

EU Second Roma Integration Award for the Western Balkans and Turkey



Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina,
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia,
Kosovo*, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey

APPLICATION FORM

(ANNEX 1 OF THE CONTEST RULES)

Did you know?

It is estimated that about 1 million Roma¹ live in the Western Balkans, 2.8 million in Turkey and 6.2 million in the EU. Roma are Europe's largest ethnic minority. They face continued exclusion, segregation and discrimination.

The EU's policy on Roma inclusion, integration and empowerment is placed within an EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020 adopted by the European Commission in 2011. Within that framework, all 28 EU Member States and all 7 candidate countries and potential candidates for EU membership adopted their National Roma Integration Strategies which they now put in practice.

In June 2016, the Commission adopted its annual report on Roma integration that stresses the following as regards the candidate countries and potential candidates:

- Roma integration continues to be a priority in the enlargement process.
- Enough funding must be ensured to carry out integration measures.
- Attention should focus on implementation by local authorities.
- Roma community should be involved in planning, implementation and monitoring.
- Focus on results on the ground to reduce the gap between Roma and non-Roma.

Find out more: http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/roma/index_en.htm

Watch a film about Roma: <http://romahomeland.org/>

Watch a short video "A Better Future for Roma" in candidate countries and potential candidates: <https://vimeo.com/143848472>

¹As it is most commonly used in EU policy documents and discussions, the term "Roma" refers to a variety of different groups of people who describe themselves as Roma, Sinti, Kale, Gypsies, Romanichels, Boyash, Ashkali, Egyptians, Yenish, Dom, Lom, Manouches and other, and also includes Travellers, without denying the specificities and varieties of lifestyles and situations of these groups.

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

Before filling out this Application Form, please read carefully the Contest Rules. You also have to fill out, date and sign the Declaration of Honour.

Please fill out this Application Form and send it, together with the Declaration of Honour (Annex 2 of the Contest Rules), by e-mail to

NEAR-ROMA-INTEGRATION-AWARD@ec.europa.eu

by 31 October 2016 23:59:59 of Brussels time (the time of registration in the European Commission's IT system is decisive).

("NEAR" is the abbreviation for the European Commission department responsible for the Second Roma Integration Award: the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations.)

Please make sure that where the Contest Rules require quantified data, e.g. a specific duration or number of staff or beneficiaries, this Application Form contains this data.

Where this Application Form requires a limit on the number of words, any words in excess of that limit will be disregarded in the evaluation. Adjust the size of the table cells where necessary to fit the text.

1. THE PARTICIPANT

Full official name of the participant	KulturnoUmetnickoDrustvoDurmisiAslano or Cultural Artistic Society DurmišAslano
Official legal form of the participant. This legal form must be suitable for an NGO.	Registered Non-Government Organization with the Ministry of Public Administration of Kosovo

Participant's history, aim and main activities (no more than 300 words). Demonstrate in particular the eligibility criteria under Section 3 points 2. and 3. of the Contest Rules

DurmisAslano began in 1969 as a Cultural Association for the protection and preservation of Roma culture. In its current form, the NGO serves as an important advocate for the Roma Community of the Prizren region (approximately 5,000, making it the largest Roma population in Kosovo). In 2003 DurmisAslano with the help of the US embassy was able to establish a radio station called Radio Romano Avazo (the voice of Roma). The radio station is the only 24/7 radio station in Kosovo broadcasting in Romani. As a result, it serves a critical purpose as a source of information for the Roma community in Prizren and greater Kosovo. Radio programming ranges from traditional Roma music to talk shows featuring guests from the government and other civil society organizations advocating for a variety of issues including the importance of education or preventative healthcare.

DurmisAslano also serves as a community organizer and enabler. For example, when scholarship applications are due, rather than having individual Roma youth travel to Pristina, they can drop off their applications at DurmisAslano, which takes the applications all together to the municipality in Pristina. This allows families that otherwise could not make it to the capital to apply.

