

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	ARSIS, Social Organization for the Support of the Youth (ARSIS, Organizatë Shoqërore e Përkrahjes së të Rinjve); Abbreviation: ARSIS
Official legal form of the participant. This legal form must be suitable for an NGO.	Non Profit

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

ARSIS has been operating in Albania since January 2006. It has earned a reputation for delivering quality programs for children in vulnerable situations, disadvantaged youth, Roma and Egyptian communities, marginalised women and families by establishing strong and influential relationships with government bodies and civil society organisations.

Beneficiaries of ARSIS' are:

children (0-18 years old) victims or exposed to immediate harmful situations including: violence, neglect, abuse, mistreatment, trafficking, exploitation, discrimination, in street situation, in contact with the law, run-away, out of parental care;

youth: (i) leaving the alternative residential care; (ii) in post detention; (iii) out of parental care;

women: (i) in particular underage pregnant and young mothers; (ii) single unsupported victims of violence or similar situations; (iii) victims of social and natural emergencies.

ARSIS operates a social drop-in daily centre. Since September 2011 within the premises of ARSIS' centre are set two rooms that provide transitory accommodation and related services to children and mothers assessed to be exposed to immediate harmful situations; this remains the only transitory accommodation in Albania.

The programmes of ARSIS are client-oriented, tailored to ensure access to basic services, social inclusion and sustainable solutions for those who need it at most.

Over the years ARSIS has consolidated its profile on programmes related to:

- **education** from the pre-school to tertiary level as well as the vocational training
- **strengthening child protection system** with a cross-sector and multidisciplinary approach
- **youth empowerment** including coaching for employment intertwined with psychosocial support
- **supporting vulnerable families by strengthening women** through employment programmes, civic awareness and health care.

Since 2010 ARSIS has been involved on immediate humanitarian responses in social or natural catastrophes.

Since 2009 ARSIS is member of the:

- National Referral Mechanism in Support of Victims of Trafficking (NRM)

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	35 full time employees
Full official address, notably street/post box, postal code, city, country	Rr. "Sali Butka", Ndërtesa 7, Hyrja 12, Ap. 3, Nj. administrative 7, KP 1023, Tiranë, Albania
E-mail address	arsistirana@gmail.com
Website	www.arsis-al.org/arsis/
Statutory registration number, VAT registration number (whichever available)	2514/3 – issued on 18 February 2016 by Tirana District Court; K91629452G, Tax No (NIPT/Nuis) – issued on 04 June 2014 General Department of Taxes; LN-0609-2009, issued on 19 June 2014 by the National Centre of Licensing.
CONTACT PERSON:	
Name (Ms, Mr)	Zini Kore, Country Representative
Telephone number	Mobile: +355 69 76 37 313
E-mail address	arsistirana.coordinator@gmail.com

2. THE PROJECT

Title of the project	“Improved educational achievements of Roma and Egyptian (R/E) 9th grade students and their follow up till high school graduation”
Period covered by the project (Section 4 point 3. of the Contest Rules)	From: 01 October 2014 To: 30 August 2018
Geographical location of the project (Section 4 point 2. of the Contest Rules)	Tirana and Durrës Region, Republic of Albania
Source of financing of the project	Roma Education Fund (REF)
<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 direct beneficiaries:

- 80 Roma and Egyptian students between 9th and 12th grade in the counties of Tirana and Durrës are being supported over 4 academic years till they reach graduation;
- Students with a high tendency to drop out; 70% of beneficiary students are Roma and 30% are Egyptian.

Overall objective:

To decrease drop-out rate among Roma and Egyptian students in the lower and upper secondary education through better outreach and positive interventions (scholarships and mentorship program) and to support them till the final exams (Matura, or equivalent).

Specific objective:

To improve the enrolment, transition, retention rate and academic achievement of approximately 80 Roma and Egyptian students 4 years long, in the 2014/2018 academic years in the lower secondary and upper-secondary education schools and in technical vocational education schools in two regions of Albania.

Main activities:

- To facilitate the enrolment process of Roma and Egyptians in secondary education;
- To launch a call for scholarships; selection of scholarship beneficiaries based on merit and socio-economic status;
- Monitoring and supporting each case for improving academic achievements of the beneficiaries;
- Selection and training of mentors who will facilitate the assessment and communication between beneficiary students, their families and educational institutions;
- Selection and training of supportive teachers (tutors) through:
 - monitoring and assistance in academic achievements of beneficiary students during school hours;
 - provision of additional courses for beneficiary students required case by case

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.

Achieved results:

- 80 students/year are supported with scholarship to improve their results from grade 9 up to the completion of grade 12;
- Through mentoring and tutoring (supportive teachers) every academic year 100 Roma and Egyptian students from grade 9 to grade 12 are supported to pass their exams as well as to improve their academic achievements;
- Each year 600 Roma/Egyptian families are involved in the project to enhance the academic achievement of students.

Measurement means:

- Scholarships for the students;
- Achievement through follow up and liaison with educational institutions; the school rosters;
- Database set up for the project implementation.

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.

- One full time Scholarship Programme Coordinator – Roma origin
- One full time Programme officer – Roma origin
- One full time Treasurer – Caucasian

70% of project implementation team are Roma.

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.

There is higher number of beneficiary girls in this project.

- During the selection process of students more Roma girls applied and were selected as beneficiaries of the scholarship process;
- Simultaneously more Roma girls students expressed interest to benefit from the tutorship support;

**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.

1. Ministry of Education and Sport (MES) has:
ARSIS and MES signed a Memorandum of Cooperation that defined clearly the division of tasks and responsibilities, the means, staff and financial resources.

a) MES has:

- Appointed as the contact person that is coordinating the Regional Educational Directorates;
- Appointed a responsible contact person in each Regional Education Department (RED) in the counties of Tirana, Durres and city of Tirana. This ensures the most efficient support of these departments and the schools under their auspices towards the beneficiaries of the project;
- provided accurate data collection and analyses related to R/E students;
- been working closely with professional trainers on the design and delivery of training programs according to needs of mentors.

b) Regional Educational Directorates (RED) of Tirana city, Tirana region and Durres as well as the Educational Offices in the towns of Kavaja, Kamez, Fushe-Kruja and Kruja provide:

- the contact lists, guidance and supervision to the teachers and school principals involved in the project implementation;
- Process-facilitation during the scholarship campaign (launching and display of announcements),
- classrooms within school facilities for mentoring and tutorship supporting teachers and Roma/Egyptian beneficiary students;
- facilitation of the identification and feed-back process of the R/E students, facilitation on the selection scholarship disbursement, selection of mentors and tutors.

The project is being implemented in 28 primary schools as follows:

- At the main entrance of these schools were displayed the call for the scholarship;
- The teachers have shared related materials with students and parents;
- School facilities were used for the meetings with R/E students and their parents'.

2. Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth (MSWY) has:

- contact person, the Specialist next the Department of

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.

- Ministry of Education and Sport (MES) of the Republic of Albania

Governmental body

Address: Rruga e Durrësit Nr.23. Tiranë, Shqipëri

- Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth (MSWY) of the Republic of Albania

Governmental body

Address: Rruga e Kavajës, Tiranë

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!