

# 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>

<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	İzmir Progressive Roma Association (IPRA)
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	<p>Since 2006, IPRA works on integration of Roma in Izmir and across Turkey. IPRA is actively on the field at local level in Izmir and also participates in regional, national and further policy making processes for Roma integration across Turkey.</p> <p>Between 2006-2008, IPRA has organized literacy courses for women; mobilized young Roma at college or university levels to give voluntary courses for Roma children at primary education, mediated in their educational affairs; organized participatory meetings in the neighbourhoods for bringing light into the problems of the communities. IPRA has actively participated in major policy making processes at national level like "Roma Workshop" held by the government in 2009, "Roma Children Workshop" held by the Ministry of Education in 2011 and "Roma Employment Workshop" held by the Ministry of Labor in 2012.</p> <p>In 2013, IPRA has organized co-events with Konak Municipality like a touristic tour to Istanbul for almost 100 families and the Roma Festival in 2013 where more than 3000 people have attended.</p> <p>Since 2014, IPRA has been running a program consisting of projects in cooperation with İş-kur (Employment and Recruitment Office), Konak Public Education Center (HEM, Ministry of Education), Izmir ASPB (Ministry of Family and Social Affairs Izmir Office), Konak Municipality, Izmir Metropolitan Municipality and Open Society Foundation. This continuous program includes 3 main annual projects. These projects focus on vocational trainings for Roma women, especially young as well as a free preschool education service for Roma children. All these vocational projects have been running with additional courses on issues like women and reproductive health, psychologic counselling, domestic violence, addiction, women's legal rights, pedagogy, early and forced marriages, etc. in order to increase awareness of women and Roma on these issues. The head of IPRA is Halit Keser, who is also Izmir represent in ROMFO (Turkey Roma Rights Forum).</p>
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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	62
Full official address, notably street/post box, postal code, city, country	1164 Sk. No: 105/b Zeytinlik Mh. Gürçeşme İzmir TURKEY
E-mail address	<a href="mailto:halitcrd@gmail.com">halitcrd@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:guveku@gmail.com">guveku@gmail.com</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.izmircromanlar.com">www.izmircromanlar.com</a>
Statutory registration number, VAT registration number (whichever available)	Statutory Registration Number: 35.044.022 VAT Registration Number: 484 079 8129 Şirinyer VD
<b>CONTACT PERSON:</b>	
Name (Ms, Mr)	Mr. Güvenç Küçüktok
Telephone number	+90 532 409 5642
E-mail address	<a href="mailto:guveku@gmail.com">guveku@gmail.com</a>

## 2. THE PROJECT

Title of the project	Supporting Roma Integration
Period covered by the project (Section 4 point 3. of the Contest Rules)	From: _____ To: _____ <b>OR</b> Ongoing since: 31.12.2014
Geographical location of the project (Section 4 point 2. of the Contest Rules)	Izmir, Turkey
Source of financing of the project	İş-kur (Employment and Recruitment Office) Konak Public Education Center (HEM, Ministry of Education) Konak Municipality İzmir Metropolitan Municipality Open Society Foundation IPRA resources such as logistics, in-kind contributions and volunteer networks as well as sponsors like Koton Inc.
<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>	

IPRA has rights-based, integrative and participatory approach in every project and activities it follows. Rights-based means IPRA sees economic, social, cultural and political rights as a basis for human dignity. Integrative means IPRA deals with exclusion by regarding the economic, social, cultural and political aspects.

Participatory means IPRA takes into account the opinions of target groups in all policy making processes.

Since 2014 spring, IPRA runs a women stitch workshop where mostly Roma women, especially young improve their vocational skills. Women workshop has been active since “My House Remained in Ege Project” (MHRE Project) which started in 2014 Spring for a year focusing on threats of urban transformation processes upon Roma and taken place in cooperation with İş-kur, HEM, Konak and İzmir Metropolitan Municipalities. This later continued with “Capacity Building Project for Roma Women Sewing Wedding Dresses for Their Daughters (RWWD)” between February 2015 and February 2016 and Dodo Project, which started at September 2016 and will continue until September 2017.

More than 166 women benefit from these three projects in total, as trainees in the women stitch workshop. 120 of them are young adults. İş-kur provides daily wages for them with a total of 238.000 TL through all these 3 years. This cash transfer is a small but vital income for Roma women most of whom suffer from severe conditions of urban poverty and exclusion. This policy also is vital to provide a sustainable continuity to the courses.

In our 3 projects, trainers are provided by HEM. İş-kur supports vocational trainings only with the wages of participants. However, İş-kur does not support capacity development in a broader gender perspective. Therefore, it is vital to build more capacity in Roma women, especially young with provision of awareness raising efforts, organizational supports, etc. in order to build their economic, social, cultural and political rights in an integrated frame.

IPRA has been organizing additional courses on issues like women and reproductive health, domestic violence, early and forced marriages, addiction, pedagogy, legal rights, psychological counselling, etc. All these additional courses are designed via participatory processes and run with support of local, civil and formal institutions like Konak and İzmir Metropolitan Municipalities, İzmir ASPB, Open Society Foundation, Koton Inc. and other solidarity networks.

