

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	Roma Democratic Development Association Sonce
Official legal form of the participant. This legal form must be suitable for an NGO.	NGO Roma Democratic Development Association „Sonce“-Tetovo

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

RDDA „Sonce“ is an established organization on international and national level, which actively contributes to civil integration and equal practice of Roma democratic rights and opportunities. „Sonce“ has been established in 1996 as informal group for self- help of the Roma community in Tetovo. The group functioned by collecting charity from the Roma families, which was later used in urgent necessities for the Roma community. Mission of Sonce is: Sonce contributes to democratic integration and effective participation of the Roma community in the society through building capacities, direct support and advocacy for their interests. During the period 2016- 2020. RDDA „Sonce“ shall act upon the following programme areas:

1. Quality and accessible education for Roma
2. Health and social access of Roma
3. Democratic participation of Roma in creation of public policies
4. Employment and economic development of Roma.

Current activities and projects under the programme areas:

1.1. Inclusion of Roma children in pre- school education- enrolled 25 Roma children a year in pre- school education for free of charge.

1.2. Tutoring support to Roma pupils at primary schools in R. of Macedonia- it is implemented in 6 municipalities leaded by „Sonce“ and enrolled 601 pupils.

2.1. Paralegal assistance- It is implemented in 2 municipalities for paralegal assistance to Roma community.

2.2. Mobile team for social inclusion of Roma in Tetovo- Health, legal, social assistance to Roma community.

3.1. ROMED programme by the Council of Europe is implemented in 10 municipalities in Macedonia. Under the programme are trained 128 mediators, formed are 10 Local Action Groups (consisted of Roma community and local authorities).

4.1. Pathway to employment through skills development and sustainable labour market integration of the Roma, in particular Roma woman- Thematic session for up to 1200 Roma and qualification and employment of Roma woman.

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	Full time: 5 Part time: 43 Volunteers: 200 Total involved staff in the Sonce's activities: 248
Full official address, notably street/post box, postal code, city, country	St. Ilirija 39/14 1200 Tetovo, R. Of Macedonia P.O. Box 159 1200 Tetovo, R. Of Macedonia
E-mail address	info@sonce.org.mk
Website	www.sonce.org.mk
Statutory registration number, VAT registration number (whichever available)	Registration number: 5328098 VAT number: 4028999127300
CONTACT PERSON:	
Name (Ms, Mr)	Mr. Ferdi Ismaili
Telephone number	+ 389 078 201 311
E-mail address	f.ismaili@sonce.org.mk

2. THE PROJECT

Title of the project	ROMED Programme
Period covered by the project (Section 4 point 3. of the Contest Rules)	From: _____ To: _____ OR Ongoing since: <u>2011</u>
Geographical location of the project (Section 4 point 2. of the Contest Rules)	In Republic of Macedonia the ROMED programme is implemented at national level, i.e. in 10 municipalities: Berovo, Bitola, Debar, Gostivar, Kicevo, Kocani, Prilep, Stip, Tetovo, and Vinica.
Source of financing of the project	The ROMED programme is financed by the Council of Europe and the European Commission.
Objectives, design, planning and activities of the project (Section 4 point 1., Section 5, criterion 1 of the Contest Rules): <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>	

The NGO „Sonce“ is a National Focal Point of the programme for Macedonia. The ROMED programme has three phases: ROMED 1, ROMED 2 and ROMACT. In Macedonia are implemented ROMED 1 and ROMED 2.

ROMED 1 aims to improve the quality and effectiveness of the work of school, health, employment, and community mediators, with a view to supporting better communication and cooperation between Roma and public institutions. ROMED 1 is focused on the following three objectives:

1. To promote effective intercultural mediation to improve the communication and cooperation between Roma and public institutions;
2. To ensure the integration of a right- based approach in the mediation between Roma communities and public institutions;
3. To support the work of mediators by providing tools for planning and implementation of their activities which encourage democratic participation while generating empowerment of Roma and increased the accountability of public institutions.

Under ROMED 1, since 2011 to 2015 are trained 128 mediators from 16 municipalities, and were included: 27 high school students, 24 preschool tutors, 21 Roma information centres, 16 health mediators, 24 educational mediators and 16 NGO activists. After the trainings, the mediators got a 6 month practice period with concrete tasks related to their job. They also received badges legitimizing them as ROMED mediators, which helped them to be accepted by the local institutions and to be recognizable by the Roma community. There is no systematized data on the direct impact of the mediator's work, but in practice there is improvement in the access of the Roma community to the local institutions.

The second phase ROMED 2 – democratic governance and Roma community participation through mediation, which invests in local processes aimed at enhancing the participation of Roma in local decision making. It stimulated the self- organization of Roma communities into Community Action Groups (CAGs). Through a structured process of a dialog and cooperation with local authorities, the CAG's identified the priorities of the community and suggested initiatives for addressing them. The programme creates capacity within the Roma community that is needed for the adequate planning and implementation of the programmes of local authorities. It guarantees the participation of community representatives in shaping local policies that are relevant to the real needs of communities, which will contribute to more effective allocation of resources from local budgets and using designed funds of national programmes at the local level.

In Macedonia are formed 6 CAGs and four I are in the process of forming. Each of the CAGs has about 15 members (community representatives, mediators, and local authorities). The CAGs participated in capacity building workshops, trainings, and in local visits organized by the NFP „Sonce“. They also developed Joint Action Plans which were adopted in all six municipalities. The CAGs together with the municipalities are also working on a number of project applications to access opportunities for funding from existing national programmes.

