Give me the right!" - weekly anti-discrimination programme on Darik Radio and radio internships for Roma and other vulnerable groups/ /	Darik Foundation	
24	BG05/1667	My Vote	European Citizens Association	
25	BG05 NGO fund	BG05-255 To become active citizens and consumers	Equal opportunities association	
26	BG05/861	M.E.N.T.O.R.I.	Youth Foundation Arete	
27	BG05/1221	Model of integrated development of Roma youth	Health and Social Development Foundation	
28		Promoting democratic values with the TV program "Small stories from Roma world	Foundation Roma world-21century.	
29	BG05/806	Youth community center/ /	Association "Amala - Priateli"	

#	Project number	Project name	Project promoter	Partners
30	BG05/1066	Innovative approach in matching social services with social entrepreneurship - Centre "Opportunity"	Foundation for Social Change and Inclusion	
BG07 Public Health Initiatives				
1.	BG07-0062	„Establishment of a Centre for family planning and prevention of reproductive health for children and adolescents ages 10-19“	University Hospital „St. George“ – Plovdiv	
2.	BG07-0075	Affordable health services for pregnant women, young mothers and children up to 3 years old from groups at risk	Hospital for Active Treatment ‘St. Sofia’	Family Planning and Sexual Health Association (BFPA)
	BG07-0060	Mission possible: Better sexual and reproductive health for young people from vulnerable communities – ways of overcoming healthcare inequalities	Bulgarian Family Planning and Sexual Health Association	National Network of Health Mediators
	BG07-0072	Improving maternal and child health by providing home health services for pregnant women and children up to 3 years of age"	Second specialized obstetric and gynaecological hospital for active treatment "Sheinovo" EAD –	Multi-profile Hospital for Active Treatment Ihtiman

Romania

RO10 - Children and Youth at Risk and Local and Regional Initiatives to Reduce National Inequalities and to Promote Social Inclusion

#	Project number	Project name	Project promoter	Partners
1.	RO10-0002	Centers for inclusive education - Integrated Services for Children from Vulnerable Groups	"Save the Children" Organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Authority of the protection of the rights of the children and adoption
2.	RO10-0003	Diversity Education Integrated Programme	Catalactica Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Romano ButiQ Association Soc Assist and Child Protection Gen Directorate S6
3.	RO10-0004	Management Centre for Integration and Information	Dagata Commune	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dagata Secondary School
4.	RO10-0008	Establishing a new multifunctional center for social services	Malureni Commune	
5.	RO10-0009	Education, the future of our community	Salcuta Commune	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minorities Counselling and Supporting Agency
6.	RO10-0013	Multifunctional Social Centre in Verguleasa commune, Olt county	Verguleasa Commune	
7.	RO10-0014	Integration opportunities for children and youth at risk in Cartier Nou community, Marasesti	Marasesti Town	
8.	RO10-0016	Educational - Cultural Centre for Roma Citizens and Poor People in the Commune	Tiha Bargaului Commune	
9.	RO10-0017	Community Educational Centre Sutesti	Sutesti Commune	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Association Center for Information and Documentation for European Integration and Sustainable Development Braila
10.	RO10-0022	Petelea Educational Centre	Petelea Commune	
11.	RO10-0023	Establishment of a day centre and implementation of social programmes for Roma children in Glodeni	Glodeni Commune	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secondary School `Adorjani Karoly`

#	Project number	Project name	Project promoter	Partners
12.	RO10-0025	Multifunctional Centre for Education - the future of community to reduce inequalities and promote social inclusion	Coltau Commune	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCF Association North University Baia Mare • Social Assistance Association-ASSOC
13.	RO10-0031	Access to education, a chance for the Roma children and youth in Fermei community	Haghig Commune	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secondary School Haghig
14.	RO10-0040	A chance for Roma children in Sipote	Blagesti Commune	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SOS Children's Villages Romania
15.	RO10-0041	Educational Centre "Equal Opportunities "	Ocna Mures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A.S.M.E.A
16.	RO10-0058	"SOFIA" Multifunctional Center	Tulcea Municipality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Directorate of Social Assistance and Protection Tulcea DGASPC
17.	RO10-0062	SUCCESS AND INDEPENDENCE	Alpha Transilvana Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BUCKNER Foundation • Diverse Association
18.	RO10-0068	Socio-professional inclusion centres for youth at risk	Prahova County School Inspectorate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apollo Resource Center Association • Roma Rights
19.	RO10-0070	Together for children!	Iasi County School Inspectorate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Holt Romania" Foundation-Iasi branch
20.	RO10-0079	Non-discrimination means equal rights!	Institute for Public Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bacau County Council • Giurgiu County Council • Ministry of Health • National Council Against Discrimination (CNCD) • National Institute of Public Health • Roma Centre for Health Policies- SASTIPEN

#	Project number	Project name	Project promoter	Partners
21.	RO10-0086	ASPIR - Access to public services for the integration of Roma in Vrancea County	County Center for Educational Resources and Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INTERCULTURAL ICELAND • Vrancea County
22.	RO10-0095	Soul families	"Alpha Group" Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GDSACP • Maltese Helping Service in Romania Association
23.	RO10-0101	Learn for helping others	The association equal opportunities for each	
24.	RO10-0103	County Network VIP	GDSACP Ialomita	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRIPS • Ialomita County School Inspectorate

