

# 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 Roma<sup>1</sup> 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-

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

Roma.

Find out more: [http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/roma/index\\_en.htm](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>

**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](mailto: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	Advancing Together
Official legal form of the participant. This legal form must be suitable for an NGO.	Not-for-Profit Organization

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

ADVANCING TOGETHER (hereinafter AT) is an Non-Governmental Organization which is established as non-profit and membership based organization with purpose of creating a stable environment in Kosovo for inclusion of Roma communities through advocating and developmental support; promoting human rights, supporting cultural heritage of all communities; focusing its support in local, regional and European integration processes in order to provide a stable development of Kosovo and South Eastern Europe.

AT promotes values of equality, inclusion, diversity, dialogue, and solidarity promoting social justice, education and socio-economic development for all individuals and groups regardless of their ethnic, religious, gender, or social backgrounds.

AT stands for a multi-ethnic society that is founded on universal principles of human rights and equality where all persons have the opportunity to express their talents, skills and pursue their self-accomplishment. In our vision of the future, the voices of the least fortunate and most vulnerable amongst us are heard and their rights acknowledged. In this sense, AT currently is implementing two (EU and REF sponsored) programs which have special focus on Roma inclusion.

AT advocates, promotes, and continuously develops measures and programs to ensure that the rights of all communities including Roma and their members are respected. AT is one of the most active NGOs in policy debate and development, watchdog activities, education, service delivery and engagement of communities in building social safety nets and inclusion perspective.

AT activities ensure effective implementation of legal framework and development/upgrade of legislation pertaining to the rights of vulnerable and marginalized communities, optimizing the legal and institutional framework for upholding the rights of non-majority communities and promoting their best interests. In this regard, AT works continuously with support of international and national partners in implementing inclusion related programs, among others, the program which AT is competing with for the Roma integration award.

## Annex 1: Application Form

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	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>GENDER</th> <th>Assembly</th> <th>BoD</th> <th>Full Time</th> <th>Part Time</th> <th>Volunteers</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><i>Female</i></td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>12</td> <td>5</td> <td><b>22</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Male</i></td> <td>7</td> <td>2</td> <td>12</td> <td>11</td> <td>13</td> <td><b>45</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>9</b></td> <td><b>3</b></td> <td><b>14</b></td> <td><b>23</b></td> <td><b>18</b></td> <td><b>67</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>							GENDER	Assembly	BoD	Full Time	Part Time	Volunteers	Total	<i>Female</i>	2	1	2	12	5	<b>22</b>	<i>Male</i>	7	2	12	11	13	<b>45</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>67</b>
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Full official address, notably street/post box, postal code, city, country																																			
NGO Advancing Together Gazmend Zajmi No:15,10000,Prishtina, Kosovo																																			
E-mail address <a href="mailto:info@advancing-together.org">info@advancing-together.org</a>																																			
Website <a href="http://www.advancing-together.org">www.advancing-together.org</a>																																			
Statutory registration number, VAT registration number (whichever available) Registration No: 5115699-4 Fiscal No: 601554539																																			
<b>CONTACT PERSON:</b>																																			
Name (Ms, Mr) Mr. Bashkim Ibishi																																			
Telephone number +377 (0)44 252 051 and/or +381 (0)38 248 008																																			
E-mail address <a href="mailto:bibishi@advancing-together.org">bibishi@advancing-together.org</a>																																			

## 2. THE PROJECT

Title of the project	Roma Versitas Kosovo Program
Period covered by the project (Section 4 point 3. of the Contest Rules)	Ongoing since: 01-Aug-2013  From: 01-Jan-2016 To: 31-Sep-2017
Geographical location of the project (Section 4 point 2. of the Contest Rules)	<p>RV Kosovo project covers proportionally the entire territory of Kosovo based from the fact that the state University system has been decentralised from Prishtina (UP), thus, beside Prishtina, public universities are present in Peja, Gjakova, Ferizaj, Mitrovica, Gjilan and Prizren.</p> <p>The project activities are concentrated around Prishtina, Prizren, Gjakova, Ferizaj, Mitrovica and Peja universities targeting Roma university students from all Kosovo who are pursuing their academic career in public and privately (Kosovo and Serbian) administered universities.</p> <p>In this regard, AT operates through its 3 (three) Roma Versitas Student Resource Centers (Prishtina, Prizren and Peja).</p> <p>Roma Versitas Kosovo Program is the first and the only Program that supports Roma's in registering and finishing university's.</p>
Source of financing of the project	<p>Roma Education Fund <u>(ongoing)</u></p> <p>Roma Education Fund &amp; Rockefeller Brothers Fund <u>(past)</u></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>	

**The main objective** of the project is **to increase the retention and academic performances and graduation rate, while building the advocacy, self-esteem and identity** of about 80 Roma full-time students enrolled in tertiary education in Kosovo.

