

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>

¹ As 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.

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

**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.*

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	GRUBB Foundation
Official legal form of the participant. This legal form must be suitable for an NGO.	Foundation

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

Since 2006, GRUBB (Gipsy Roma Urban Balkan Beats) has allied education, arts, culture and social enterprise to support the long-term social integration of Roma youth in Serbia.

Two tutoring centres located in Nis and Belgrade supplement the schooling of Roma youth under the age of 18. The centres encourage predominantly Roma children to stay in mainstream school and to pass exams.

The first, established in Nis, provided daily tutoring in all academic subjects including English and German at primary and secondary levels. Music and dance workshops were later added to the curriculum. The demand was so great that a centre in Belgrade was started with a stronger emphasis on the arts. Providing Roma youth with academic support, giving them training in all aspects of performance and providing creative writing and photography courses ensures that vulnerable youth have the opportunity to excel and to develop new talents.

The GRUBB's model of linking education, arts and culture is unique and a powerful sustainable force for social integration.

It subsequently inspired the GRUBB Show, a collaboration between young Roma and international artists that blends contemporary hip hop and Roma music, celebrating Roma culture and encouraging young performers to have pride in their roots.

Performance in concerts and events or as part of the GRUBB Show allows participants to express themselves publicly, in their own words, to an audience outside their community and to the media.

The GRUBB aim is to continue to improve the confidence, academic attainment and employment prospects, of Roma youth, to give Roma children a voice and to allow them to have pride in their own unique cultural heritage and so to fully integrate in society.

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	31 staff in Serbia 25 volunteers internationally (France, Italy, Canada, UK)
Full official address, notably street/post box, postal code, city, country	Njegoseva 8, 200158 11080, Zemun, Belgrade, Serbia
E-mail address	
Website	www.grubmusic.com
Statutory registration number, VAT registration number (whichever available)	17737643
CONTACT PERSON:	
Name (Ms, Mr)	Ms Milica Podjanin Kujundzic
Telephone number	+381603495566
E-mail address	milicapk.grubb@gmail.com

2. THE PROJECT

Title of the project	GRUBB Centres
Period covered by the project (Section 4 point 3. of the Contest Rules)	Ongoing since 2006
Geographical location of the project (Section 4 point 2. of the Contest Rules)	<p><i>Identify a precise location of the project, including the candidate country or potential candidate for EU membership</i></p> <p>Serbia</p>
Source of financing of the project	<p><i>It can be internal (participant's own funds) or external (one or more donors). Please specify.</i></p> <p>GRUBB's activities have been supported by private donations and by funding from the Council of Europe, Schuler Helfen Leben, the Ministry of Culture, Republic of Serbia, Secretary of Culture, Belgrade, International Women's Club and EXIT foundation. Revenues from the GRUBB Show also fund the GRUBB Foundation's educational activities. The model is designed with sustainability in mind, the aim being to achieve complete self financing by 2020, through profit engendered by the GRUBB Show and its merchandising.</p>
<p>Objectives, design, planning and activities of the project (Section 4 point 1., Section 5, criterion 1 of the Contest Rules):</p> <p><i>Please explain in no more than 500 words how the objectives, design, planning and activities (completed by the date of submission of this application) of the project can 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. If the beneficiaries of the project belong to various age groups, please explain and confirm that Roma children and youth and/or young adults are a majority of the beneficiaries.</i></p>	

In 2006 the first tutoring centre was established in Nis providing daily tutoring in all academic subjects at primary and secondary levels, encouraging Roma children to stay in mainstream school and pass exams to improve their employment prospects.

In 2008, due to increased interest from the Roma community, a new centre in Belgrade started with a stronger emphasis on performing arts.

GRUBB has established connections with several local primary and secondary schools, impressed by the work being done by GRUBB, in the communities of its tutoring centres. They include *Triva Vitasovic-Leabarnik School*, Lacarak; *Jovan Cvijic School*, Belgrade; *22 Oktobar School*, Belgrade; and *Dušan Radović School*, Novi Sad.

GRUBB Stories, the result of GRUBB's creative writing programme, are the first ever publications of Roma children's writing. Published by Albion Books, *I* and *III* were translated into three languages in collaboration with non-Roma students from local schools; *British International School Belgrade*, *Chartwell Scholl Belgrade*, *German International School Belgrade* and the *III Belgrade Gymnasium*. We are proud that *I* and *II* were requested by the National Library of Serbia to be part of their collection. *GRUBB Stories III* will be published at the end of 2016, while *GRUBB Stories IV* creative writing program is on-going.

The books have been illustrated with photographs resulting from our photography workshops. Exhibitions of our photography have taken place on several occasions, the last, entitled *Our City-Our Home*, was opened by the Head of the EU Delegation in Serbia, Ambassador Michael Davenport.

The GRUBB Show was born in the GRUBB centres as a result of the collaboration between Roma youth and internationally renowned artists, the first performance of its kind bringing the urban Roma story to the stage and promoting a positive image of Roma youth culture. These performances are uniquely instrumental in building self-confidence and self-reliance.

The GRUBB Show has performed in Canada, UK, Germany, and the Netherlands. A season is currently planned in Paris for 2017. Both the show, and the after show workshops where Roma and non-Roma children work together, have exposed the children to different cultures and has brought increased support and understanding.

GRUBB students often perform locally, working with non-Roma performers to promote integration.

