

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	NVO Mladi Romi-Herceg Novi (NGO Young Roma)
Official legal form of the participant. This legal form must be suitable for an NGO.	Non-Governmental Organisation

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

NGO Young Roma has been established in 2005, by the group of young Roma leaders who actively participated in projects related to education and preservation of Roma culture. Today, it implements a number of national and regional programs and projects aimed at resolving the legal status of Roma and improvement of their status in education, employment and housing. All activities of the organisation are set under one main goal, All Roma man and women to be equal and educated citizens of Montenegro. Thanks to its working results, the organization is recognized by Roma community as a genuine representative of their interests and as a credible partner by other civil sector actors, trade unions, national and local authorities, regional and international organizations.

Our organization contributed to sustainable solution of political, economic and social problems of Roma community through the following actions:

-Advocacy for development of local action plans for integration of Roma in municipalities of Herceg Novi, Kotor and Tivat ;

-Supporting education of Roma children in Herceg Novi in order to reduce drop out and improve their educational achievements through after class tutoring, mentoring, literacy program for adults;

-NGO Young Roma conducted the country-wide program for personal documentation for Roma and assisted Roma persons to obtain over 5000 different personal documents.

-Organization has gender-sensitive programs and

From 2013, as the Decade Focal Point for Montenegro, the organization participated in over 20 international conferences on Roma integration and advocacy activities organized within the Decade.

Activities of NGO Young Roma have been implemented in most of the Roma settlements in Montenegro and reached over 1000 Roma people, who were the main target group.

Also, we have targeted decision-makers of the national and local parliaments, as well as of the state and local governments and we are proud that over 30 employees and 100 activists and volunteers directly participated in the implementation of organization's activities. Since the organization actively advocated for the development and upgrading policies related to Roma, the entire Roma community benefited from the results of activities, as well as the entire population of Montenegro.

-NGO Young Roma was the first Roma organization to establish strategic partnership with the Independent Trade Union of Montenegro, which resulted in creation of first trade unions for protection of labor rights of Roma and non Roma workers in public utility companies in 3 municipalities.

-Organization has gender-sensitive programs and intensively works to upgrade the entrepreneurial capacities of Romani women and supports Roma mothers and their school children in the education process.

-We are also one of the founders of National housing network, the advocacy machinery that actively works on finding solution for housing problems of vulnerable population. Thus, being experienced in housing we initiated development of Housing study and in cooperation with partners initiated durable housing solutions for 27 members of the Roma community in Herceg Novi by building houses for 8 Roma families;

<p>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</p>	<p>In the implementation of all NGO Young Roma, till now participated 30 employees and over 100 volunteers. Currently organization has team that is consisted of 11 employees. Namely, in the organisation we have 5 full time employees, one full time volunteer, 2 part-time project assistants, one part time legal consultant, one part time finance manager, one part-time accountant. Additionally we engage project based experts on certain trainings and courses. Thus we have also engaged one consultant and one expert in field of research and methodology.</p> <p>In our activities currently we have 23 young Roma high school pupils and students included, and besides of being a target group of one our project, this group participates voluntarily in some of the actions, while certain number of activities provides also income for the activists.</p>
<p>Full official address, notably street/post box, postal code, city, country</p>	<p>Marka Cara 8, Herceg Novi, Montenegro 85 340, Bratstva i Jedinstva 19/8, Podgorica, Montenegro 81000</p>
<p>E-mail address</p>	<p>mladi.romi@t-com.me</p>
<p>Website</p>	<p>www.mladiromi.me</p>
<p>Statutory registration number, VAT registration number (whichever available)</p>	<p>Registration number 2977</p> <p>VAT number 02440989</p>
<p>CONTACT PERSON:</p>	
<p>Name (Ms, Mr)</p>	<p>Mr Samir Jaha</p>
<p>Telephone number</p>	<p>+382 69/ 825-448</p>
<p>E-mail address</p>	<p>samirjaha@gmail.com</p>