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 concept of mediators firstly was brought by the ROMED 1 programme in Macedonia. Despite of that, it has direct contribution not only to the capacity development of mediators, but also to their recognition of local institutions and employment. Current status of the trained 128 mediators is the following:

- 27 mediators got internship to be placed in local institutions
- 31 mediators were employed on long term contracts
- 68 mediators were employed on short term contracts

A direct effect of ROMED 1 is also the employment of 20 educational mediators funded by the Ministry of education with allocated budget of 50.000 euro.

Due to the strong support of the National contact point of CAHROM the Ministry of labour and social policy and its close cooperation with the NFP „Sonce“, ROMED 1 became a programme of strategic importance for the implementation of the National Strategy for Roma inclusion. It became a capacity building resource in support of all existing local programmes implementing the national policies at municipal level. ROMED 1 has directly contributed to starting the process of institutionalizing of the positions of the mediators in the country. It also has support by the Ministry of education and Ministry of health.

The main impact of the programme was development of the CAGs as groups of active citizens able to interact with local authorities and to contribute to local policy development. The CAGs had direct contribution in the development of the local plans for development which makes them feel as important and consulted actors in their municipality. Despite of that, there are results related to improved infrastructure in the Roma neighborhoods. Projects for asphaltting street were present in all six municipalities. In Gostivar the municipality invested in urban plans for development of the Roma neighborhood and resolving issues with illegal housing. In Tetovo, the whole infrastructure of the neighborhood has been improved. In Shtip also in two Roma settlements were solved the infrastructure issues. Based on the assistance of the ROMED 2 programme and provided trainings, the capacities of the CAGs were built for writing projects and Concept Notes with aim to apply together with the municipalities for solving of Roma issues. In all municipalities there are projects there are planned or applied to existing IPA programmes which will bring concrete results for improving the situation in local communities. At national level, the ROMED 2 programme established cooperation with the Ministry of labour and social policy which provided consistent support to the local processes throughout the implementation. In addition to supporting, it also helped the access of ROMED 2 municipalities to IPA funds by securing that some of the identified local priorities in the frame of the ROMED 2 process were included in the programming for Roma issues within other Ministries.

The NFP „Sonce“ succeed to agree with all 10 municipalities and CAGs to put the Roma

flag on a flagpole in front of the municipalities for the International Roma Day 8th of April.

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 Republic of Macedonia the ROMED programme is implemented by the National Focal Point „Sonce“ and in cooperation with 10 municipalities.

The staff of NFP counts National Programme Officer, National Focal Point and Programme Assistant who are full time engaged. Part- time in the programme implementation engaged are 2 facilitators responsible for conducting the workshops, trainings, local meetings and so on. If needed, there are included and experts in the implementation of some of the activities. All of these are paid by the programme.

Because the ROMED programme is implemented in 10 municipalities in Macedonia, there are 10 Community Action Groups which are consisted of about 15 members. In total there are for about 150 volunteers from 10 municipalities who are directly carrying out the implementation of the programme.

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.

Direct beneficiaries of the ROMED programme are the Roma communities by 10 enrolled municipalities: Berovo, Bitola, Debar, Gostivar, Kicevo, Kocani, Prilep, Stip, Tetovo, and Vinica.

Based on the data by the NPO the ROMED 1 programme has provided training to 128 mediators in the period of 2011 to 2015. More than half of the trainees (56%) were Roma woman.

Under the ROMED 2 programme and CAGs in total of 10 municipalities there are for about 150 members. From 150 members in total, 67 are woman. The members of the CAGs were very diverse as age of the participants varies from 18 up to 70 years. Most of the members are youth Roma and youth adult up to 35 years.

Indirect beneficiaries are the municipalities and all citizens who live in.

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.	
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.	

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. ROMED 1 Leaflet

<http://coe-romed.org/sites/default/files/leaflets/ROMED1%20-%20MACEDONIAN.pdf>

2. ROMED 2 Leaflet

<http://coe-romed.org/sites/default/files/leaflets/ROMED2%20-%20MACEDONIAN.pdf>

3. Launching event of the ROMED 2 programme in 4 new municipalities: Berovo, Debar, Kicevo and Kocani, 13.11.2015

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hRC_4uDf1gE&feature=youtu.be

4. Celebration of the International Roma Day in 10 ROMED municipalities with Roma flag on a flagpole in front of the municipalities. The celebrations organized by the CAGs and local authorities.

https://www.facebook.com/RomaDemocraticDevelopmentAssociationSonce/photos/?tab=album&album_id=1051646414912479

5. Asphalted street in the Roma settlement Radanski Pat and Sveta Nedela in Shtip, priorities of the CAG

<http://www.stip.gov.mk/index.php/mk/nastani/3236-radanski-pat>

<http://www.stip.gov.mk/index.php/mk/nastani/3211-promovirani-del-od-asfaltirani-te-ulici-vo-naselba-sveta-nedela>

6. Constructed the Mosque in the Roma settlement Trizla in Prilep as priority of the CAG

<http://www.prilep.gov.mk/news/mk/se-osveti-novoizgradenata-dzamiya-vo-prilep/>

7. ROMED External evaluation Report

<http://coe-romed.org/articles/romed-external-evaluation-report-published>

We wish you good luck!