

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>

¹ 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

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	Association for Supporting Tarlabaşı Community
Official legal form of the participant. This legal form must be suitable for an NGO.	Association

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

A Community Centre project was prepared in 2005 at Beyoğlu-Tarlabasi area which intensely included different cultures, compliance issues arising from migration, poverty, unemployment, and the informal and illegal relationships within itself. The Centre began its activities in September 2006 with the support of European Commission's European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) micro-projects programme. For sustainability of the Centre's operation Association for Supporting Tarlabasi Community was established within the scope of the project in July 2007. Tarlabasi Community Centre operates by favour of the Association.

In terms of ethnic roots, mostly Romas, Kurds and Doms from Turkey and Syria are participants of the activities at TTM. In addition to this, all people living in Tarlabası, especially children, youth and women can use the services of Tarlabası Community Center (TTM) complimentary.

TTM provides the following to residents of Tarlabası:

- * Psycho-social support: Individual and psychological counselling; focus groups with children, youngsters and women; plastic arts, creative drama, body percussion, photography, and digital media workshops; children's rights workshops; workshops on reproductive and sexual health, and gender equity; outdoor activities; case monitoring; home and school visits.
- * Educational support: Individual and group academic support; literacy classes for women and children; language lessons (Turkish, Kurdish and English).
- * Support activities for immigrants/ refugees: Turkish lessons; academic support; psychological, legal and medical support; referral to government agencies.
- * Peacebuilding activities: Mixed art, creative drama, body percussion and digital media workshops; preventive and awareness-raising activities against discrimination.
- * Advocacy: Lobbying and promotion of human, children and women rights via right-based platforms.

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	4 full time (1 social worker/administrator, 1 psychologist, 1 administrative assistant, 1 care taker) and 1 part time (1 youth projects coordinator) paid staff coordinates all the activities of the Center. Besides over 2000 volunteers have taken part at the activities of TTM since its establishment.
Full official address, notably street/post box, postal code, city, country	Tarlabası Toplum Merkezi Çukur Mahallesi, Zerdali Sokak No: 9 Beyoğlu/ İstanbul- TURKEY
E-mail address	iletisim@tarlabasi.org
Website	www.tarlabasi.org
Statutory registration number, VAT registration number (whichever available)	34-143-008
CONTACT PERSON:	
Name (Ms, Mr)	Ms. Ebru Ergün
Telephone number	+90 555 63 77 03
E-mail address	eburu.ttm@gmail.com

2. THE PROJECT

Title of the project	Empowerment of Syrain Dom Children
Period covered by the project (Section 4 point 3. of the Contest Rules)	From: _____ To: _____ OR Ongoing since: September 2015
Geographical location of the project (Section 4 point 2. of the Contest Rules)	The project is being conducted at Tarlabası region of İstanbul / Turkey.
Source of financing of the project	This project has been funded both by internal and external sources. Place for implementation of the project has been supplied by the partner of the project, Sıfır Ayrımcılık Association. The rest has been provided by internal sources of Association for Supporting Tarlabası Community.
<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>	

Since 2011, Turkey has faced with an intense migration wave due to the war in Syria. Tarlabası, based on its multi-cultural structure and central location, has become a shelter for the culturally disadvantaged Syrian Kurds and Doms at this period. Nevertheless, these immigrants needed to be supported for coping with their current situation. The Dom particularly, suffered from the difficulties of being a migrant, war trauma, poverty and discrimination due to their Dom identity from all groups including Romas and other Syrians. Besides they are being exposed to arbitrary treatments from the law-enforcement officers very often and since they beg on the street, they are very open to dangers. Due to all the violence they face, trust relationship with them takes a long time to establish and is very fragile. Besides, all children -especially girls- older than 10 years old are considered as adults and baby-sitters in the family. Early marriages are very common. Even if they can attend school, they are being accused for issues such as lice, illnesses and theft by teachers, other children and parents.

TTM started to work with Dom children with the aim of reducing their traumas and empowering them against discrimination and to integrate their new home.

In this direction, TTM planned a series of activities in four lines.

First line was to teach Turkish to children so they could communicate with other people and go and continue to school. Because even if children could start school, many of them drop out after a while because of language barrier. Turkish lessons were conducted in two age groups as 7-11 and 12-15 and as one-hour lessons twice a week for each group.

Second line was to support children between the ages of 7 to 15 academically. Dom children did not attend school in Syria as well. In addition, their parents do not want to register them for school due to feeling of insecurity in Turkey and because children make an economic contribution to their families. Parents were tried to be convinced to register their children at primary schools and children who go to school were supported academically after school time. Besides, those who cannot attend school participated to pre-school / basic academic skills classes in two age groups as 7-11 and 12- 15 and as one-hour lessons twice a week for each group.

Third line was to conduct psycho-social support activities such as creative drama, body percussion, hand craft workshops. Some of these workshops were conducted in mixed classes by taking the structure of the activity into consideration. Each workshop was held once a week for one hour.