2. THE PROJECT

Title of the project	Through education to integration
Period covered by the project (Section 4 point 3. of the Contest Rules)	From: June 2013 To: June 2016
Geographical location of the project (Section 4 point 2. of the Contest Rules)	<i>Herceg Novi, Montenegro</i>
Source of financing of the project	<i>External funds for period June 2013- December 2015, funded by OSCE/ODIHR Warsaw; OSCE Mission to Montenegro, Municipality of Herceg Novi</i> <i>Internal funds for period January-June 2016.</i>
<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>	
<p>NGO Young Roma in Herceg Novi as primary problem recognized that Roma children of primary school age have shown poor results in school, especially in the higher grades, where most often comes to dropping out from school. During the interviews with Roma parents we mostly found that the awareness on importance of education is very low, while high level of illiteracy of parents, poor economic power of the parents are affecting children education. These were the factors that marked education of Roma children at Herceg Novi. In order to develop good working plan, before drafting the project organisation conducted field research and mapped all children belonging to primary school age.</p>	

As main project goal was to provide support for quality education to Roma children in Herceg Novi, project team set up actions for inclusion of parents and school in activities.

We consider that quality of education will be achieved only with joint efforts of all connected entities. In order to accomplish envisaged goal we developed a strategy that contained measures for Improvement of regular attendance of all Roma children in primary school.

Our goals was raising number of Roma children who successfully pass the grade, for 50%, and raising awareness of 40 parents on importance of their children education. Directly and indirectly project activities included all Roma children from Herceg Novi, their parents, school teachers.

Project goal was achieved through implementation of following activities:

- Established cooperation with school which provided classrooms for additional classes for Roma children and workshops for parents,
- Engagement of two assistants with university degree who worked with children every working day in afterschool classes ;
- Creation of databases of academic achievement for each Roma child;
- Monitoring the educational process of Roma children;
- Provision of two computers for the school, and didactic materials for work;
- Motivational workshops for parents in order to provide support and improve the success of Roma children;

Implementation of mentioned activities contributed to improvement of educational achievement among included children, development of new skills and strengthening of the existing ones, and also raising awareness of parents included in the process. Children become more motivated for attendance and were more encouraged to actively participate in classes. Children who attended our classes showed great motivation to work both in regular and afterschool classes, showed the desire to achieve better performance. They also showed great respect towards assistants who worked with them and their overall behaviour and attention improved.

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.

During 3 school years of implementation, meaningful results were achieved. Group of 70 children improved school attendance, drop out was reduced on minimum (except few pupils whose families migrated to Germany and Kosovo), awareness and responsibility of parents were raised through set of workshops and meetings. Through the project 1888 classes and 32 workshops were organised for children, and 24 workshops with parents.

Within the first semester, children demonstrated visible progress in school performance and we established good communication with all primary schools in Herceg Novi. Progress was visible in regularly done homework, use of workbooks and children's motivation. In general, significant progress was observed with both junior and senior grades. Detailed approach of mediators at afterschool classes and improved work of teachers in school contributed to quality of Roma children education. Since children did not have anyone at their homes to help them with the school curriculum or motivate them to work, supplementary classes were a significant milestone in their education. Success was visible in terms of creating the basis to achieve progress in learning, to acquire reading and mathematics literacy and create working habits, which entails a longer period.

During the first months, it was ascertained that children need individual approach to learning because each child has specific needs. Therefore, we engaged Psychologist belonging to Roma minority. School support was not limited only to learning assistance. We provided set of extracurricular activities and support for those in most difficult social position. Namely, when our assistants ascertained that a number of children did not attend supplementary classes when it was cold, as they had no adequate wardrobe and shoes, we organised a humanitarian action in cooperation with all primary schools and the pre-school institution in the territory of Herceg Novi. Additionally, as a reward for achieved results we organised educational excursion for children. They visited royal capital Cetinje, Castle of King Nikola and museum of Royal Family where they learned about history. Children visited national park and Skadar lake, where they learned about flora and fauna of lake surrounding and had cruise, what especially delighted them.