Returning to its cultural associative roots, DurmisAslano still puts on theatre productions around Kosovo and sometimes in neighboring nations in the Balkans. These plays focus on issues of importance to the RAE community. For example, the most recent production's plot focused on the negative repercussions of early marriages through the struggles of the protagonists.

Staff count: approximate number of people, voluntary or paid, full-time or part-time, directly carrying out <u>all</u> the activities of the participant, i.e. not just the project	As of application time, 6 paid workers and 4 Roma youth volunteers
Full official address, notably street/post box, postal code, city, country	ZahirPajaziti, Lamela II nr.20, Prizren, Kosovo
E-mail address	nexhipmenekshe@gmail.com
Website	http://www.radioromanoavazo.com/index.html
Statutory registration number, VAT registration number (whichever available)	5100703-4
CONTACT PERSON:	
Name (Ms, Mr)	NexhipMenekshe
Telephone number	044-30 1561
E-mail address	nexhipmenekshe@gmail.com

2. THE PROJECT

Title of the project	Advocating the plan of integration of the Roma Community in Kosovo Society
Period covered by the project (Section 4 point 3. of the Contest Rules)	From: April 2014 To: April 2015
Geographical location of the project (Section 4 point 2. of the Contest Rules)	Kosovo
Source of financing of the project	US Embassy of Kosovo \$23,000 for the project

Objectives, design, planning and activities of the project (Section 4 point 1., Section 5, criterion 1 of the Contest Rules):

On paper, the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities of Kosovo have equal rights to all Kosovars, and this was written in detail within the National Strategy for the Integration of the RAE communities. But the reality is that these strategies are not reflected in the day-to-day life of these communities and they still face discrimination and hurdles to economic opportunity.

This was why in 2014 DurmisAslano launched a project titled the Promotion of the Action Plan of the Government Strategy for integration of RAE communities in Prizren. The organization has a unique ability to communicate with the RAE community through Radio Romano Avazo. Over a period of 12 months the radio station broadcasted programming on 12 major challenges facing the RAE community of Kosovo. The chosen topics were:

1. Educational opportunity
2. The preservation of Roma language and culture and the importance of media.
3. A lack of information and reintegration of members of the community returning after the conflict.
4. Gender Issues
5. NGO – Government Cooperation
6. Healthcare
7. Representation in Government
8. Employment and Economic Empowerment
9. Early Marriage
10. Housing and informal settlements
11. Registration and Documentation
12. Improving the Image of the Roma

Each topic included approximately 3-4 interviews conducted on the air (when necessary with live translation to Romani language). These guests were from a wide spectrum of organizations and branches of government.

For example, regarding the challenges facing the Roma community in education (the largest focus of the 12 challenges), the guests on separate broadcasts included: NexhatQoqaj the Municipal Director for Education in Prizren; ReshitKushaj, a representative of the Parents Council and Roma father; Osman Osmani, another representative of the Municipal Directorate for Education; the director of the NGO Iniciativa 6, and several RAE middle school students that received scholarships.

The main goal of the broadcasts was the widespread distribution of relevant and empowering information to the RAE community in Kosovo. The organization does not have exact measuring instruments but estimates that these broadcasts each had around 1,000 listeners within the Roma community. The interviews were used not only for the sharing of information, but also as a means of holding municipal officials accountable. For example, in the education-themed interviews on the air, the interviewer was able to get the Municipal Director for Education in Prizren to commit to investigating the lack of RAE admissions to the local medical school. After following up with the municipality over the past 2 years since the project, 10 RAE women have been accepted and are attending the local medical school.

Most importantly, a goal of this project was to initiate discourse within the RAE community on a variety of topics, most of which directly impact the youth and therefore the future of the RAE community. Topics that were discussed broadly on the airwaves such as early marriages, the preservation of culture, gender inequality and most importantly education are of the most importance to the youth within the community.

Results achieved of the project (Section 5, criterion 2 of the Contest Rules):

Please explain in no more than 500 words the results (achieved by the date of submission of this application): how the project was able to directly positively affect the Roma children and youth (below 18 years) and/or young adults (18-30 years) in terms of inclusion, integration and/or empowerment, with expected long-term effects on their lives. Explain how you have measured these results and how these findings have been or will be used to adjust the objectives, design, planning or activities of the project.

