

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 SOS Children's Village Macedonia
Official legal form of the participant. This legal form must be suitable for an NGO.	Non-governmental organisation (NGO) – Association of citizens

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	As a legal entity, SOS Children's Village Macedonia was established in 2000. It is a member of the international organization SOS Children's Villages International, which operates in 134 countries and are focused on supporting children without parental care and children who grow up in families with many social risks. We put emphasis and focuses on family-based-care for children who have lost the care of their biological parents. Through the support for care of children in SOS foster families, SOS programs for youth care and consistent support for young people leaving care, the organization provides security, love and warm home for children who grow up in a stable family environment where they receive continuous individual support until they become young, contributing and financially independent community members. Besides providing care for children without parental care, we give support to all children who are at risk of losing the care of their parents. Through working with and for families at risk we strive to prevent crises that can lead children to lose the care of their biological family, mostly focused on Roma families and children. SOS Children's Village offers various forms of support to strengthen and stabilize Roma families so that they will be empowered to independently manage their own lives and to care for their children. The prevention programs are very effective in improving the resources for families and communities, their ability to self-organize, employ or self-employ, as well as their responsibility for the welfare of their children. We fully respect the different cultures and religions and its work is based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and in line with Article 3 of the Lisbon Treaty & Article 24 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights – that are outlining the child rights.
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	SOS Macedonia employs 56 staff members working for various SOS facilities (SOS Children's Village Skopje, 2 Youth Facilities Care Programmes and 2 Counselling Centres for families at risk as prevention of child abandonment well as National Office) and 5 volunteers.
Full official address, notably street/post box, postal code, city, country	Risto Shishkov 25 1000 Skopje Macedonia
E-mail address	info.na@sos.org.mk
Website	http://sos.org.mk/

Statutory registration number, VAT registration number (whichever available)	Statutory registration number: 5521734 VAT registration number: 4030001414578
CONTACT PERSON:	
Name (Ms, Mr)	Mr. Zoran Bogdanovski
Telephone number	+389 (0)2 3290556
E-mail address	zoran.bogdanovski@sos.org.mk

2. THE PROJECT

Title of the project	Counselling Centre for parents and children – Shuto Orizari
Period covered by the project (Section 4 point 3. of the Contest Rules)	From: _____ To: _____ OR Ongoing since: <u>01.09.2009</u>
Geographical location of the project (Section 4 point 2. of the Contest Rules)	Republic of Macedonia, Skopje, Municipality of Shuto Orizari (the largest Roma community in Macedonia).
Source of financing of the project	The project is funded with internal (own) funds. The average annual budget for this project is 45.000 EUR.
Objectives, design, planning and activities of the project (Section 4 point 1., Section 5, criterion 1 of the Contest Rules): <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>	

This project enables the vulnerable population of Shuto Orizari to improve their socio-economic situation on the long term and allow socially and economically marginalised groups, especially Roma to integrate into the Macedonian society.

The project activities, on the long run, will have positive impact on other aspects of the beneficiaries' lives, like health, living and nutritional situation, education of the children and their inclusion into society. The beneficiaries are supported in their ability to improve their parental skills, find employment/income by means of qualifications and trainings, employability skills and vocational training. With increased chances for self-employment or employment this vulnerable target group will be enabled to improve its economic situation and increase its household income. The work with the families will allow parents to adequately support the development and education of their children which will, in turn, increase the children's ability to find a job in future and integrate into society.

The overall objective of the project is to contribute towards improving quality of life of children and their families at social risk in the municipality of Shuto Orizari. The specific project objectives are:

- 100 children from Shuto Orizari to have stable educational, psycho-social and emotional condition
- 50 Parents from Shuto Orizari to strengthen parental capacity to care for their children and claim their rights
- To establish regular and functional cooperation with PI Centre for Social Work – Skopje and strengthening the cooperation with local stakeholders.

The key focus of the first set of activities is on providing educational support for children; providing health support to the children in accordance with their needs and providing psycho-social support to the children.

The key focus of the second set of activities is on providing psycho-social support to parents; providing health support for parents/caregivers and families; providing legal support to the families; providing economic sustainability support to parents.

