

# 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-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>

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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.

\*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](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	National Association For Life - Shoqata Kombëtare Edukim Për Jetën (SHKEJ)
Official legal form of the participant. This legal form must be suitable for an NGO.	National NGO (with membership)

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>SHKEJ was founded on February 18<sup>th</sup> 2003, and operates as an Albanian Non Profit Association in the field of Human Rights promotion and Social Integration of Human Beings, in the spirit of the International Conventions and National Legislation.</p> <p>The vision for the Association, who work with the most vulnerable and excluded groups in society, is for every Human Being to be well prepared to face the challenges of life and to find their equilibrium. The aim is to promote their rights, facilitate their social integration and empower them to take part in shaping their own future. This is done by offering a variety of services, by building their capacity and by developing education, community based activities and also by working in the field of advocacy.</p> <p>Beneficiaries of the SHKEJ Projects/Programs are: street children, children who have never been to school, children who have dropped out of school or at risk of dropping out. It also includes children and youngsters coming from families with deep social and economical problems, women living in the suburbs of Tirana and in rural areas of Albania, families of Roma and Egyptian minorities and those living in social – economic difficulties.</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	SHKEJ has a multidisciplinary staff of 22 professionals. SHKEJ has 1 Executive Director, 1 Finance Officer, 3 project managers, 3 psychologists, 11 social workers, 3 service personals.
Full official address, notably street/post box, postal code, city, country	Bulevardi Zogu I, ndërtesa 53, hyrja 2, kati 6, apartamenti 39. P.O Box 2435 Tirana, Albania
E-mail address	shkej@albmail.com
Website	www.shkej.org
Statutory registration number, VAT registration number (whichever available)	Decision No.538, dated 18/02/2003 VAT K41405007R
<b>CONTACT PERSON:</b>	
Name (Ms, Mr)	Mr. Arjel Trajani
Telephone number	+355672166873
E-mail address	arjeltrajani@gmail.com

## 2. THE PROJECT

Title of the project	To address poverty and social inclusion by building effective models to support children, youth and families in need, especially the Roma and Egyptian community in Tirana.
Period covered by the project (Section 4 point 3. of the Contest Rules)	Ongoing since: 01.01.2013
Geographical location of the project (Section 4 point 2. of the Contest Rules)	Municipality No. 9 and No. 8, Tirana, Albania
Source of financing of the project	<i>External donors as:</i> Mary Ward Loreto Foundation
<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 projects specific objectives: 1) To reduce the numbers of vulnerable children who are exploited and abused in the area of Municipalities No.9 and No.8, by supporting them with formal and informal education. 2) To empower youth in difficulty, so they can face the challenges of life, through building their capacity focusing on the development of professional skills for employment. 3) To strengthen the capacity of marginalized families in these areas, by providing child care so they can access social services. 4) To coordinate action between the government and civil society for children protection issues and the fight against poverty in this region.

There are three main components, Children, Youth and Families, addressing the objectives of the project. These components have more specific objectives that are realized by different activities, for their wellbeing, integration and empowerment.

For the first component, Formal and non-formal education for the children that frequents CCLA, mainly Roma and Egyptian children, but not only, divided in two groups (6-9 years old and 10-14 years old children). Food support is one of the most important supports for the children who frequent CCLA. Two meals, breakfast and lunch are offered at the centre. Medical support is another sustention for the wellbeing of children, by doing check-ups, giving medical prescriptions, advising and accompanying to the specialist. The children check-ups were made in CCLA environment by the doctor that comes there twice a week. Psychological support it refers to psychological care for children at the centre and psycho-social support for parents and specifically mothers.

The second component refers to youth in difficulties, especially from Roma and Egyptian community in order to support and empower them to face life's challenges, to build their capacity and to acquire professional skills for employment. They are supported from CCLA to socialize to each-other, to be oriented for professional courses or employment, training to improve their skills and knowledge for different issues. This process function by meetings. The third components focused on marginalized families in the area of CCLA, providing childcare, orienting them to social services, training for life skills and good parenting.

