

Together for Roma inclusion



Norwegian Ministry
of Foreign Affairs



MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF ICELAND



GOVERNMENT
PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN





The Roma are Europe's largest ethnic minority, with an estimated population of 10-12 million. Socially and economically, the Roma are also one of Europe's most disadvantaged groups. Many are victims of prejudice and social exclusion.

While countries with large Roma communities are primarily responsible for improving the situation, better coordination and joined-up

efforts between all European countries is also required.

Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway support initiatives to improve the lives of Europe's Roma citizens through the EEA and Norway Grants. The focus is on countries with sizeable Roma populations – Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia.

A woman with a warm smile is the central figure, wearing a vibrant red headscarf adorned with colorful floral patterns. Her top is also red, featuring large, bright yellow and orange floral designs. She is positioned in a lush, green forest, with sunlight filtering through the trees, creating a soft, dappled light effect. In the background, a rustic wooden fence and more trees are visible, adding to the natural setting.

OUR APPROACH

Improving the situation of the Roma requires efforts in a number of different areas as well as to change deep-seated prejudice and attitudes. There are no shortcuts to achieving results. Our programmes focus on:

- **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

Our programmes are directed towards Roma, but are also open for non-Roma.



STRENGTHENING LITERACY

Literacy skills of Roma children are generally lower than those of non-Roma, but there is little evidence explaining why. Researchers from the University of Oslo and the Babes Bolyai University of Cluj are measuring the literacy development of Roma children in Romania in their first two elementary school years and identifying strategies to improve their literacy skills. This will contribute to a better understanding of the educational needs of Roma children.

Project promoter:

Babes Bolyai University
of Cluj-Napoca

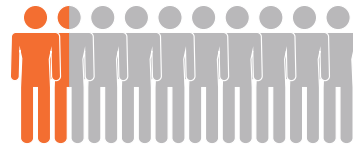
Grant amount: €541 875

Project link: bit.ly/1J5tpC4



One in two

Roma children surveyed attended
pre-school or kindergarten



Only **15%** of the Roma
surveyed have completed
upper-secondary education

A GOOD START

In the Fakulteta district, the biggest Roma neighbourhood in the Bulgarian capital, the capacity of an elementary school's preschool programme is being expanded. This includes new classrooms for pre-schoolers, a canteen providing school dinners and after-school activities.

Project promoter:

The district administration of Krasna Polyana in Sofia

Grant amount: €259 551

Project link: bit.ly/1TSLTLr

“For the Roma as a group, education is of crucial importance in order to become integrated into society and escape poverty.”

Boika Shopov, Administrator from Krasna Poyana District Administration in Sofia





EMPOWERING ROMA YOUTH

A youth centre is being established in the Bulgarian city of Plovdiv. The centre will serve as a meeting place and offer vocational skills training opportunities. The Norwegian research institute, 'Agderforskning', is involved in the project sharing its research into how to better engage and integrate young people, particularly those from vulnerable backgrounds.

Project promoter:

Municipality of Plovdiv

Grant amount: €828 714

Project link: bit.ly/1D7Xc44

"For us Roma it can be difficult to meet people from outside our own community. So I hope that the youth centre can be a place where young people from Plovdiv can meet regardless of ethnic background."

Svetoslav Aleksiev

COOPERATION AND COORDINATION

Political will is key to achieving positive change, but is often lacking. Results will not emerge overnight. Significant progress will require sustained and coordinated efforts at all levels.

International organisations, donors, national, regional and local authorities, civil society and not least, Roma organisations, all need to work together to find solutions.

Our programmes are therefore developed together with organisations and authorities active in this field, and are designed in line with the national strategies for Roma integration in each of the partner countries.

Efforts are also coordinated with the European Commission and the EU's Fundamental Rights Agency and draw on expertise from key partners such as the Council of Europe, Open Society Foundations, the World Bank and the UN family.





WHERE WE WORK

13
countries

47
programmes
include focus
on Roma
inclusion

Minimum
€50
million
allocated

- *The Roma are included as a target group in relevant EEA and Norway Grants programmes in countries with a sizeable Roma minorities: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia.*
- *Roma related issues are likewise addressed through programmes and projects in other beneficiary countries of the EEA and Norway Grants.*

For more information about all programmes and projects funded under the EEA and Norway Grants, visit www.eeagrants.org/project-portal

BUILDING COMPETENCE FOR EMPLOYMENT

In Šluknov Hook in the Czech Republic, unemployed Roma women receive help to integrate into society and increase their chances of securing a job. They receive counselling and participate in activities focused on raising competence, knowledge and practical skills. Childcare and support for securing pre-school enrolment is also provided.

Project promoter:

Kostka Krásná Lípa

Grant amount: €56 561

Project link: bit.ly/1Nl5koC



One in five

Roma women older than 16 years
are in paid work





IMPROVING LIVING CONDITIONS

In the Pata Rat settlement in the outskirts of Cluj-Naboca in Romania, many Roma people have made their living from the collection and trading of waste on the local landfill site. As the site is now closed down, the project is helping families living in the area reintegrate and improve their access to education, health, housing and social services.

Project promoter:

Intercommunity Development Association Cluj Metropolitan Area

Grant amount: €3 170 558

Project link: bit.ly/1dIW1U8

FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE

To increase access to legal aid for vulnerable groups, a national telephone hotline providing legal advice has been established as well as two legal aid centres in Sliven and Vidin, areas in Bulgaria with a high Roma population. More than 8 300 people have received free legal aid so far. The Council of Europe has provided expertise and advice to the project.

Project promoter:

National Legal Aid Bureau

Grant amount: €261 670

Project link: bit.ly/1DCaUDd



One in two

Roma have experienced discrimination
because of their ethnic background





HELPING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

A new counselling centre for victims of domestic and gender-based violence will provide assistance to over 600 people per year in the Liptov and Spis regions in Slovakia. The regions suffer from a high rate of crime and unemployment, a high frequency of domestic violence and shortage of social services. The centre will devote particular attention to providing services for Roma, including basic social counselling and a support hotline in the Romani language.

Project promoter:

Women Institute Slovakia

Grant amount: €103 578

Project link: bit.ly/1gWFX2E



One in three
Roma is unemployed



Nine in ten
Roma are living below national poverty lines

PREVENTING HATE CRIME

Police officers in Hungary are being trained to recognise hate incidents and engage with the Roma communities to prevent further escalations. Roma youth are also encouraged to become police officers. The Oslo Police District and the Equality and Anti-discrimination Ombud in Norway contribute with their experience working with hate crime and hate speech.

Project promoter: Fraternal Association of European Roma Law Enforcement Officers

Grant amount: €57 671

Project link: bit.ly/1cNk83j





COMBATING TRAFFICKING AND FORCED BEGGING

A national campaign in Romania is raising awareness of the dangers of human trafficking and forced begging. The Oslo Police District and the Council of Europe are contributing to the campaign with their expertise.

Project promoter:

National Agency against Trafficking in Persons

Grant amount: €348 500

Project link: bit.ly/1hHUIjT



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RO 20 „Viziunea domestică și vulnerabilitate la dezvoltarea de viață”

Photo credits:

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All statistics presented with infographics are taken from the 2012 report by the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA): The situation of Roma in 11 EU Member States.

The EEA and Norway Grants represent Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway's contribution to reducing social and economic disparities and strengthening bilateral relations with 16 countries in Northern, Central and Southern Europe.

www.eeagrants.org
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