The direct results of the project were 50 separate interviews, each covering one of the 12 major challenges facing the RAE community of Kosovo. These broadcasts were available in three different forms. Primarily the radio broadcast available in the majority of the western part of Kosovo; via [Radio Romano Avazo's](#) website that live streams the radio emissions online; and via recordings posted on Facebook. The organization estimates that of the 9,000 RAE community members in Kosovo, these broadcastshad approximately 1,000 listeners each, or approximately 11% of the RAE population in Kosovo.

The radio broadcasts stimulated conversations within the community on important topics; one of the most important in Kosovo is dispelling the tradition of early marriage within the RAE community (4 broadcasts focused on this). Early marriage and resulting early pregnancies are not only physically harmful, but lead to a lack of education for the mothers, and perpetuates a culture of undervaluing education. The project allowed our organization to publicize upcoming workshops DurmisAslanoto be held later that year with young women in the RAE community. Those workshops had 15 attendees, no doubt due to the media coverage this project was able to provide. The information provided helped raise awareness in the community and will help prevent early marriages.

Based on the Director of Education for the Municipality of Prizren's on-air statements" DurmisAslano and other community leaders were able to lobby the municipality to push for the acceptance of RAE students as required by law. In the 2015/16 school year, 9 students, including 6 women, were accepted to the prestigious medical school.DurmisAslanocontinues to monitor the admissions of RAE students to highschools in Prizren and advocate on their behalf. This

school year, 15 students were accepted, including 5 young women who were admitted to the medical high school. These students are receiving the best possible education, which should have life-long positive impacts on themselves and the rest of their communities. In addition to the radio programming, summaries of all the interviews were printed into a hard-copy book in English, Romani, Albanian and Bosnian. These books were distributed to municipality workers and other NGO's and civil society throughout Kosovo

In the future, for similar projects, the organization would like to increase the programming's reach. This could be accomplished via an increased marketing budget, as well as translating the videos on Facebook so that there are English and Serbian subtitles in addition to the current Albanian subtitles. In addition, DurmisAslano is in the process of trying to start a journalism class for RAE youth, in order to improve self-advocacy. Stories and individuals that they and other RAE journalists discover could provide powerful messages to transmit over the radio and an improved social media presence which is critical to reaching the youth of today. Lastly the organization has a future goal to train the staff on proper utilization of social media and other technical skills to increase the reach of the programming.

Share of Roma staff carrying out (implementing) the project (Section 5, criterion 3 of the Contest Rules):

Please describe, in no more than 300 words, how many people – paid or volunteer, full-time or part-time – are directly carrying out (implementing) the project. What is the share in % of Roma among these people?

Do not confuse the people who carry out (implement) the project and the people who benefit from the project! For example, teachers and social assistants carry out a project while children benefit from it. However, sometimes it may be difficult to distinguish: for example, unemployed people may receive training as beneficiaries of the project and at the same time they can be employed by the project or do volunteer work to carry out the project. Therefore, describe clearly the people who carry out (implement) the project.

Amelia Jana Abercrombie: Translator (Translated interview summaries into English for the hard cover books summarising the project)

NexhipMenekshe: Director (Responsible for management of project)

SulemanAshani: Journalist (Journalists interviewed individuals on radio, and conducted outreach and research to bring appropriate people in for programming)

Vera Paquka: Journalist

SavertQulaji: Technician (Technicians run the equipment of the radio station and are critical to broadcasting on the air with good quality sound and transitions)

Gjengiz Cana: 2nd Technician

FatmirMenekshe: Volunteer

SejnurVeshalle: Volunteer

RefikKasi: Bosniak Translator (Translated interview summaries into Bosniak for the hard cover books summarising the project)

Only Amelia Jana (British Volunteer) and RefikKasi (Bosnian) were not RAE. Therefore 77% of the 9 staff and volunteers involved in implementing the program were RAE community members.

