

Making the Most of EU Funds for Roma (MtM)

Project Generation Facility (PGF)

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MtM Background

- OSF initiative launched in 2007/2008
- The initiative is based on the assumption that :

OSF should take a flagship role in the connection of the objectives of the Decade of Roma inclusion to the machinery of the EU funds through the facilitation of flow of EU funds

Position of MtM within the OSF and the larger group of related organizations



Open Society Institute -
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Roma
Education
Fund

European
Roma
Rights
Center

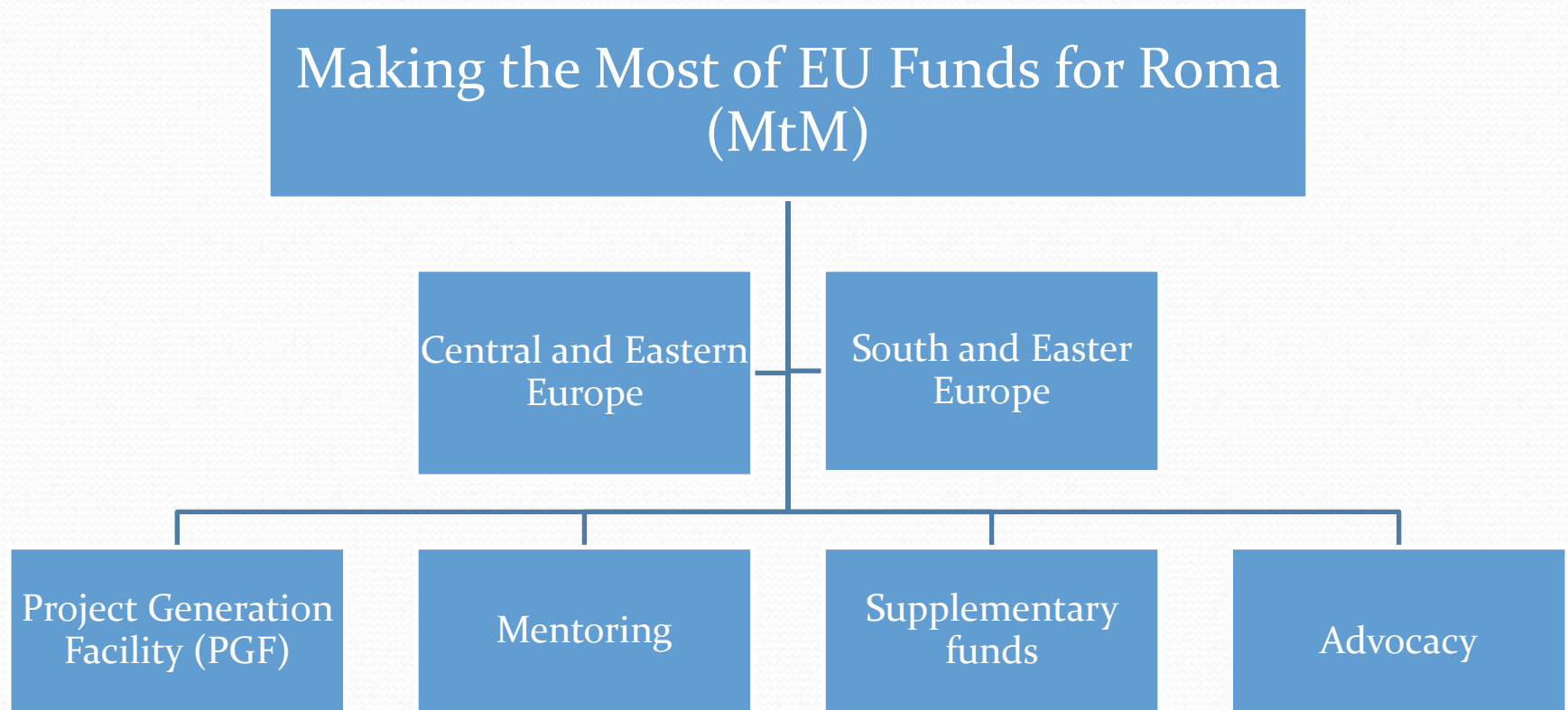
Decade
Secretaria
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Roma
Initiatives

Making
the Most

Other
related
programs

MtM Components



MtM Components

Project Generation Facility- provision of technical support in

- a) project identification (corresponding to open opportunities); project design and project writing;
- b) “ learning by doing” in order to strengthen capacities of local governments and civil society to absorb EU funds;

