

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.

*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	Humanitarian organization "Alfa
Official legal form of the participant. This legal form must be suitable for an NGO	NGO

<p>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</p>	<p>NGO ALFA has been established 2001 in Bihac city, in west part of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in Una-Sana Canton.</p> <p>The mission of NGO Alfa is psychosocial and other help to children, youth and their parents, regardless on their psycho-physical abilities, gender, age, social status and religious and national determination.</p> <p>We are pleading for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - equality among people and respecting of diversity - gender equality - promotion and protection of human rights, spreading of the peace culture, tolerance, and dialogue - development of alternative forms of educational and creative programs - education of experts of different kinds of profile through organizing of seminars <p>In Alfa team there are working experts of different profiles such as: teachers, professors, social workers, medical workers, as well as students and high school students.</p> <p>They all take a great care to additional education, regularly attending seminars and lectures on state level and wider.</p> <p>In our work we cooperate with municipal authorities, governmental institutions and other nongovernmental organizations, and economical subjects of our Canton. Since our establishing we have implemented many projects whose main goal was promoting, teaching and protection human and children's rights, protection of rights of national minorities, developing democracy and improvement of equality and tolerance through educational and creative programs. Our beneficiaries were individuals and groups, what was depending from type and goals of project, and program activities.</p> <p>We have dedicated special attention to children of all ages and adolescent with accent on children and youth with special needs: children without parental care, children from incomplete families, and children from national minorities.</p> <p>Special importance has presented work with women that needed psychosocial help and support for their education and their economic independence.</p> <p>It is also necessary to emphasize our several years of work on additional education of teachers, social and medical workers through different projects.</p> <p>In the last four years we work more intensively in Roma's community of Bihac city, with children, youth and their parents.</p>
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Staff count: approximate number of people, voluntary or paid, full-time or part-time, directly carrying out <u>all</u> the activities of the	1 person-working full time 4 people paid-working part-time 15 volunteers
Full official address, notably street/post box, postal code, city, country	Humanitarian organization Alfa 501 Slavna 53 77000 BIHAĆ Bosnia and Herzegovina
E-mail address	alfa.bihac@yahoo.de
Website	-
Statutory registration number, VAT registration number	4263355070005
CONTACT PERSON	
Name (Ms,	Dragica Biuković
Telephone number	+387 61 581 080
E-mail address	dragicabiukovic@yahoo.de

2. THE PROJECT

Title of the project	“ Mothers, children and youth of Roma community of Bihac for better World “
Period covered by the project	From: 1.9.2015 To: 30.8.2016 OR
Geographical location of the project	City Bihać -Unsko - sanski kanton Bosnia and Herzegovina
Source of financing of the project	-ROYAL NORWEGIAN EMBASSY -Community Ružica, Red Cross The Evangelical church

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

Roma are one of the largest minority in Bihac. Among them is still present a lot of poverty, unemployment, homelessness and lack of access to education. Already at the beginning of education, Roma children are at a disadvantage compared to their peers. Factors that affect this fact are interwoven, and include first of all the poverty, the inadequacy of the educational system and the diverse forms of discrimination at school and in the community who are perceived as different and different. Through the adoption of bad form within their families, poverty and social exclusion is repeated through many generations. Young Roma are discouraged, they often feel useless because they are not sufficiently involved in the social life.

The project "Mothers, children and young Roma community Bihac for better World " contributed to children progress in education for young Roma actively involved in the changes in the community, and that women, mothers fight for their rights in the family and local community.

The general goal of the project is to contribute to the improvement of the conditions and quality of life of Roma socially endangered population in Bihac city area.

Specifični ciljevi Specific goals

1. The inclusion of Roma children in regular school system and giving the equal approach to quality education
2. The improvement of overall circumstances in Roma community of Bihac providing psychosocial and financial help and developing creativity
- 3 Providing continuous support to the members of community and mobilizing women, mothers to organize in order to help their children and themselves by their work
4. Encourage young adults to involve in the life of the community through education and volunteerism.

Direct beneficiaries; 42 boys and girls ages 6-15, 22 beneficiaries of both sex ages 15-25, 57 beneficiaries of both sex aes 25-48

Project activities:

Project activities were held in the premises of the local community Ružica where 99% of Roma Bihac lives. The premises are equipped and we use it without any fees.

The meetings with U.G. Roma-There were 7 meetings at which the ongoing issues were resolved. The meetings were held by a coordinator of the project.

The meeting with parents /12 meetings/were held once a month. At the meetings, it was discussed about children's education, problems, progress, achieved results in learning, children's behaviour, absence from school, covering health insurance, etc.. The meetings were held by a coordinator of the project.