Share of women and men (girls and boys) among beneficiaries of the project (Section 5, criterion 4 of the Contest Rules):

Please state, in no more than 300 words, what the share of women and men (girls and boys) is among the beneficiaries of the project. If there are gender imbalances, please explain them and explain how these findings have been or will be used to adjust the objectives, design, planning or activities of the project. If the project is intended to benefit one gender only, please justify why that is appropriate to achieve the objectives of the project.

The radio emissions by nature are gender neutral, but the programming consisted of many interviews aimed towards women, especially young women. Specifically, the programming focused on early marriages and gender inequality preventing young RAE woman from successfully integrating into the community.

Its not possible to track the specific age or gender of listeners, but here are some statistics about the RAE population in Kosovo the target of the radio programing (55% of which are in the Prizren region).

- As of the 2011 census there were around 9,000 Roma in Kosovo, 15,436 Ashkali and 11,436 Egyptian.
- In 2014 a government study found that 60% of the RAE population were living in urban environments versus 40% living in rural communities
- The unemployment rate within the RAE communities is significantly higher than the rest of the country, it's estimated that 75% of males between the ages of 15-24 are unemployed.

**3. COOPERATING ENTITIES (fill out only if applicable –
Section 3, point 4. of the Contest Rules)**

<p>Describe in no more than 300 words the share of implementation of the project by the participant, i.e. without the cooperating entities. This share must be meaningful and substantial.</p>	<p>The NGO NevoConcepti identified the students within the community and encouraged them to apply to the high schools via DurmisAslano</p>
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List the cooperating entities. For each entity, provide its full official name, its legal form, its official address and its statutory and/or VAT registration number.

NevoConcepti
Ali PasheGucia 31
NGO
Registration Number: 5115293-0
Phone Number: 044265741
ojqnxk@gmail.com

4. SUPPORTING VISUAL MATERIAL

In compliance with the Contest Rules (Section 6), visual material supporting this application (e.g. photos, videos, brochures) is only accepted if it is openly available on the internet in electronic format (a website, YouTube, Vimeo, Facebook etc.). Provide links below and explain the material, in particular how it shows various aspects of the project. The supporting visual material itself may be in any language.

Provide the link and a short (maximum 30 words) explanation for each item of visual material. Do not provide more than 10 items; any items beyond this limit will be disregarded during the evaluation.

1) Guest in studio :LuljetaAvdic

Theme "Early mariedwomens and youth's"

<https://web.facebook.com/1401097606797406/videos/1680084712232026/>

2) Guest in studio : NurgjanQorri

Theme " Youth problems and some questions regarding the community"

<https://web.facebook.com/1401097606797406/videos/1677581412482356/>

3) Guest in studio : Roma party Represent's

Theme " Youth and roma community problems"

<https://web.facebook.com/1401097606797406/videos/1731612590412571/>

4) Guest in studio : Sabina Dana represent from Prizren

Theme " Actional Plan"

<https://web.facebook.com/1401097606797406/videos/1743558409217989/>

5) Guest HaxhiKabashi director of high school "MatiLogoreci "

Theme "Roma education, androma student's in school"

<https://web.facebook.com/1401097606797406/videos/1675343852706112/>

6) GuestUsmenBalgji,Minister for science and technology education

Theme "The ceremony of books on language learning optional Roma"

<https://web.facebook.com/1401097606797406/videos/1669475649959599/>

7) Guest KadrijeKrasniqi

Theme " Illegal migration and return for Roma Community

<https://web.facebook.com/1401097606797406/videos/1561455060761659/>

8) Guest Kosovo Police

Theme " Roma youth problems and Roma Community"

<https://web.facebook.com/1401097606797406/videos/1507938116113354/>

9) Guest ArbenShala represent from ojq " Atta"

theme " Roma project,youth and women"

<https://web.facebook.com/1401097606797406/videos/1481212205452612/>

10) Guest HajrizKelmendi

Theme " A people advocate"

<https://web.facebook.com/1401097606797406/videos/1520747944832371/>

We wish you good luck!