Mentoring – provision of technical support and guidance in implementation of EU funded projects designed with PGF support

Experience: support is in team establishment; provided procurement procedures; preparation of narrative and financial reports to managing authorities etc

Supplementary funds -financial support for the payment of non-eligible costs under given structural funds scheme but essential for the achievement of the Roma inclusion objective of the project;

Advocacy- promoting the development experiences of MtM to national and European policy –makers

The supplementary frame

- Preparation of projects
- Prefinancing (loan)
- Cofinancing (Financing uncovered costs)
- Conbinations of 3 elements
- Up to USD 25,000
- Apply to MtM or, national partners

MtM supported social enterprise practices „Investment in the future – Social Entrepreneur - Bee”

- OP Human resources – Ministry of Labor and Social Policy – Component “Social Entrepreneur” (2009)
- **Applicant:** “Nov pat –Hajredin” ASSOCIATION
- **Partners:** Foundation “Open Society Institute – Sofia”
- **Amount:** Leva 152,278 - USD 105,017
- **Target group:** Project’s target group are the citizens of Hayredin Municipality – disabled people, members of minority ethnic groups, continuously unemployed people, receivers of monthly social assistance.

MtM supported social enterprise practices „Investment in the future – Social Entrepreneur - Bee”

Supplementary grant (USD 10,516)

- Updated marketing strategy of the enterprise.
- Purchased a mobile platform for moving 36 hives, leading to increased production of honey for next years.
- The construction of the fence to secure the hives is in the process
- The developing of brand label for the production continues
- As a continuation of the project Association "New Road" was registered as a farmer organization

MtM supported social enterprise practices „Youth factory – chance for the young Roma”

- OP Human resources – Ministry of Labor and Social Policy – Component “Social Entrepreneur”
- **Applicant:** “PARTNERS KYUSTENDIL” ASSOCIATION
- **Partners:** LARGO Association - Kyustendil
- **Amount:** 197 208 leva, USD 136,041
- **The project target group includes** young people aged 16 to 29 from the Roma community in Kyustendil, young people with disabilities, members of the Roma community in Kyustendil, Roma aged up to 29 years – continuously unemployed, receiving social assistance

MtM supported social enterprise practices „Youth factory – chance for the young Roma”

Unsuccessful approach as:

- Municipalities were not invited and involved as partners in this pilot phase of the scheme.
- Participation of Roma was not facilitated
- Market research has not been done

MtM supported social enterprise practices

Bhim BRAO - Mushroom enterprise

- In December 2010, Bhim Rao Association was granted for the mushroom growing sub-project, USD 258,200, of which grant for training and services is USD 70,300, grant for investments (building, technology) is USD 187,900. „Complex development of employment opportunities in and around Szendrolad” pilot program.

The project aims to promote employment by

- training of 16 people as welders (welders can find jobs relatively easily) and
- training of 16 people as mushroom growers, employment of 10 people for 9 months and 5 people for the longer run in a new mushroom growing social enterprise (mushroom growers can build on the tradition of mushroom collection in the area).

MtM supported social enterprise practices

Bhim BRAO - Mushroom enterprise

- Activities co-financed by the EU grant and the OSI grant include building the hall and purchasing the technology for mushroom growing. (USD 90,000, of which USD 56,000 recoverable)
- PGF facility is provided
- Employ of 5 people as mushroom growers and sustain the social enterprise
- The social enterprise starts repaying

Labour pool for unemployed Roma women

– Macedonia - Kumanovo

- Improve the opportunities of women from ethnic minorities in the labour market by mediating, provision of lacking skills or preparation for self-employment.
- “Labour Pool for unemployed women from ethnic minorities in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia - Training & Mediation & Self-employment” project is supported under the IPA program - Human Resources Development 2007-2013. The total budget is Euro 227.677,28 and MtM provides supplementary grant for non-eligible costs and activities of Roma Community Center `Drom`, in order to ensure the financial stability of the project.

Conclusions

- Funds are available but not reachable
- High competition among applicants
- Special and extra services needed in applying and implementing EU projects (TA Funds)
- Roma inclusion policies are not integrated in implementation – specific education of municipalities needed (MERI)
- Gaps in pre-financing of EU projects – supplementary
- More top-down and less bottom up developments (Local and community based approach)
- *Inclusion of Roma became more ethnic based problem – should be national and citizenship based

Thank you!

More information at

<http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/about/programs/making-most-eu-funds-roma>

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