



SUPPORT TO ROMA COMMUNITY

SUMMARY

NUMBER OF PROJECTS	TOTAL CONTRIBUTION (EUR)	NUMBER OF MUNICIPALITIES
31	717,000	34

TYPES OF PROJECTS

SOCIAL INCLUSION	31 projects	
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KEY RESULTS

- 249 Roma preschool and school children assisted through projects of better integration into the educational system
- 20 Roma families supported in reintegration
- 31 Roma settlements received fire extinguishers
- 175 Roma persons underwent vocational and entrepreneurship trainings
- 55 Roma children involved in innovative music programme
- 4 Citizen Advisory Service projects provide legal advice to vulnerable and marginalised groups
- 7 Projects for improvement of social inclusion through employment of vulnerable and marginalised groups
- 1 Project offering general and specialised medical examinations for Roma men and women between the ages of 25 and 55

OVERVIEW



Social inclusion of marginalised and vulnerable groups, especially the Roma, still remains one of the cross-cutting, but also concrete issues of European PROGRES. The Programme supports the improvement of the position of Roma community through a series of interventions including employment and enhancement of education through support to small partnership projects between civil society organisations and local self-governments, as well as the capacity building of Roma communities through awarding grants.

Through 149,753 Euros of support for 16 projects, the Programme is contributing to the empowerment of Roma and other civil society organisations' (CSO) capacities to implement measures aimed at improving the socio-economic standing of Roma persons at the local level. With the Programme's mentorship support, the CSOs are strengthening their capacities for representing the interests of the Roma communities in regard to employment, housing, social and health protection, education and safety.

The total value of projects that will improve the position of the Roma in the local communities will exceed EUR 700,000.

SUPPORT TO ROMA COMMUNITY/ SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS

249
children better
integrated into
the educational
system



The project implemented on the territory of Vladičin Han municipality, with financial support from the European Union and the Swiss Government, contributed to better integration of Roma children in the educational system. Organising additional classes, creative workshops and educational field trips for 75 Roma preschool and school children aimed at creating a positive impact on the three key factors of educational inclusion: education, motivation and integration. Having in mind the importance of the support system embodied in the family, the project continuously worked on raising parents' awareness of the significance of education for the overall development and progress of children. Throughout 12 months of project worth EUR 17,198 the number of Roma children enrolled in schools has increased considerably and the number of drop-outs has decreased.

"ROMA INTEGRATION CENTRE" PROJECT

"Through additional classes the children developed competitive spirit, so you can hear them say -Why should someone be better than me, when I can be that person! - Then they compete in order to prove themselves, to draw better, to be the first to complete an exercise!"
teacher Tanja, Vladičin Han



Organisation YUROM Centre from Niš started a pilot project "Beware - Arak Tut" in December 2015 in 22 Roma settlements in ten southern municipalities within the European PROGRES programme. By combining several approaches - advocacy with the competent bodies, education of local population through educational material, but also by installing 44 fire extinguishers - the project successfully connected the key stakeholders of fire safety in the Roma settlements. The project was funded by the European Union and the Government of Switzerland in the value of 21,450 Euros.

The second phase of the project commenced in September 2016, with an additional 10,028 Euros of financial support. Another nine Roma settlements in nine Programme municipalities will receive two fire extinguishers each, while five of them will form volunteer firefighting associations.

"TAKE CARE - ARAK TUT" PROJECT

"Roma settlements can be quite inaccessible so the fire extinguishers within the settlement certainly mean a lot to us. In case of minor fires they can be easily transported from one house to another thus preventing greater damage."
Dejan Bajramović, Vranje



31
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