

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 deriving the

*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 Defence for Children's Rights
Official legal form of the participant. This legal form must be suitable for an NGO.	Здружение за Заштита на правата на детето Association Defence for Children's Rights

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

Defence for Children rights was established in 1998. It is a non-governmental, non-profit and non-partial organization. Priority objective of "Defence for children's rights" in Republic of Macedonia is the implementation of the UN Convention of the rights of the child in our national legislation and ensuring the children's rights in that convention to be successfully respected and protected, as well. In that direction, DCR under-takes activities to their promotion, and moreover, to be accessible to each citizen in R of Macedonia, starting with the youngest generation, whom the rights are directly addressed. In order to achieve this, key aims of DCR are:

- To raise the awareness of children's rights and to create solidarity with the children all over the world
- To induce and evaluate application of children's rights according to international law, particularly rights in the UN Convention of the rights of the child
- To promote and apply the most efficient mechanisms in order to ensure and protect children's rights in concretely situations

The main goal is social integration of street children and interrupting their marginalization, and taking away from the street with inclusion in regular normal flows in life.

- Identifying the risks and social problems through surveys, interviews with children and their parents, teachers, educators, key people in the community
- Strengthening children, youth and their parents with the education and development of social skills
- Providing psychosocial support to vulnerable groups of children
- Preparation and education for entering and staying in the education system
- Organizing various lectures on current topics
- Implementation of various cultural, recreational, sports activities organized in daily center and also in the form of excursions outside Skopje
- Achieved cooperation with all actors that contribute to the protection of children's rights, assistance and protection in order to improve their mental, emotional and physical health
- Develop communication and cooperation with government authorities, institutions, local governments
- Support and development of civil society through networking with other local, national and international NGOs

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	3 employees 1 honorar 2 volunteers
Full official address, notably street/post box, postal code, city, country	St.Vietnamska 49 (in the premises of Kindergarten "8 April"), Shuto Orizari, 1000 Skopje, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
<i>E-mail address</i>	zpd.dci@gmail.com
<i>Website</i>	http://zpd.org.mk/
Statutory registration number, VAT registration number (whichever available)	P.Z.G. No. 83/98 4030998368171
CONTACT PERSON:	
Name (Ms, Mr)	Mr.Prof.dr. Vladimir Ortakovski President of Association Defence for Children's Rights (DCR) Ms.Irena Velkoska Coordinator of the Daily Center for street children
<i>Telephone number</i>	++389-70-255997 ++389-71-227663
<i>E-mail address</i>	vladimir.ortakovski@gmail.com irena_velkoska@yahoo.com

2. THE PROJECT

Title of the project	"Educational – Entertaining Children's daycare center for street children"
Period covered by the project (Section 4 point 3. of the Contest Rules)	From: _____ To: _____ OR Ongoing since: 2006
Geographical location of the project (Section 4 point 2. of the Contest Rules)	<i>Identify a precise location of the project, including the candidate country or potential candidate for EU membership</i> Municipality of Shuto Orizari, Skopje, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (candidate country for European Union)
Source of financing of the project	<i>It can be internal (participant's own funds) or external (one or more donors). Please specify.</i> -Tinex -Ministry of Labour and Social Policy -German Foundation GIZ
<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 functions of the "Educational – Entertaining Children's daycare center for street children" are methods of direct and indirect cooperation and work with street children, and their immediate family which has had quite positive influence on their inclusion into society. This day center is in the area of Suto Orizari, which is the only municipality in the world for the Roma population. The Daycare center for street children takes care for more than 100 children - the children range from 03-18 years old and are divided into 3 groups depends from their intellectual level. The everyday activities are:

- Workshops on the establishment of hygienic habits and personal hygiene;
- Educational workshops
- Creative-art workshops
- Music
- Recreational and sport activities
- Extracurricular activities like festivals, celebrating birthdays, excursions, education for the parents about respecting the rights of the children
- Learning life-skills, additional educational skills, as well as social skills.

Daily center for street children in Shuto Orizari works from January 2006 and the main goal is social integration / inclusion of Roma children, street children. The center during the day (from 8-16 pm, Monday-Friday) is cater for more than 100 children. Immediately give emergency of psycho-social nature: cultural practices, involvement in educational activities (literacy), individual work with each child in terms of psycho-social development, health care (medical examinations, immunizations) obtaining identification documents (birth certificate). Roma street children are a daily occurrence, begging instead of studying, working instead of playing, emotionally and physically neglected rather care and receive love, these are children under the pretext of the poverty are economically exploited and abused, usually by their parents.

Considering that these children come from areas with substandard housing, some of them don't have personal and medicalno documentation, it is not provided adequate health care and protection (present lice, malnutrition, poor hygiene) usually come from dysfunctional families and are exposed to various risks of high degree, have social and emotional problems, educationally neglected, exclusions in the educational system, antisocial behavior, wandering, begging.

We strive through various activities, workshops, panel discussions to increase awareness among parents who are unaware that begging is abuse and a crime, the importance for their children to be involved in education, not to spend time on the street, in building parenting capacity in order to fully assuming the responsibility in caring for children achieving the essential needs of their children.

Youth Club within the framework of the Daily center for the education of children who were cared for or are still part of the activities of the Center at the age of 15-20, in order to raise the level of education through motivational talks on completing the primary education and inclusion in secondary schools as a strong incentive for their future employment and information about possible training courses or learning of some trade that would allow certain environmental security. Youth to learn practical life and communication skills that will help them successfully

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.