The making of the didactic materials- The members of the team made educational materials needed for workshops which are adjusted to the children and young adults in order to help them in overcoming the school curriculum.

Cooperation with schools- Familiarizing the school management with the project, insight in educational status of the children and young adults who are involved in the school system, conducting individual conversations with the school management and teachers in order to decrease discrimination and prejudice. The coordinator is in charge of this activity.

Educational workshops

Helping children in learning and doing homework, developing attention, memory, love for the written word, decreasing trauma, building confidence, independence, persistence. Duration:12 months-three times a week;Leader-the teacher-number of beneficiaries 35-40.

Creative workshop has given the opportunity to school children to expand their knowledge in art, literary expression, music and dance and to offer a place where the children will show their talents, independence and nationality. The result is the magazine „ Tehara“. Number of beneficiaries of this workshop is 35.

Workshops with women „ We can do it!“ has had its goal to elevate selfawareness and empower Roma women to take up on more active role in their community by starting women's initiatives in order to achieve bigger visibility and importance in raising children in their families and community. Duration. 7 months, once a week. Leader-psychologist. Beneficiaries:20-25

Working with young male and female Roma

Young adults were introduced with a lot of topics which promote tolerance and non-violence, values of volunteer work and how to plan and carry out actions in the community. The workshops will be held once a week during ten-month period. The leader of this activity is the coordinator of the project.

Children's, youth's and member's of community gatherings- celebrating birthdays and important dates for the community- seven meetings were held

Gathering with volunteers from Italy- In spring /April-8days/ and in summer /August-15 days/ children and young adults had an opportunity to meet with young volunteers from Italy who were coming from our friendly oriented organization IPSIA from Milan. The activities which are conducted at that time are planned by volunteers, and are composed of creative, sports and fun activities.

The visits to cultural events to cinema and theater plays-During project activities two theater and cinema shows were visited.

Organizing excursions-Two nature visits and one pool visit during the summer months

Providing help to children and their families

Organizing exhibition and school performance- The school performance and exhibition at the end of the school year.

Cooperation with non-government organizations- The Red Cross/ have donated clothes for the members of the community. The Evangelical Church –have donated school supplies.

To provide help for Roma children and families in supplies such as food ,clothes, school supplies, books in cooperation with government and non-government organizations.

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.

Result 1.

1.90%are children and young adults of Roma community in Bihac, equally engaged in primary and secondary schools who achieved good results in learning and behaviour and in that way acquired equal opportunities for quality education.

39 children are involved in primary school, five in high schools and all of them successfully finished their classes with positive grades in learning and behaviour. The indicators of their achievement are their diplomas.

The list is made for the children who are chronologically mature to enroll in school, the parents are informed at the meeting on what documents are needed, where to acquire medical exam for their child, and it is arranged with school for the children's admission. Five children are enrolled in the first grade.

The children who are involved in the school process were given additional education in educational workshops. The decrease of discrimination was achieved by cooperation of our team with schools/ meetings, visits and insight in their files.

Young Romas, ages 15 to 22 were empowered and trained to become leaders in the community. They independently carried out three activities and therefore became volunteers in their community.

Three high school students got scholarships. Our assistance consisted of educating them in how to write a biography, fill out admission forms and other documents.

Result 2.

Improved overall circumstances in Roma community, increased motivation in children, youth and parents for education- new knowledges acquired, developed creativity, social skills and cultural identity, and provided psychosocial and financial help to the beneficiaries

The creative workshop has given opportunities to school children to expand their knowledge in art, literary expression, music and dance. Youth and children had a chance to attend cultural events such as theater and cinema shows.

Gatherings with the beneficiaries have given a chance to youth and parents to cherish mutual respect, consideration and friendship and to cherish their identity and culture. Birthday parties for 15 beneficiaries, celebration of St George's Day, The International Roma Day, The International Women's Day-the 8th of March, International Children's Joy Day/.

By organizing trips we have given an opportunity to the beneficiaries to familiarize with their local environment and caring for natural resources.

Gatherings between children and youth of Roma community in Bihac with the volunteers from Italy/9 volunteers, university and high school students during the months of January and August/ten days/They spent time with our beneficiaries on a daily basis through educational and creative workshops which gave a chance to our beneficiaries, children and youth to meet other young people

and to make new friendships.

During the implementation of the project, the help was provided to the beneficiaries in food, clothes, school supplies, books and New Years presents. All the children and youth who attended school were given school supplies during the course of project activities.

By organizing the exhibit and school play for the parents at the end of half-term and the end of school year, children and youth showed their parents all the things they've learned and made in the workshops.

Result 3.

