



European Support for Roma Inclusion



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EUROPEAN SUPPORT FOR ROMA INCLUSION

This is an EU-funded project implemented by the OSCE Mission to Serbia that supports the implementation of the Strategy for Improvement of the Status of Roma in the Republic of Serbia. The project seeks to improve access to basic rights and civic participation, labour market, education, health, social welfare, adequate housing and job creation.

Building on more than ten years of substantial work for the integration of the Roma national minority in Serbia by the OSCE Mission, the project supports the Government of Serbia to implement the 2009 National Strategy for Improvement of the Status of Roma, with an emphasis on social development.

Although efforts to improve the status of Roma have been made and basic policies and legal reforms for their inclusion put into place, the Roma community remains one of the most vulnerable in Serbia. In the face of social and economic discrimination, this vulnerability is manifested by extreme poverty and limited access to employment, education, healthcare and social services and adequate housing. In co-ordination with the Office for Human and Minority Rights, the project addresses these most persistent aspects of Roma exclusion.

To achieve lasting results, the project team works closely with partner ministries, local governments, non-governmental organisations and Roma civil society to promote closer co-operation and co-ordination among them. Together, we are evaluating and improving Roma inclusion policies to build a strong foundation for Roma inclusion in Serbia.

Project Details:

Where:
Republic of Serbia

When:
June 2013 – June 2015

Budget:
4,800,000 EUR

Funding provided by:
EU's IPA 2012

Implemented by:
OSCE Mission to Serbia in co-operation with Office for Human and Minority Rights, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Policy, Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, Ministry of Construction and Urbanism, Praxis, Roma Education Fund, SEIO, SIPRU.



Funding provided by the European Union

Implemented by



Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Mission to Serbia



This project has six main components:

1. Access to rights

In collaboration with the civil society organization Praxis, the project supports Roma to obtain official documentation, register for basic services, and access their rights as citizens. In addition to providing legal aid in 20 pilot municipalities¹/cities throughout Serbia, the project promotes awareness on the benefits of registering for State services.

2. Introduction of joint mobile teams

The project advocates for improved co-operation and sharing of information between local professionals working towards social inclusion of Roma by supporting the formal establishment of joint mobile units at the municipal level. Comprised of municipal Roma Co-ordinators, Pedagogical Assistants, Health Mediators and designated individuals in the Centres for Social Work and the National Employment Service, the joint mobile teams will take part in training and mentoring programmes to develop and achieve the municipal action plans. These joint teams have been assembled in 20 pilot municipalities/cities throughout Serbia.

Simultaneously, the project will provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Health to formalize the Health Mediator positions within the healthcare system to ensure a sustainable level of service.

3. Empowerment of civil society organizations

By providing technical assistance and training for Roma civil society organizations (CSOs) and organizations focused on Roma integration, the project fosters the active engagement of CSOs in the development and implementation of Local Action Plans for Roma Integration. These efforts will strengthen Serbia's Roma CSO network and help achieve sustainable results.



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4. Introduction of drop-out prevention programmes in schools

The project provides technical assistance to the Ministry of Education, Science and Technical Development to establish and implement a secondary school dropout prevention programme throughout Serbia. Selected Roma pupils will be provided with monthly stipends and will get student-to-student mentorship support. The Roma Education Fund will provide direct assistance to the Ministry in the implementation of the scholarship programme.

5. Improving housing conditions

To support long-term improvements in the living conditions of Roma, the project will assist the Ministry of Construction and Urbanism to develop an information system to help monitor and improve conditions of Roma settlements and to propose affordable housing solutions for consideration by the national government, municipalities and the Roma community. At the same time, the project will advocate for the legalization of Roma settlements by developing urban plans and other necessary technical documentation for selected settlements in the 20 pilot municipalities. This involves conducting an assessment of housing and infrastructure conditions in settlements to identify and prioritize opportunities for their legalization. The resulting development plans will serve as the basis for housing solutions under IPA 2013.

6. Sustainable employment opportunities

The project aims to foster employment opportunities for Roma. To achieve this goal, existing enterprises, new businesses with potential for Roma employment and Roma entrepreneurs will be supported with equipment, mentoring and training to help create or expand their business.

¹ Components 4 and 6 will be carried out throughout Serbia. Components 1, 2, 3 and 5 will be realized in the following 20 pilot municipalities/cities: Bela Palanka, Bojnik, Bujanovac, Knjaževac, Koceljeva, Kovin, Kragujevac, Kruševac, Leskovac, Novi Sad, Odžaci, Palilula, Pančevo, Prokuplje, Smederevo, Sombor, Valjevo, Vranje, Žitorađa, Zvezdara.

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