

Association of Roma “Euro Rom” Tuzla

Udruženje Roma “Euro Rom” Tuzla

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Civil Society Report on the Implementation of the National Roma Integration Strategy and Decade Action Plan in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2012 and 2013



This report was prepared by a civil society coalition

- This report was prepared by a civil society coalition comprising the following organizations: *Euro Rom* (lead organization), *BOSPO* association. The lead researcher of the coalition is Tihomir Knežiček (consultant for issues of institutional development of civil society organizations and the chairman of the BiH Council of Ethnic Minorities). The project manager is Amra Čaškić (*Euro Rom*).
- The authors of the report are Tihomir Knežiček, Nedžad Jusić, Boris Pupiće and Anamarija Mirašćić.

Purpose. . .

- **These reports are not meant to substitute for quantitative monitoring and evaluation by State authorities but to channel local knowledge into national and European policy processes and reflect on the real social impact of government measures. The civil society reports provide additional data to official ones, proxy data where there is not official data, or alternative interpretation of published data.**
- .

About research

- **The research was carried out with the assistance of 10 field assistants, who worked in 28 municipalities in BiH, thereby covering 250 respondents (50 Roma leaders and CSOs, and 200 randomly chosen Roma individuals).**
- **The second group of researchers were staff of Euro Rom and BOSPO, who collected information from 32 local governments, non-governmental organizations, and international institutions.**

About research

- **In the cases of decision-makers eight questionnaires were sent, four of which were returned. In addition five telephone interviews were conducted.**
- **Total of 14 questionnaires were sent to local and international organisations, four of which were returned. In addition five telephone interviews were conducted.**

About research

- **Institutions and organizations were first notified in December 2013 and received the letter the Euro Rom and Bospo carry out research, and in April 2014 they were forwarded the questionnaires and were invited to cooperate in the research.**
- **Letter and e-mail looked like this!**



Projekat: "Monitoring izvještaj civilnog društva – Strategija i Akcioni planovi za rješavanje problema Roma u Bosni i Hercegovini"

**Hilfswerk Austria International
n/r Suzana Jašarević
Direktorica za BiH**

Poštovani/a,

Udruženje Roma "Euro-Rom" iz Tuzle u partnerstvu sa Udruženjem „BOSPO“ Tuzla započelo je realizaciju projekta pod nazivom "Monitoring izvještaj civilnog društva (tkz. „izvještaj iz sjene“) – Strategija i Akcioni planovi za rješavanje problema Roma u Bosni i Hercegovini" kojeg finansira Sekretarijat Dekada inkluzije Roma 2005-2015 iz Budimpešte a za potrebe izvještaja Evropske Komisije do 2020. godine. Projekat se odnosi na prikupljanje i obradu podataka, a vezano za implementaciju aktivnosti po Akcionim planovima za rješavanje problema Roma koji su usvojeni od Vijeća Ministara, a u skladu sa Strategijom za rješavanje problema Roma. Cilj projekta jeste da se prikaže stvarno stanje po pitanju implementacije Akcionih planova od svih subjekata koji se bave ovim pitanjem kroz Izvještaj koji će se prezentirati i dostaviti Sekretarijatu Dekade u Budimpešti i Evropskoj Komisiji.

Imajući u vidu Vaše nesebično učešće u realizaciji aktivnosti a koje se dotiču Akcionih planova za rješavanje problema Roma nadamo se da ćemo imati suradnju u narednom periodu, a koja će dovesti do što kvalitetnijeg i realnijeg izvještaja.

U narednih nekoliko mjeseci projektni tim će kontaktirati Vas ili predstavnike Vaše organizacije/institucije kako bi dobili neophodne podatke vezane za neke od gore navedenih oblasti, a koji će kasnije biti potrebni kako bi se što realnije predstavila stvarna situacija romske populacije u BiH i sprovođenje Akcionih planova u 2012.i 2013. godini.