Fourth line was peace-building activities. These activities were composed of awareness rising workshops about discrimination and prejudices with Turkish citizen children, mixed activities supporting solidarity and advocacy about Doms. 4 awareness rising workshops about discrimination and prejudices and 42 mixed psycho-social support activity workshops were held in one year. Advocacy is being maintained through meetings with public enterprises, local community and TTM's social media accounts.

All activities were conducted synchronously.

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.

In the summer of 2015, communication with Dom children could only be pursued in Kurdish when they started coming to TTM for asking some goods. It has been a real challenge to tell how the Center works, what the principles are. They used to resort to violence; to damage each other, other children and their surroundings ; to knock down objects and to take things and run.

After Turkish classes, basic academic and psycho-social support activities started, they showed a remarkable improvement at Turkish, pre-school skills and communication forms. They started to tell their requests / needs in Turkish and listen to other people. They were not telling their real names with the fear of being tracked by the Police in the beginning, but this changed in time and a trust relationship was established. They started to bring their parents to the Center.

In current situation they are coming to all activities regularly, their Turkish has improved enough to maintain their daily lives, they are aware of in-group rules and can participate mixed workshops with higher harmony.

In addition Turkish citizen children are more open to communicate with the Dom and there is an obvious decrease at discriminatory attitudes. Local people are more tolerant and show more empathy towards them. Collaboration with schools also shows results and teachers started to ask for advice or to visit the Center to observe the work done.

Apart from these, here below are the numbers of participants and workshops in the recent year.

*61 Dom children in total participated in one activity at least during one year.

*53 children attended Turkish classes.

*6 children started school with the support of TTM.

*32 Dom children participated in psycho-social support activities. 16 of these children joined to a mixed class at least once.

*35 Dom children used the toy library of TTM.

*122 children from Turkey participated in peace-building activities.

*7 teachers from nearby schools made a visit to TTM to speak about Dom students of their own.

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.

3 full-time (1 social worker, 1 psychologist, 1 administrative assistant) and 2 part-time (1 creative drama trainer and 1 body percussion trainer) paid staff and 4 volunteers (1 Turkish teacher, 3 academic support class volunteers) were directly involved in the implementation of the project.

One of the part-time staff who conducts the body percussion workshop is Roma and he has been a beneficiary of TTM when he was a child. After he graduated from school and reach lawful age, he started to work at TTM as part-time body percussion trainer.

Percentage of Roma people in the staff of the project is % 11,1. Besides the chairwoman of Association for Supporting Tarlabası Community, Elmas Arus is 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.

Since the beginning of this project, there has been a balance at the share of the beneficiaries.

The exact numbers of Dom girls and boys are respectively 33 and 28.

The situation is the same for Turkish citizen children as well. Number of girls and boys are 66 and 56.

However in the cases of repeater inequality, TTM pays regard to this and tries to keep the balance via giving priority to the smaller group and gets in touch with them in order to ensure attendance.

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>Association for Supporting Tarlabası Community has been responsible for planning, organizing, executing and evaluating of all the activities of the project.</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>	<p>Full official name: Sıfır Ayrımcılık Association Legal Form: Association Official Address: Kuştepe Mah. Biraçılar Sok. No:9 Şişli/İstanbul- TURKEY Statutory Number: 34-157/110</p> <p>Sıfır Ayrımcılık Association has provided the source for a new place for implementation of the project. Besides, it has been the project's mentor due to their experience in the field of Roma integration studies.</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.

<http://www.tarlabasi.org/calismalar/goc/dom-cocuklar>

This link belongs to the web site of TTM. It explains the activities done with Dom children.

<http://www.tarlabasi.org/calismalar/goc/baris-insasi-calismalari>

This link belongs to web site of TTM and tells about peace-building activities between Turkish citizen children and Dom children..

<https://www.facebook.com/189296297797246/photos/a.195789163814626.52700.189296297797246/1241870052539860/?type=3&theater>

This link belongs to facebook page of TTM and shows a photo from basic academic support workshop.

<https://www.instagram.com/p/BHUuu4MBIsE/?taken-by=tarlabasitoplummerkezi>

This link belongs to facebook page of TTM and shows a photo from a movie screening event and gives an abstract of the activities done with Dom children.

<https://www.instagram.com/p/BJiOVJWhYBA/?taken-by=tarlabasitoplummerkezi>

This link belongs to Instagram account of TTM and the video is from a mixed creative drama workshop.

<https://www.instagram.com/p/BJK2THDBRfU/?taken-by=tarlabasitoplummerkezi>

This link belongs to Instagram account of TTM and the video is from a mixed body percussion workshop.

<https://www.instagram.com/p/BJIMMGJhCLG/?taken-by=tarlabasitoplummerkezi>

This link belongs to Instagram account of TTM and children in the photo are being seen off to Bismil for working during summer holiday.

<https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2016/jun/02/syrias-gypsy-refugees-sanctuary-istanbul-turkey-ghetto-how-long-will-last>

This article has been published in the Guardian's website. Psychologist and social worker of TTM have participated to the interview.

We wish you good luck!