Daily Center for street children is a bridge for the integration of vulnerable and marginalized groups and the only place in Suto Orizari where Roma children may stay or be removed from the streets and on usefully structured way to spend their time. In satisfying their essential needs for hygiene, cultural habits, health care, education, food, clothing and living conditions necessary for human dignity, equality of rights and opportunities. To gain informal education to include in the educational process but also to maintain it. The youth from the Daily center, which previously used the services of the Center and were part of the program are trained to work and communication skills through governmental and non-governmental programs and in order to employ. It is the only way to the needs of this vulnerable group in the Roma community, and place of their integration, to become useful citizens of the society. From its opening until today, the benefit of services provided by the day care center had more than 300 children.

Daily work with parents to raise their parental potential through psychosocial support, counselling services for family members (mother) is a pillar of the changes in this category. Only with everyday communication and advisory work with families contributes to changing traditional practices, girls to marry at a young age (underage marriages), which is often seen as part of the tradition of Roma motivated by poverty, social exclusion and cultural norms.

The location of the Daily Center is the place of residence of children and their families which can directly act. Communities should be a direct source of support for children and their families. Children and families are part of the wider community in which they live. Community members bear responsibility for the protection of children's rights and can mobilize their own resources to approach the problem of children at risk of losing the care of a family and contribute to their development. Parallel provide for access of families to basic services, to meet the basic development needs of the child. This includes material, educational, health and psycho-social support. Continuous support families and enable them to protect and take care of their children.

The integrative approach to families and their children, another innovative component of the project for the integration of Roma is a field research and introduction of vulnerable Roma families with their social rights, their representation in realizing them.

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

There is a big stigma and internal discrimination itself from Roma population to street children also Roma. The children called all kinds of names and insulted and humiliated in the community, by the institutions as well as schools from Roma classmates. Our Association signed a memorandum of cooperation with the municipality of Suto Orizari to involve volunteers for municipal service in collaboration with UNDP for implementation of project activities while volunteers are Roma from the community and are active job seekers at the Employment Agency . In the work with the children once or twice a week are involved volunteers from other countries and seem to make a more of a positive impact on the children than local volunteers. Having guests from other countries makes the children feel more excited and special. Having contact with volunteers from different countries creates many learning opportunities for the children such as, new language skills, different points of views, and opening them up to a world of new possibilities. So far there have been at least 20 EVS volunteers in the last 4-5 years visiting them and implementing different kinds of activities with the children. The EVS volunteers through their workshops and activities open new horizons, new approaches, new collaborations and new connections.

According to our experience does not important the nationality, religion, gender or which country comes employee or volunteer, but the desire to work with this marginalized group of children.

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 target group is Roma children of the age of 03-18 years, regardless of their gender, although percentages of boys and girls is almost equal. Regardless of gender this are children who have been curtailed basic rights and are unable to satisfy the basic of their needs as a need for day care, medical checkups, immunization and monitoring of health condition, need food, clothing, clean water, hygiene, shoes, desire for personal identity, the need for education and educational facilities, educational edikativni services, protection of economic and other kinds of exploitation. Children that their time mostly spent on the street, earning in the most adverse weather conditions while offering a variety of services, cleaning windows of cars, collect food, scrap metal or plastic bottles, beg at the traffic lights, boulevards and streets where there is a greater frequency of traffic and their lives are in constant danger: to be victims of violence and trafficking, crime and deviant behavior that does not make a difference in gender.

Through this non-institutional form of social care and protection, prevention will act in preventing various forms of antisocial behavior as a result of the negative impact of the street, they can included in regular educational process and to keep them, will stand for raising awareness of children's rights through the exercise of children's best interests, identity, non- discrimination, protection of the right to life, respect for the opinion of the child, socio-legal and psycho-social assistance for child protection, providing a normal physical and mental development of the child, develop their cognitive and intellectual potential, fostering their creative abilities, etc.

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.

In the previous period of existence, Association introduced a number of important projects in order to expand the idea of protecting children's rights, to explore the situation of children and vulnerable groups of children, organize assistance and protection, inform the public about the situation of children and the realization of rights. This contributed to the association to obtain accreditation in the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy for providing social services to the vulnerable Roma children and their families. In the Daily Center works a team of professional social worker, a pedagogue, psychologist, class teacher trained in work and daily work with children and their families in the Daily Center and on the field in their homes. However cooperation with the government and NGOs is necessary to ensure that our users can satisfy their rights and needs, we do not offer them, and they need for normal functioning (providing personal documents, social welfare, health insurance and health services, regular education process)

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.

Achieving cooperation with all institutions that contribute to the protection of children's rights, providing assistance and protection in order to improve their mental, emotional and physical health by:

- local government
- Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
- Centre for social work-CSW
- Ambulance in Shuto Orizari
- Ministry of Justice
- Ombudsman: Providing help in child rights protection,
- Active cooperation we have with three local primary schools and one high school ,
- Networking of Association Defence for Children Rights with other local, national and international NGOs
- Establishing and fostering cooperation with the private sector

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. https://www.facebook.com/%D0%94%D0%BD%D0%B5%D0%B2%D0%B5%D0%BD-%D0%A6%D0%B5%D0%BD%D1%82%D0%B0%D1%80-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%B4%D0%B5%D1%86%D0%B0-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D1%83%D0%BB%D0%B8%D1%86%D0%B0-%D0%A8%D1%83%D1%82%D0%BE-%D0%9E%D1%80%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B0%D1%80%D0%B8-425321660824653/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel

2.

We wish you good luck!