RO19 – Public Health Initiatives

#	Project number	Project name	Project promoter	Partners
1.	RO19-0003	Strengthening the National Network of Roma Health Mediators to Improve the Health Status of the Roma Population	National Institute of Public Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roma Centre for Health Policies- SASTIPEN, Bucharest
2.	RO19-0006	Increase the Capacity of the Romanian Health Sector to Implement Organized Screening for Cancers Amenable to Cost-Effective Early Detection Interventions	Institute for Oncology 'Prof. Dr. Ion Chiricuța', Cluj-Napoca (IOCN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oslo University Hospital

RO24 - Judicial Capacity-building and Cooperation

#	Project number	Project name	Project promoter	Partners
1.	RO24-0005	Improving access to justice. An integrated approach with a focus on Roma and other vulnerable groups	Superior Council of Magistracy	Council of Europe; National Agency for Roma; National Institute of Magistracy; Norwegian Courts Administration

Programme RO-09

	Project number	Project Title	Project promoter	Partner
1.	RO09-0017	Helping Roma Survivors of Deportations to Transnistria	Community Resource Center Association	Association of Romanian Jews - Victims of the Holocaust
2.	RO09-0025	Interculturality one step towards equality	Roma Center 'Amare Rromentza'	Curcani Comunity hall
3.	RO09-0159	Interethnic Mobile School	Save the children Iasi	Police County Inspectorate
4.	RO09-0042	Social Inclusion Gardening	STEA Association	Local Social Assistance Public Service Satu Mare
5.	RO09-0043	Racoş responsibility and participation for community development	Association for Community Partnership	Association for Community Integration
6.	RO09-0045	School more closer to the community	Apollo Resource Center Association	Prahova County Prefecture
7.	RO09-0087	Inter-sector partnership- the base for quality social services	STEA Association	Public Local Services for Social Assistance Satu Mare
8.	RO09-0092	Young people from Romania and Norway - Promoters of Civic Community Volunteering	Ruhama Foundation	Bergen Municipality

9.	RO09-0100	Big Brother: Mentoring program for Roma youth	Împreună Agency for Community Development	
10	RO09-0102	Together for health	Roma Alliance of Galați County	
11	RO09-0107	Full and Active Participation for Quality Education in Interethnic Rural Area	Ruhama Foundation	'Alexandru Roman' Gymnasium
12	RO09-0117	"Hand in Hand" in Sângeorgiu de Mureș	Association 'Caritas Social Assistance' - Branch of Caritas Alba Iulia Organisation	Caritas Norway
13	RO09-0119	DELICOM Integrated Local Development under Community Responsibility	Forever for Europe Association	CREDIS Association - Resource center for education, development and social inclusion
14	RO09-0121	Participatory Democracy. Piloting a citizens initiative for interethnic communities in Romania	Împreună' Agency for Community Development	
15	RO09-0131	Every child in kindergarten in Brașov, Dâmbovița and Dolj county	OvidiuRo	School County Inspectorate Brașov, County Council Brașov, School County Inspectorate Dâmbovița, County Council Dâmbovița, School County Council Dolj, County Council Dolj, Asociația Learn&Vision
16	RO09-0154	Together for community change	PACT Foundation - Partnership for Community Action and Transformation	A.R.T. Fusion Association
17	RO09-0156	Her Story Women in rural inter-ethnic communities	Community Safety and Mediation Center Foundation (CMSC)	Bucovina Ladies Society Association (SDB)

18	RO09-0174	Multiculturalism - the engine for sustainable development	Mihai Eminescu Trust Foundation	Center for Social Development CEDES
19	RO09-0178	Quality Education Is For All!	THE ROMANIAN FOUNDATION FOR CHILDREN, COMMUNITY, AND FAMILY	Municipality of Cămpia Turzii
20	RO09-0385	Active Rural Community	Carpatera Association	Hoghis Comune hall, Brşov County
21	RO09-0189	I am a role model for my community	E-Romnja Association (Association for Promoting Roma Women's Rights)	Community Development Association „Together for the Future"
22	RO09-0208	Socio-educational services for Roma inclusion	DESIRE FOUNDATION FOR SOCIAL REFLECTION AND OPENNESS	Association of the Roma Community COASTEI
23	RO09-0289	A school for all children!	The Advocacy and Human Rights Center (CADO)	The Resource Center for Public Participation "CeRe
24	RO09-0300	Volunteering - a bridge between ethnic groups	Cluj-Napoca Volunteer Centre	
25	RO09-0320	"Intercultural Education - a Step Forward for Gălbinaşi Community"	Roma Center 'Amare Rromentza'	Galbinasi, City hall
26	RO09-0322	Young involved! - Ambassador for human rights	Association for Development and Social Inclusion	Ialomita County School Inspectorate
27	RO09-0323	Empowering Costeşti community	The Advocacy and Human Rights Center (CADO)	Buzau County's Prefecture

28	RO09-0366	Community Journalists for Social Responsibility: StReEt	GO FREE - The Association for the Support of Civil Society	SC BUZZ PRESS SRL
29	RO09-0368	INFORURAL- ethnic community in the Dumitrita village	Interethnic Association Dumitrita (IAD)	