Project *Pretty Loud*, started in April 2014. Its objective is to use music, rap and dance specifically as a means to empower Roma girls to express themselves and improve their confidence.

GRUBB trains our participants to express themselves eloquently in the media, to give Roma youth a voice, to present a positive image of Roma youth and to demonstrate their consistent hard work and talent.

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.

1) GRUBB now supports the education of more than 700 between the age of 6 and 20. Entrance to secondary school for the last three years has been on average 90% comparing to the Balkan average circa 25%. Percentage of GRUBB participants graduating from secondary school:

2013/14: 87,5%; 2014/15: 90%; 2015/16: 96,4%.

Improvement in exam results and qualifications have substantially affected the children's job prospects.

2) Exchanges, both academic and artistic, between Roma and non-Roma students through joint activities, workshops and events have strengthened intercultural dialogue.

3) The GRUBB show was premiered at 2011 at the prestigious Montreal Jazz Festival where it received The Audience Award. It has toured the world over the last 5 years to huge acclaim, providing a platform for cultural exchange giving Roma youth a voice and publicizing a dynamic image of Roma culture. It also provides revenue, both to give the performers a wage, and to allow the Foundation to move closer towards self sustainability.

4) Pretty Loud Project has actively encouraged female participants to express themselves. Our participant gender balance is now equal, 50/50.

5) Gender equity is also clearly demonstrated in our staff numbers.

6) GRUBB has fostered links with local authorities through collaboration with schools and support from the Ministries of Education and Culture; National Council of Roma; Office for Human and Minority Rights; Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit.

7) The programmes not only have a positive impact on the participants but also their families and wider community. Staff maintain close contact with schools and parents in the Roma settlements to monitor participant's academic progress and welfare, and enhance children's educational and pastoral support.

8) GRUBB creative writing programmes resulted in the first publications of Roma children's writing (now in the National Library of Serbia). Resultant improvements in participant literacy sent positive messages to their own community and, during the translation process, forged links with non-Roma students, thereby promoting a positive image of Roma youth to the wider non-Roma community.

9) Photography workshops provide illustrations for the GRUBB Stories and resulted in several photographic exhibitions, the latest; *Our City-Our Home*, was opened by the Head of the EU Delegation in

Serbia. The invitation to exhibit came as part of the International Roma Day celebrations in Serbia, and was another means of reaching the general public, aiding understanding and integration.

10) Many inter-cultural music, dance, and arts workshops and concerts regularly take place to foster collaboration and long-term understanding of each other's culture.

11) Media attention given to GRUBB promotes a positive image, locally, and internationally, and has encouraged focus on Roma issues. The children are seen as great ambassadors for the Roma community. The strong voice given to Roma youth allows them to reveal their potential and fosters pride in their culture.

12) Our on-going awareness campaign towards the social integration of Roma youth in Serbia is widening to Europe as we are taking part in the national French campaign *Fraternité Générale* November 2016. See video links.

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.

Staff are comprised of 65% Roma and 35% non-Roma.

GRUBB created apprenticeship schemes for pupils and now employs several former Roma pupils as workshop leaders and teachers.

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.

GRUBB's activities focus on promoting the equal rights of one of the most marginalized groups in Europe and so ensuring gender equity, especially ensuring the participation of Roma girls in the tutoring centres, is central to our work. We encourage them to speak out and nurture the ability to express themselves.

Socio-economic problems are particularly complex for young Roma girls due to their patriarchal upbringing and the specific expectations that they face throughout their childhood. Roma girls are often forced to leave education and marry early however, currently, 50% of our participating students are girls. Roma girls from GRUBB centres are increasingly education orientated.

The on-going project, *Pretty Loud*, started in April 2014, its aim being to use music, rap and dance as a means to empower Roma girls to express themselves independently through the creation of songs, in different language (Romani, English, and Serbian). This aim is realised through creative activities such as lyric writing, composing, and programming, arranging and recording music, instrument playing, vocal and dance training, choreography, and CD cover design. Broadening the horizons of Roma girls through creativity, beyond their usual strict parameter, has achieved long lasting positive results as regards the gender issues faced in the Roma community.

In 2015 we implemented a project entitled *When YES means NO*, supported by the Ministry of Culture Republic of Serbia. It is a short play, performed in 4 Vojvodina primary schools, dealing with young Roma marriage, the position of women in Roma culture and the importance of education.

Our approach also benefits the male participants, engendering in them a better understanding of gender equality, and providing an atmosphere in which both sexes may work together confidently and productively.

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 project, as described above, is implemented entirely by the GRUBB organisation with no other cooperating entities.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

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. Video GRUBB The Musical - French subtitles <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YiZFCt1mEuE>
2. This video, created by GRUBB participants and non-Roma students will be broadcast on all French national TV channels on 12 November 2016 8pm as part of the Fraternité Générale campaign <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dCrcw3D5bqc>
3. Video GRUBB Tutoring centre <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JwnQlpg3siQ>
4. Pretty loud video giving a voice to Roma girls https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_xCxcQvfByw
5. Video Kartoni Cave <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JkLBblysuRA>
6. Video La premiere de GRUBB <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1GBNGVEHzxl>
7. Media - video clip GRUBB Stories 2 <http://www.slobodnaevropa.org/a/mladi-romi-zbirkom-prica-protiv-predrasuda-i-diskriminacije/26725765.html>
8. List of GRUBB events and performances <http://grubbmusic.com/news/>
9. GRUBB Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/grubbsrbija1>

We wish you good luck!