Za sve dodatne informacije možete nas kontaktirati na tel. 035/228-884, mob. 061/273-967, ili na e-mail adrese eurorom_bh@yahoo.com, amra_eurorom@yahoo.com.

- Dostavljeno:
- Institucijama (državnim, entitetskim, kantonalnim, i općinskim)
- domaćim i međunarodnim nevladinim organizacijama

Srdačan pozdrav,
Projekt menadžer
Amra Čaškić

Predsjednik udruženja
Nedžad Jusić

Subject: Re: Monitoring izvještaj civilnog društva o implementaciji Strategije i Akcionih planova za Rome u 2013. godini

From: Udruženje Roma (eurorom_bh@yahoo.com)

To: suzanaj@hwa.com.ba;

Date: Wednesday, April 30, 2014 2:03 PM

Poštovana,

Udruženje Roma "Euro Rom" i udruženje "Bospo" u ovoj godini radi Monitoring izvještaj civilnog društva u BiH. Veoma bi nam bilo značajno i Vaše mišljenje i informacije o stanju Roma u 2013. godini. U prilogu Vam dostavljam upitnik koji možete pogledati i dati Vaše mišljenje, ili možemo se dogovoriti za sastanak u prvoj sedmici maja nakon praznika kako bi porazgovarali na teme iz upitnika. Takođe bilo bi nam potrebna informacija koje sve Vaša organizacija ima programe za Rome. Hvala unaprijed na Vašem vremenu!

lijep pozdrav
Amra Čaškić
projekt menadžer
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On Thursday, December 19, 2013 2:12 PM, Udruženje Roma <eurorom_bh@yahoo.com> wrote:

Poštovana,

Želimo da Vas obavjestimo da je Udruženja Roma "Euro Rom" i Udruženje "Bospo" započelo sa realizacijom aktivnosti po projektu "Monitoring izvještaj civilnog društva - Strategija i Akcioni planovi za rješavanje problema Roma u Bosni i Hercegovini", te se nadamo saradnji kako bi naš izvještaj sadržavao sve relevantne podatke o stanju Roma u Bosni i Hercegovini.

U prilogu pismo namjene!

Lijep pozdrav
Amra Čaškić
projekt menadžer
Udruženje Roma "Euro Rom" Tuzla
Bosne Srebrene bb, 75 000 Tuzla
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Results of the research have been analysed in six chapters

- **STRUCTURAL REQUIREMENTS**
- **ANTI-DISCRIMINATION**
- **EDUCATION**
- **EMPLOYMENT**
- **HEALTH CARE, AND**
- **HOUSING**

STRUCTURAL REQUIREMENTS

- In Bosnia and Herzegovina a designated governmental agency which bears the principal responsibility for coordinating Roma inclusion work in the central government is the state Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees. At the Council of Ministers level, the Roma Committee operates - an advisory body to the Council of Ministers, and a body responsible for monitoring the implementation of Action Plans for Roma.
- At the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees, the sector for Human Rights, with 19 employees, is in-charge of Roma inclusion issues, but does not have any Roma employees.

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION

High-level officials in BiH always make impressive statements while promoting the rights of the Roma population, while in practice the same officials do not serve as role models in promoting respect for Roma. A typical example is the lack of will to implement the ECHR ruling in the Sejdić-Finci.

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION

- **The Roma population has access to public services as all BiH citizens do, so institutional discrimination is not present, but discrimination based on Roma ethnic origin does occur in individual cases.**
- **Since NRIS was adopted, no systematic step has been taken in BiH to secure fundamental rights for Roma children. Improvement in securing children's rights is mainly the result of CSOs programmes and initiatives in the sectors of education and health care.**

EDUCATION

An important stimulus for education of Roma children is given by educated and influential individuals among Roma, who show, through their personal example, that Roma can be educated, and that they can play an important role in their local communities.

Still, there are some examples of local communities (Bijeljina, for example) where day-care centres / nursery schools propose organizing special pre-school education for Roma children, which could generate segregation because Roma children would be separated from other children.