During the current implementation cycle at least 160 Roma university students are expected to benefit from the Roma Versitas (hereinafter RV) assistance, min 80 Roma, students are to receive tutoring assistance per one academic year, at least 40 Roma, high school graduates/freshmen students are expected to receive non-formal peer mentoring, 100 students are expected to participate in 6 thematic academic workshops/training (80 Roma, and 20 non-Roma, students), 20 Roma, students attend foreign language and 20 students' computer courses. It is worth to note that the project beside Roma also offers an opportunity to non-Roma students' as well.

#### **Compulsory project components are:**

- Establishment of the Advisory Board, Roma Versitas Student Resource Center and Library:

The objective of the Component 1 is to establish AB, create a RV student resource centre and to establish a library with most common books.

- Roma Versitas Student Resource Centers (RVSRC), Library and E-Library;

RVSRC, Library and E- Library enrichment and maintenance in Prishtina, Prizren, and Peja.

- Academic tutoring scheme;

The objective of Component 2 is to improve the retention, performance and graduation levels among at least 80 Roma full-time tertiary students (Kosovo Albanian and Serbian administered Universities) in Kosovo through provision of academic tutoring.

- Provision of Mentoring Services:

The group mentoring for freshmen students will be carried out by mediators. The activity implementation will be carried out by RV Kosovo PM and PO.

#### **Additional project components include:**

- Provision of academic development services;

The objective of component 4 is to ensure supplementary academic support to advance the students' learning capacities. It will help up to 80 full-time students (80 Roma and 10 non-Roma) tertiary students in Kosovo to acquire academic skills necessary for their successful professional development and managing in any sphere of life.

- Student Initiatives and Projects- SIP:

The objective of component 5 is to support up to 80 full-time Roma tertiary students in Kosovo to further expand, express, and exchange their academic knowledge and skills in their fields of studies as well as to raise policy issues tackling Roma students or the Roma, community by providing them with small grants to conduct researches and/or debates and discussions.

- Self-confidence support and social activities

The activity will be delivered through taking positive examples of the renowned universities in Kosovo. Initially, assessing the needs of specific skills which will raise the self-confidence of the targeted students.

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*

RV Kosovo Program has supported student beneficiaries from different field of studies (Medicine, Economy, Law, Political Science, Public Safety, Architecture, Electro Technics).

Student's beneficiary by gender and tutoring lessons delivered are described in the bellow table:

	Nr of Beneficiaries Sep 2013 Sep 2016	Nr of Beneficiaries Oct 2015 Aug 2016	Tutoring Lessons Delivered (Hours) from Sep 2013 to Sep 2015	Tutoring Lessons Delivered (Hours) from Oct 2015 to Aug 2016
<i>Female</i>	19	40	1,230	774
<i>Male</i>	26	33	45 Beneficiary	60 Beneficiary
<i>Total</i>	<b>45</b>	<b>73</b>		

In accordance with the grade transcripts of RV students, 84% of students have successfully passed their respective exams.

RV Kosovo Program identified 5 mentors from under graduate students the aim to support freshmen students and inform them for students life, during this period mentors were mentoring a total of 16 freshmen students. All above-mentioned freshmen students have received the necessary support from their respective mentors in accordance to the outlined Terms of Reference.

RV Kosovo Program has developed following academic workshops:

- Academic Writing;
- Time Management;
- Communication and CV writing;
- Project Proposal Writing & Project cycle management;
- Presentation and Communication Skills,
- Debating and Interview.

Roma Versitas Kosovo Program for its beneficiary students organizes English/German Language course in period of 3 months where 32 students has started the course, 24 of them has completed the course successfully.

In a course of 3 years of the implementation of the RV Program; beside its activities; RV with its students managed to: a) Participate in Education Fair, inviting the mainstream students to be part of RV; b) Organize public manifestation/protest: In defence of life with dignity for Roma International day; 8th April 2015, with participation of the Roma and non-Roma students and CSOs; c) Seven students got internship at different national and international institutions; d) four students got employment; e) 150 students registered in the public and private Universities; f) Roma Kosovo students database created; g) E-Library and Library was created; h) Participate in the "Dik he na Bister" Roma Genocide Remembrance



Initiative; I) Be part of the first of its kind "RV Summer Camp".