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.*

We have supported till now 104 children aged 5-14, 50 children regularly frequents the activities of CCLA. They are supported with formal and informal education, with academic support, socio-cultural activities, summer games and the Social Camp (26<sup>th</sup> September – 5<sup>th</sup> October 2016). From this group, 40 children attend the public school and every day they get “school support” to improve their academic knowledge. 9 of them have been registered for first time the kindergarten and school. Many activities with educational and pleasure impact has been placed in and out CCLA like (Carnivals activity, Football Championship, activity for the International Day against Child Labor, Children’s Day Activities, excursion with children, Summer Games, Social Camp). From a survey of the children at the center, tests and from the consultation meetings with school teachers, the performance of these children it is in progress. At the CCLA, these children take food support every day (Monday to Friday) for breakfast and lunch. The food is prepared in CCLA by our cooker every day and it is always cooked food, so the children can eat in healthy way, learn how to behave in table. There were medical support for 150 children (sometime for a child more than once), with prescription and financial support for the medications, advised and accompanied to specialists doctors. The psychological support is realised by 10 psycho-social activities with both groups of children in the center, to empower social inclusion in groups, educating towards group collaboration, tolerance, self-control and self-management skills, stimulation of psycho-social development; by individual psychological care with therapy, play therapy, counseling and psychotherapy.

During these 10 months, 18 youth frequented and participated in a range of activities organized by the CCLA. 5 new youth have been identified as in need in the community and are part of the group now. All the youth are from 15 to 25 years old. For the first time we had 8 youth part of the Social Camp in October 2016.

68 individual and group meetings took place since now with the youth group. 12 of them are registered / oriented in vocational training institutions, like professional courses, foreign languages courses, training sessions regarding juvenile justice and conflict management. 3 of the youth group, Roma/Egyptian are employed during this time. Participant of the youth group has been oriented in public community institution when needed it.

The third component activities realized are focused on families meetings and accompanying in the area for continued social orientation and education to improve life condition. Informative meeting with parent on possibilities to attend vocational courses, registration at the public vocational courses. Trainings and Informing meetings with Women and Men groups in important social and life topics: coping with family issues health care, economic, education of children, positive parenting, professional counselling for work, empowerment as community leaders; Collaboration meeting with the third partners (institutions and

private business), intercommunication to help the parent to get employed. 63 families have been support during this period for their different needs.

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 implementation of the project since 2013 are employed 10 persons but there is no Roma staff.

This is not for any discriminatory reasons, but there was no application from Roma persons when there were free job announcement. SHKEJ has employee a Roma young boy 19 years old as Cultural Mediator in a project in entities with another NGO in Tirana. He was many years ago a beneficiaries from a project of SHKEJ, and now he is part of SHKEJ staff.

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.*

We have supported till now 122 children and youth in total with our project. The beneficiaries of the project are 82 boys and 40 girls. There is no discrimination for the gender of the beneficiaries but in the Roma culture when the girls are 14 years old they are ready to create a family and stay at home with their kids. This is the main reason that in the youth group there are more boys than girls (13 boys and only 5 girls) but also in the children's group there are more boys than girls. We are trying to work with the families so that more girls can come to the centres and become direct beneficiaries of our services

### **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.

For the implementation of this project we don't have other participants or co-applicants.

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.

For the implementation of this project we don't have other participants or co-applicants.

#### **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.

<https://vimeo.com/164589461> this video has been made by SHKEJ in cooperation with Peace Corps Tirana discrimination against the Roma and Egyptian communities, and what we can do to stop this discrimination.

<http://www.shkej.org/> this is the website of the NGO where you can find all our activities specified in our projects.

<https://www.facebook.com/shkej.org/?fref=ts> this is the official Facebook page of the NGO where you can find all our activities specified in our projects.

*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!