EDUCATION

Official institutions, and schools in BiH, did not have systemic programs in 2013 to promote the NRIS, but there were some individual initiatives. In most cases, schools initiated activities and promoted NRIS, and in many cases schools implemented projects together with CSOs

EMPLOYMENT

Employment programmes for Roma in 2012 and 2013, produced by the Federation BiH Employment Bureau, RS Employment Bureau and Brčko District Employment Bureau, included incentive measures to support the self-employment of Roma, in total 446,000 EUR for 212 Roma who were employed by the end of 2013.

EMPLOYMENT

Social entrepreneurship is an undeveloped sector in BiH. It is only implemented through CSO projects funded by donors. During 2013, as well as in previous years, the Roma population mainly focused on self-employment related to the collection of raw/used materials, apprentice work, selling at markets, and agricultural labour.

HEALTH CARE

Health insurance is the field in which the Roma population is facing considerable problems to access their rights, and this also refers to the female population. The cause of the problem is the fact that unemployed Roma are not registered with the employment service and are automatically 60% Roma are excluded from health insurance.

HOUSING

The European Commission in 2013 was involved in social housing and housing programs through a very limited number of grants used by the “*Hilfswerk Austria International*” CSO (total 3,036,856 EUR) and government institutions.

HOUSING

- **The media reported several examples of the low quality of actual construction work, drawing attention also to the improper conditions of the surroundings left at construction sites.**
- **CSOs and leaders in Roma communities are not adequately represented in solving the housing and social housing programs and their responsibility is usually in the monitoring phase, if this is agreed with the institution that provides funding.**

Recommendations ...

The new approach of the economic empowerment of Roma needs to be applied. The approach based on building the capacities of the entire family and mentoring / expert support addressing the needs of a particular family is the model that could be applied to other vulnerable groups of people as well. However, a certain amount of time is needed for longer-term effects to be measured.

Recommendations ...

- **The knowledge and experience of CSOs should be shared with other organizations and institutions, and also with beneficiaries, by providing visibility of the results achieved and the lessons learned.**
- **Obstacles imposed upon Roma (especially on women) are numerous, demanding plenty of time and action by all the relevant stakeholders to enhance their position permanently.**

Recommendations ...

- **A Roma-to-Roma approach is advisable in knowledge transfer between Roma partner organizations.**
- **Planning and conceptualizing the multi-annual projects that aim at improving the socio-economic position of vulnerable groups of people, implies taking care of specific features of each particular group that the project addresses, as was the case in this project.**

Recommendations ...

- **The empowerment of Roma women and involvement of Roma women from especially vulnerable groups into different activities demands long-term action.**
- **When the action involves the education or employment of Roma groups, it is necessary to provide other kinds of help and support to the vulnerable population – motivation, help with dealing with different kinds of documentation, psychological support, mentoring etc.**

Recommendations ...

- **The involvement of the media and the community at large in the project, as well as solving the particular problems faced by Roma, are of vital importance both for the inclusion of Roma (particularly Roma women) and for the sustainability of the effects of the activities conducted.**
- **A large number of Roma have not even completed primary school. This not only excludes them from the labour market, but also causes a negative perception of their employability, which then further deepens their social exclusion.**

Recommendations ...

- **To consider the property relations that are the first condition to Roma could be applied on the housing programs in BiH, and that based on indicators created criteria for the reconstruction / remediation housing units for Roma.**

Recommendations ...

- **The composition of the selection committee of users of Roma housing is made up of representatives of the Centre for Social Work, municipalities, and the Roma community (2 representatives)**
- **Upon completion of the project implementation implemntator should publish public amount of money spent on each object individually.**
- **Applicants who apply to the application to provide information to potential beneficiaries.**

Recommendations...

- **Establish a professional monitoring team to monitor the realization projects that will be composed of experts from the construction sector, as it would not happen that leads to poor construction and to meet the standards for rehabilitation and construction of housing units and structures for the purpose of housing of Roma in BiH**

Thank you for your attention!!!