The key focus of the third set of activities is on regular sharing of information with PI Centre for Social Work – Skopje; joint regular and annual evaluation of the project results with community stakeholders' promotion of the project in order to raise the community awareness about situation of children and families at risk.

Project target groups are:

- Roma children with one or two parent/s who is/are unemployed and without income;
- Roma children with underage mothers, who live in a very poor living conditions;
- Many-children families with small income;
- Roma children not enrolled and not regular at school;
- Children without birth certificates and/or without health insurance;
- Kinship families who take care for children who are left by parents for an undefined period;
- Roma families with state social allowances;
- Single parent families.

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.

365 children, 168 parents and 92 families at risk were supported by the project in the last 7 years. The support was provided in the following fields:

Education:

- Stimulated development and gained basic knowledge for successful enrolment at school for more than 20 children 4-6 years' old;
- Over 30 children that were not enrolled in education system, now are enrolled and regular with school activities;
- Provided additional classes and educational support for 136 children;
- Provided school supplies for Number of children.

Psychosocial support:

- Improved social interaction of over 70 children with other children;
- Over 120 children are practicing active listening, respect others' opinion and have strengthened their self-esteem.

Health:

- Provided medications and medical examinations more than 190 children in need;
- Ensured health insurance for 70 children;
- 82 children learnt the healthy life styles;
- Provided counselling on healthy life styles for 68 parents;
- Increased awareness among parents for health need of their children and they take them for medical examinations and vaccination regularly.

Parenthood:

- More than 110 parents who actively participated in group counselling on "Parenthood", recognize the developmental needs of children.

Economic self-sustainability:

- Provided counselling and support for more than 50 parents in finding employment or self-employment.

Living conditions and housing:

- provided construction materials and household appliances for 70 families
- provided clothes and shoes for children;
- provided hygienic and food packages for children (0-3 years) at high risk

Legal help:

- provided assistance in obtaining the necessary identity documents (IDs, birth certificates etc.) for more than 50 children and parents.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

There is a Logical Framework developed for this project, with detailed activities, objectives and indicators. Each family involved in the project have its own file that consists of: referral forms, form for initial assessment of the family, genogram, family development plan, contract signed with the family, eco map, minutes from meetings with the family, minutes from individual consultations, photos, opinions from specialists (doctors, psychotherapists, school teachers etc.).

Consultations and workshops are well documented with program content, list of participants and photos. The activities are documented through quarterly reviews, semi-annual and annual reports, case study, and project self-evaluation.

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.

The premises of the project i.e. our Counselling centre conducts prevention activities for all citizens that are in social risk in Shuto Orizari, but predominantly focused on Roma. The project is implemented by 3 (three) staff members. The HR structure of the project is the following: Project Coordinator/Social worker full-time, Psychologist full-time and educational co-worker. Furthermore, on per need basis, SOS Children's Village Macedonia engages volunteers to support the current staff in implementing or extending project activities.

Although the organizations hire two staff members from Roma community on permanent basis, and one of them holds high management position, none of staff members in this project are Roma. As for the volunteers, depending of the project needs, we hire young Roma people to provide additional support to project staff and to beneficiaries.

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 project is based on years of experience of SOS Macedonia with family strengthening activities. As an example, within its regular activities, during September and early October 2014 SOS Macedonia conducted a research through a structured interview with the parents / foster parents, beneficiaries of the Counselling Centres for parents and children in Shuto Orizari and Gazi Baba. The survey involved 22 families or 53 active parents / foster parents. The beneficiaries gave recommendations for further improvements and adjustments of the services that are in line with the proposed activities within this project. The project is largely the result of the suggestions and guidelines given by our target group. Furthermore, the Counselling Centre has already conducted an initial and core assessment of the clients' needs as part of the case management methodology used within SOS Macedonia since 2014, which gives detailed information about the beneficiaries needs and capacities. This tool enables the Counselling Centre's staff to make precise assessment of the parental capacities of young parents, development needs of the children and family and other factors from the environment with the aim to support the protection and promote the child overall welfare.