80% of the parents, mostly women, mothers were organized and actively involved in the community, making a better life for themselves and their children

During the project activities, parents, mostly mothers were actively involved in the meetings and by their active role have contributed to resolve many issues in the education of their children in the best possible way, and to get involved in achieving other rights such as health insurance and social aid with the help of our team.

They were actively involved in organizing and participating in activities such as gatherings, promotion of Roma culture, workshops, trips, plays and exhibits. So, they helped to carry out all those activities. Not only they gave suggestions how to carry out certain activities but they also participated in them, and in that way, empowered themselves and gave each other support. By their active role, they contributed to create better life conditions for themselves and their children and young people. They have realized that they have rights to be active in their community which they did.

Result 4.

Young adults carried out actions in which they improved their life circumstances and in their community

Implemented actions are: Organized social events for The International Roma Day/ the play and dancing/,organizing The International Children's Joy Day/ distribution of presents for the youngest and appearance of Santa Clause/Creation and editing the magazine „ Tehara“

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.

In project activities and in planning the project activities was involved the whole team of non-government organization Alfa, as well as the beneficiaries of the project, that is the members of Roma community in Bihac. We can say that over 40% of Roma were involved in project activities as volunteers.

The team of the humanitarian organization Alfa was consisted of 4 people /the coordinator/professor/ educational workshop manager/professor/ creative workshop manager/professor and parent's workshop manager/ psychologist/.

The humanitarian organization Alfa is not a Roma organization, but for the past seven years has been working in Roma community in Bihac, implementing projects in which the beneficiaries are children, young adults and other members of Roma community. During the implementation of the project we have consistently encouraged volunteers to, in cooperation with Alfa team, develop and carry out their own ideas which can contribute to our mutual goal. Today, young Roma people and others have realized that, through volunteer work, can improve their own personality and feel as valuable members of society.

We have to single out three actions that were carried out by young Romas during the course of project activities. They had designed, planned and carried out the actions by themselves. The children, young adults and their parents had benefits from those actions.

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.

It is often assumed that the issues of gender concern only girls and women, but actually they concern women, girls, boys and men- their specific needs, worries and capacity, as well as their mutual relations connected to accessibility to resources. We also observed our work on planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation from the gender perspective.

Through the direct dialogue with women, girls, boys and men, our project was more efficient and in more sustainable manner fulfilled the needs and rights of our beneficiaries.

We promoted involvement of youth- young men as well as young women- in organized activities. Girls and boys, as well as both sexes of young adults and their parents were equally involved in project activities because everybody needs social inclusion and accessibility to education and social aid.

Primary education in Bosnia and Herzegovina is mandatory for all the children, including the children of national minorities. The education allows children and young adults complete affirmation and equal participation in society.

The effects of poverty and social exclusion equally implies short-term and long-term risks for the girls

and boys, as well as for an individual or society, therefore, we payed more attention and equally engaged both sexes in our project activities.

Our work with Roma community on establishing informal educational activities was a successful way to motivate women, girls, boys and men to participate in the process which fulfills their immediate needs and, at the same time, works toward empowerment and sustainability.

In planning and holding the meetings and other project activities, we took into consideration their culture, identity and especially gender issues.

We took care of the time and place of all the implemented activities in order to match the needs and be safe for men, women, boys and girls.

The activities with children and young people were implemented at the time when they are not in school, and with adult men and women, that is parents at times that suited them/Saturday, Sunday/.

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

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.

During the implementation of all the project activities our organization didn't have project partners but associates without whom we wouldn't be able to achieve good project results.

Our associates were primary schools where our Roma children attend to. Managements of primary schools "Prekounje" and Prekounje-Ripač" provided support from the very beginning of the project which was well throughout the implementation of project's activities.

It was consisted of enrolment of children, access to documentation, permission for our team to attend classes, and especially good cooperation was with the teachers of Roma children and who were involved in project's activities. Our other associate was The Red Cross from Bihac who was involved in distribution of food and clothes to our beneficiaries.

From the local community of Ružica we were given place free of charge to be used for our activities.

The Evangelical Church has donated school supplies/ notebooks, pencils, art supplies, school bags/ for all the students at the beginning of the school year 2015/2016.

List of 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.

-Osnovna škola "Prekounje"

Safvet-bega Bašagića 26 -

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Mail: skola_prekounje@hotmail.com

-Osnovna škola "Prekounje-Ripač"

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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.

We wish you good luck!

With the project we send the magazine "Tehara" in which the children and youth of Roma community show their world by drawings, verse and photography stepping bravely through the project's activities.

European Union Second Roma Integration Award for the Western Balkans and Turkey
Annex 1: Application Form