

**GOVERNMENT OF ROMANIA  
NATIONAL AGENCY FOR ROMA**



Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015

**23RD INTERNATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**

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Zagreb

## **European Social Fund** - the European fund most often used for the benefit of Roma communities in Romania

- ESF operates through the Sectoral Operational Program Human Resources Development 2007-2013, which is managed by the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Protection.

### Other post-accession European funds:

- **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)** through the **Regional Operational Programme (ROP)**, managed by the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism;

- **European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)** through the **National Rural Development Programme (RDP)**, managed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

**Technical Working Group** - supports access of Roma people to the operations financed by European Social Fund through SOPHRD.

- composed by representatives of National Agency for Roma, ministries with responsibilities on Roma issues, representatives of public institutions involved in management of structural funds, and Roma NGOs.

- **one of the main tasks** - to gather and analyze information on the projects focused on Roma people and the problems that Roma communities are facing.

- 102 projects for vulnerable groups including Roma people implemented in Romania, with a total budget of approximately 250 million Euros (this amount it is not allocated exclusively to Roma people).

The 102 projects were submitted in four priority axes of POSDRU, as follows:

- PA 1 and PA 2 - Linking lifelong learning and labour market: 15 projects;
- PA 5 - Promoting active employment measures: 10 projects;
- PA 6 - Promoting Social Inclusion: 77 projects.

- Information and the final results of the six ESF projects implemented by National Agency for Roma:
- - the projects were implemented at national level, for three years period and they had a total value over 22.2 million Euros
- - two projects (cca 6.4 million Euros) have been contracted within Priority Axis 2 - Linking lifelong learning and labour market, preventing and correcting early school leaving
- - four projects (15.8 million Euros) have been contracted within Priority Axis 6 - Promoting social inclusion
- - the projects were implemented in 541 communities with significant number of Roma people, in partnership with 21 public institutions and representative organizations, out of which 17 are national partners and 4 transnational partners from Italy, Spain and Hungary
- - the beneficiaries were over 37,000 people belonging to disadvantaged groups, out of which 70% is the percentage of Roma people, meaning more than 25,000 Roma people

## Final results of the six projects are:

■ 63,738 people (in regard to 37,000 people initially scheduled within the financing contracts), benefited from project activities as follows:

- - 2,300 scholarship students;
- • 1415 students beneficiaries of the "school after school" programme;
- • 4,000 students beneficiaries of the "second chance" programme;
- • 6,413 qualified persons, of which 1,724 persons employed;
- • 1,547 people have completed training courses;
- • 49,610 people receiving counseling, vocational guidance and information, of which 9,015 students;
- • 102 social enterprises created and 1,100 new jobs created.

Also, NAR was partner in the implementation of other four projects, two in education and two in social inclusion, together with the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family, municipalities, NGOs and transnational partners from Greece, Portugal and Hungary.

## European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

Within the Regional Operational Programme (ROP) there are not provided special allocation for Roma population, but there is the possibility of submitting some projects to rehabilitate social houses owned by local authorities, but also to improve social infrastructure.

Within the Monitoring Committee of ROP, National Agency for Roma highlighted the opportunity to reallocate funds on buildings houses for Roma, according to the amendment of Art. 7 of Regulation on ERDF and to the establishment of its implementation guidelines by the European Commission. Buildings houses for marginalized communities, including Roma, under the new European rules provides limited use of Structural and Cohesion Funds for this programming period. The current status of submission of plans and integrated projects, and also allocation and use of funds does not allow the financing of such projects in the current programming period.

## European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development

The National Rural Development Programme (NRDP) does not provide separate financial allocations for Roma. Among the priorities provided by NRDP is LEADER approach which, by its specific actions lead to improving local governance and promoting endogenous potential of regions.

LEADER approach involves strengthening territorial coherence and implementation of integrated actions, which can lead to diversification and development of rural economy for the benefit of communities, through Local Action Groups (LAG).

Selection procedure for Local Action Groups was nationwide opened and addressed to all areas / partnerships eligible. Within the selection criteria for LAGs, depending on the local situation, priority was given to groups with representatives of ethnic minority. So that, it was ensured an accurate representation of these categories. Thus, out of 120 eligible projects, 95 LAGs are made up of representatives of ethnic minorities, most of them being Roma.

**Ministry of European Affairs (MAEur)**, a specialized body of the central public administration, subordinated to the Romanian Government, as ministry of synthesis, carries out coordination and management of European funds and European affairs.

- Currently, the Authority for Structural Instruments Coordination within the Ministry of European Affairs set up the Interinstitutional Committee for Partnership Agreement (CIAP), the institutional forum which coordinates the partnership framework at national level.
- CIAP has an advisory role, being constituted to promote the partnership in development of programming documents for the period 2014-2020, namely Agreement on Partnership and subsequent programs.
- Within the Interinstitutional Committee for Partnership Agreement there were established Advisory Committees and Working Groups.



## Advisory Committees

- establish and prioritize sectoral and regional interventions and ensure their correlation in terms of territoriality. They make suggestions to Interinstitutional Committee for Partnership Agreement on elements agreed on order to include them in both Partnership Agreement and subsequent programs, based on documents elaborated by the Working Groups associated to each Advisory Committee.

The main tasks of Working Groups established within Advisory Committees are:

- a) to contribute to the development of sectoral specific analyzes; to propose priority areas of intervention and financial allocations; specific result indicators; target groups; categories of potential beneficiaries;
- b) to contribute to national strategies necessary to support the process of accessing European funds; to contribute to accomplishment of ex-ante conditionality provided by European regulations for accessing EU funds for the programming period 2014-2020; to contribute to development of programming documents for items under the competency of Working Group

For implementing the Strategy of the Government of Romania for the Inclusion of the Romanian citizens belonging to Roma minority for the period 2012-2020 is necessary to implement a project financed by ESF through Administrative Capacity Development. Operational Programme, Priority Axis 1 - Structural and process improvements of the public policy management cycle, on the subject of "Strengthening Administrative Capacity of National Agency for Roma and its regional offices", with the following activities:

- Research on policy for development of Roma communities
- developing the administrative capacity of National Agency for Roma and its regional offices on order to implement the Strategy (Strategy of the Government of Romania for the Inclusion of the Romanian citizens belonging to Roma minority for the period 2012-2020)
- Create a system for collection and processing data
- training of NAR employees

As support for Roma inclusion can be used EU funds within 5 operational programs, namely the Regional Operational Programme (ROP), Sectoral Operational Programme Human Resources Development (HRD), Sectoral Operational Programme Environment (SOPE), Sectoral Operational Programme "Increase of Economic Competitiveness" (SOP IEC) and National Rural Development Programme (NRDP). The use of allocations can be based on regional development and implementation of multi-fund projects at local level.

## National Agency for Roma aims for the next period:

- to implement the Strategy of the Government of Romania for the Inclusion of the Romanian citizens belonging to Roma minority for the period 2012-2020 with funding from the state budget, EU financial instruments and other funding sources;
- to establish an entity to plan, manage and monitor Roma issue from the point of view of EU funds;
- to insert a key area of intervention for Roma and a special allocation in each Operational Programme, which supports activities for Roma inclusion;
- to promote integrated projects for Roma people in key areas that are largely deficient (housing, health, education, employment) for the period 2014 -2020.

Thanks for your attention!

**NATIONAL AGENCY FOR ROMA**

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