According to our data base, an average family in the targeted area have 3.5 children and out of 5-6 families, one is single parent family. The share of boys and girls in the target group is more or less around 50-50%. Moreover, the share of women in project target group is higher (around 60%) compared to men (40%). This difference is due to higher interest among women to gain support from the project activities and the awareness about the importance of education and health for their children.

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.	Project implementation is managed and largely financed by SOS Children's Village Macedonia's own funds. However, there is additional support from government and NGOs in the wider local community in the following areas: • Received financial support for the implementation of project activities (support to the families in areas of health, education, improvement of living conditions, professional orientation of children and economic sustainability) from the local municipality of City of Skopje, • Through cooperation at local level within the informal coordinating body, three-month fee for a volunteer was secured with cooperation with NGO IRIZ, • NGO partner H.E.R.A. donated series of workshops for parents and children on the subjects of: ○ Sexual, reproductive health and rights, ○ Healthy life styles, ○ Family planning. • The beneficiaries of the Centre are referenced and use free medical examinations and appropriate services from the local NGOs, • Free legal support, information and counselling to the beneficiaries by partner NGO ESE and other partner NGOs, • Support from pedagogical-psychological team from the elementary school "Braka Ramiz Hamid" and elementary school for adults "AS Makarenko" in the project activities, through one-day meetings with parents with school age children and for their involvement and attendance in school classes and for the parents to complete their primary education, • Donations in goods from people and corporations.
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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.

- **City of Skopje**, Local government, Boul. "Ilinden" no. 82, 1000 Skopje, VAT registration number: 403120004561156.
- **HERA** Association for Health Education and Research, social organizations, foundations and associations of citizens, Skopje, St. Debarca 56/4, 1000 Skopje, VAT registration number: 4030000377539.
- **IRIZ** NGOs, social organizations, foundations and associations of citizens, St. Vietnamese 9 Skopje, VAT registration number: 4086016502525.
- **ESE**-Skopje, social organizations, foundations and associations of citizens, St. Maxim Gorky 20 / 1-4, Skopje, VAT registration number: 4030995341485.

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://b2.mk/news/gericht-nur-an-genehmigten-internet-glucksspielen-teilnehmen?newsid=QYq>

Opening of the Counseling Centre by the Deputy Minister of Social Affairs, Mr. Spiro Ristovski.

http://www.sos.org.mk/novosti-arhiva-ns_article-potpishuvanje-na-memorandum-za-sorabotka-vo-poleto-na-preventivata-pomegu-mtsp-i-s-8135.nsp

Signing a Memorandum of Understanding with MLSP- Ministry of Labour and Social Policy of the Republic of Macedonia.

http://www.sos.org.mk/novosti-arhiva-ns_article-promocija-na-protokoli-za-postapuvanje-11213.nsp

Signing a cooperation protocol with the MLSP, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy of the Republic of Macedonia.

http://www.mpps.org.mk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=159&Itemid=152

Implemented program activities, presented on the website of the MAPP-Macedonian anti-poverty platform, which is part of the European Anti-Poverty Network, EAPN.

<http://a1on.mk/wordpress/archives/63417>

Local cooperation with partner organizations.

http://www.sos.org.mk/preventivna-programa-ns_article-obezbreden-osnoven-uchilishen-pribor-za-decata-vo-socijalen-rizik-10613.nsp

Provision of donation-school materials for supported children.

<http://iriz.org.mk/%D0%BD%D0%B0%D1%86%D0%B8%D0%BE%D0%BD%D0%B0%D0%BB%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%BE%D1%82->

[%D0%B0%D0%BA%D1%86%D0%B8%D0%BE%D0%BD%D0%B5%D0%BD-%D0%BF%D0%BB%D0%B0%D0%BD-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%BE%D0%B1%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%B7%D0%BE/](http://iriz.org.mk/%D0%B0%D0%BA%D1%86%D0%B8%D0%BE%D0%BD%D0%B5%D0%BD-%D0%BF%D0%BB%D0%B0%D0%BD-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%BE%D0%B1%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%B7%D0%BE/)

Cooperation at the local level: preparation and presentation of the report " REVIEW OF GOVERNMENT implemented policies to promote the educational situation of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ACTION PLAN FOR EDUCATION STRATEGY FOR ROMA 2005-2015 ".

We wish you good luck!