The achievements were measured by comparing overall success, individual marks and attendance before and after project. Progress of each child was measured at the end of each three month period, through individual data base of attendance, marks in each

subjects and overall success. Monitoring and evaluation were done continuously, based on defined criteria. Methods used were: questionnaires, interviews with teachers, school attendance records, observation, individual data base.

Indicators used for evaluation were number of Roma children:

- attending classes;
- attending workshops;
- with improved school success;
- with less absence than before project;
- with raised motivation and interest for school;
- who drop out the school;

Additional indicators:

- Level of children' satisfaction;
- Level of parents satisfaction;
- Level of mediators satisfaction with achieved results;
- Quality of gained information, experience and skills;
- Number of media announcements on the activities;
- Number of children who finished school year with positive success;
- Quality and quantity of data in individual data base of pupils.

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.

During the three school year of project implementation, number of staff who were carrying out the project varied from time to time. The reason for this was different type of activities implemented during this period. At the first half of school year 2013/2014 it become evident that children need individual approach because high level of illiteracy and low level of language and mathematics skills. In order to mitigate this issue, to the project team one more assistant – Psychologist was added, so constantly, till the June 2016.the project team was consisted from project coordinator, one mediator and two assistant. These staff members organised and conducted additional classes for children, workshops for children and workshops for parents. Logistic support was provided from teachers from time to time, especially in workshops with parents aimed at raising awareness on importance of education where teachers and even school principle attended the workshops and promoted importance of education for children further development. School pedagogues and psychologists were providing support both parents and pupils. Also they were the connection between pupils and project team and helped in the process of recording the level of progress. During the extracurricular activities, such as excursions and new year holiday celebration, additional staff was engaged. Mainly, these members were the volunteers from NGO Young Roma and depending on activity from 5 up to 10 of them were included. In project implementation were included also local and national media, service for protection and fire fighters, police, doctors, who organised thematic workshops for children.

Main project team was consisted from 2 Roma and 2 non Roma persons, while volunteers who were included in organising and conducting extracurricular activities were all 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.

The direct beneficiaries of this project were all students of primary schools in Herceg Novi, namely 70 of them. Share of girls and boys varied from time to time, due to the fact that few families migrated to Germany. In each school year, share was different, and it is as follows:

*In the school year 2013/2014 during the whole school year 28 girls and 35 boys;

*In the first half of school year 2014/2015 26 girls and 34 boys, while in second half 26 girls and 34 boys;

*In the first half of school year 2015/2016 33 girls and 38 boys, while in second half 28 girls, and 32 boys.

*In the current school year 2016/2017 we have 33 girls and 31 boys.

Regarding the workshops with parents, from 40 parents in total, 19 of them attended the workshops, what means that almost from each family one parent was included.

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>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>	

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.

Photos from the activities are available on the following links:

1. <http://www.mladiromi.me/eng/2014-07-21-09-36-07/photos/category/18-obrazovanjem-do-integracije>

At this link are available photos from the activities organised in the classroom with children, both supplementary classes and workshops. Additionally, photos from workshops with parents are also available.

2. <http://www.mladiromi.me/eng/2014-07-21-09-36-07/photos/category/22-dodjela-novogodisnjih-paketica>

At this link are available photos from new year celebration. Each child that was included in the project plus its brothers and sisters received new year gifts and attended the celebration. Annually around 120 new year gifts were given to children.

3. <http://www.mladiromi.me/eng/2014-07-21-09-36-07/photos/category/11-prvi-roditeljski-sastanak-u-novoj-skolskoj-godini>

At this link are available photos from workshops and meeting with parents who were educated on importance of education, work with children, health protection, appropriate raising of children

4. <http://www.mladiromi.me/eng/projekti/2013/121-obrazovanjem-do-integracije>

At this link is available short description of project but more important, the text contains internal link to individual data base example that was created for each

pupil. Data base has all needed details for evaluation and monitoring of children achievements.

5. https://www.facebook.com/mladi.romicrnagora/photos/?tab=album&album_id=1715970438723334

At this link are available photos from project activities, classes and workshops with children and meeting with parents. Also, album contains photos from excursions organised for children.

We wish you good luck!