Upon agreement between AT and RV Albania, on May 2016 the first cross-border cooperation activity was organized. Beside implementation of the formal learning activities (academic writing), the program had the opportunity to create space of inter-student socialization across countries and make them learn about each-other, combined with the fact of their own identity and formal way of gaining academic skills.

The purpose of these joint activities was to increase the capacity of students who are beneficiaries of these programs as well as socialization and knowledge of the traditions and culture and Roma identity in Prizren and Kosovo. In this activity participated 70 Roma students from Kosovo and Albania.

Social modules are developed through taking positive examples of the renowned universities in Kosovo. Initially, assessing the needs of specific skills which will raise the self-confidence of the students. RV Kosovo acquired support from institutions for provision of services in sociology and psychology counselling.

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*

AT as a non-governmental organization upon its creation has picked up its mandatory role of implementation of its statutory and founding commitments in alleviation of the plight of Roma, taking into consideration that most of the founders, BoD and the key managerial position are of Roma origin.

The staff involved directly in Roma Versitas program implementation is described in the table below:

Position	Managerial (Full Time)	Tutors/ Lectures (Part Time)	Volunteers (Mentors)	Interns	Total	Percentage
Roma	4	14	8	5	31	74%
Non-Roma	2	9	0	0	11	26%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>100%</b>

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 RV Kosovo program takes into consideration the high dropout rate among freshmen students and girls dropout from academic study, thus upon implementation of the program has created the mechanism of support to freshmen students giving priority to girls.

From the year August 2013 up to August 2015 the share of the beneficiaries between males and females were as follow:

26 Males in percentage 58 %

19 Females in percentage 42%.

From September 2015 up to August 2016 the share between males and females is as follow:

33 Males in percentage 41%

57 females in percentage 59 %.

RV program staff has developed criteria for beneficiary selection which were approved from RV program Advisory Board, the criteria's gives priority to female's education.

Selection Criteria Table:

University Status	Family monthly income and social and Economical situation	Gender	Grade average from previous year.	Certificate or Diploma from social activities	Orphans students student with one parent	Motivati on Letter	Distance of the university from their home	Study Program
Public University 10. Private University 5.	0–100 €- 15. 101–200 €- 14. 201–250 €- 13. 251–300 €- 12. 301–350 €- 11. 351– € - 10.	Females–10. Males – 0.	6.0 up to 7– 10 7.1 up to 8– 15 8.1 up to – 20 9.1 up to 10– 25 <b>For freshmen students' registered in the first year.</b> 2.0 up to 3.0 – 15 3.1 up to 4.0 – 20 4.1 up to 5.0 – 25	If Yes -5 If No – 0	YES -5. NO – 0.	From 5 to 10.	0 to 25 Km 5. 26 to 50 Km 7. 51 to 75 Km 8. 75 to 100 km 10.	Medicine 10 Electronics 10. Biology 8. Chemistry 8. Physics 10. Mathematics 10. Construction 10. Economy 6 Law 6 Education 6. Others 5.

### 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.	N/A
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.	N/A

### 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.*

Advancing Together web:

[www.advancing-together.org](http://www.advancing-together.org)

Advancing Together Social Media:

<https://www.facebook.com/Advancing-Together-AT-1667376046851403/>

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2lbW-45unYl2e\\_JANovR3Q](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2lbW-45unYl2e_JANovR3Q)

Documentary about Roma Versitas Kosovo Program " *O kher e Djandipaske Chororange-The house of Knowledge Orphans*".

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A4MdHA6Yi3U>

Based on the cross-border cooperation between Roma Versitas Kosovo and Albania, the above programs had the opportunity create space of inter-student socialization across countries, "*Cross border Cooperation*".

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-AY8CzqfbFo>

Journey to HISTORY 70th anniversary of the remembrance day of the Roma Genocide on August 2, "*Kosovo Journey to HISTORY*"!!!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=biuIVoDhalo>

Roma Versitas Kosovo Program social networks:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDFkRBBSdSU95VKGyTAwLQg>

<https://www.facebook.com/Roma-Versitas-Kosovo-664694816926054/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/653340731395034/>

# We wish you good luck!