IPRA has also opened a preschool education center in cooperation with HEM and Konak Municipality in April 2016. Preschool education is universally accepted as vital for children's mental, emotional and cognitive development. Preschool rates in Turkey are low compared to OECD and EU standards and this is much more severe across Roma communities. Our latest Dodo project combines efforts in women stitch workshop and preschool center in a unique way where women will produce Dodo blankets as an income resource for themselves but also produce this pedagogic material for the center. as well as other low income group crèches. The preschool center is free of charge and served more than 50 children and their families so far.

**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.*

Urban transformation programs in Turkey affect Roma living in periphery of city centres negatively where land prices increase sharply, attracts rant seekers to push away Roma people from their neighbourhoods and traditional social spheres.

IPRA has started running women stitch workshop in frame of 2014 MHRE Project for one year in cooperation with İş-kur, HEM, Konak and İzmir Metropolitan Municipalities.

Site visits and survey in Ege, Çırpı, Çaybaşı and Urla Sıra Evleri neighbourhoods have been conducted as well as Urban Transformation Symposium in order to inform Roma communities about upcoming urban transformation processes. Approx. 1200 Roma from these neighbourhoods have been informed on urban transformation agenda during these site visits and symposium which figures approx. more than 900 Roma children and youth have benefited from that indirectly.

6 days training on domestic violence and infant psychology has been held in cooperation with İzmir ASPB where 36 Roma women participants of candle workshop attended. This figures approx. more than 45 Roma children and young adult women have benefited from that training indirectly.

36 participants of candle workshop and 30 participants of stitch workshop, both running in cooperation with İş-kur have also developed their vocational skills in frame of MHRE Project. This shows that more than 25 Roma children and 50 young adult women have benefited indirectly.

Women stitch workshop has been continued with RWWD Project starting at February 2015 for one year where 50 Roma women have finished wedding dress workshop successfully. Interviews were held with major textile and wedding companies in İzmir to guarantee decent jobs for them. 35 of participants were young Roma women as direct beneficiaries.

These women have taken courses on reproductive health in cooperation with İzmir Metropolitan Municipality and ASPB. A consensus was reached by participants for having additional courses on topics like early or forced marriages, addiction, anger and stress control, domestic health and communicating with infants. These courses were sustained along with Leadership for Women training held in cooperation with Foundation for the Support of Women's Work.

Roma women have increased their awareness on their bodies, sexuality and rights in moderation of experts during these additional courses. Their understanding on problematic inequalities rising from gender roles, has improved. More than 50 Roma women, out of which include 35 young adults were direct beneficiaries of RWWD Project.

Dodo Project started at September 2016 and will continue until September 2017 includes 50 women in average. They will attend Dodo stitch workshop which is a pedagogy material for preschools.

IPRA has also opened a preschool education center in cooperation with HEM and Konak Municipality in April 2016 where more than 50 Roma children and their families have benefited from preschool services so far.

In the sum, more than 166 Roma women benefit directly as trainees of these 3 projects. Approx. 120 of them are young adults or young. Additional trainings on topics like pedagogy and infants as well as recently opened preschool center add 130 Roma children and young as direct beneficiaries of these 3 projects.

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.*

Women stitch workshop opened in frame of 2014 MHRE Project is still running with further 2015 RWWD and 2016 Dodo projects.

Halit Keser, head of IPRA was full-time project coordinator who is Roma. Nefi Tok, project assistant in MHRE Project and project field worker in charge of organizing field visits, surveys and the symposium are also Roma.

3 non-Roma trainers were recruited by project partner İzmir ASPB. 12 volunteers assisted MHRE Project in mobilising Roma communities in the neighbourhoods.

In frame of RWWD Project, Halit Keser was assisted by a part-time project assistant, Oğulcan Ocaklı, who is also Roma.

3 non-Roma trainers were recruited by İzmir Metropolitan Municipality and İzmir ASPB.

3 voluntary trainers contributed to RWWD Project as representatives of Roma rights organizations in conducting additional courses were Roma as well.

3 non-Roma trainers were recruited by Konak HEM. Approx. 15 Roma volunteers have taken a role in organizing calendar, content of courses and organizational events like lunch.

Dodo Project is being conducted by Güvenç Küçüktok, who is not Roma and Halit Keser. Both of them are full time paid. Dodo consultancy is given part-time by Duygu Nas, who is not Roma.

2 trainers on women rights and gender from İzmir Metropolitan Municipality Women Counselling Center are also not Roma like 1 volunteer trainer on alternative education approaches. Approx. 10 Roma women volunteer for Dodo project in conducting mobilisation efforts for participating in courses, providing logistics, etc.

2 non-Roma preschool teachers in the crèche are also recruited by project partner Konak HEM.

All these figures show that 62 people in total have implemented all these 3 projects whether paid or voluntarily since 2014. 46 of them are Roma people, or almost 75 % in percentage.

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.*

Women stitch workshop which was opened in frame of the 2014 MHRE Project and was later furthered by 2015 RWWD and 2016 Dodo projects are targeting directly Roma women population as beneficiaries. The reason behind is simply the universally accepted role of women empowerment in building stronger communities.

IPRA has a rights-based, integrative and participant approach in all its actions. Therefore, IPRA regards gender as a basis for improving Roma communities' living conditions.

However, additional trainings on infant well-being and issues related to children add the boys of those Roma women directly as beneficiaries of our efforts. Still, this is pretty much less in terms of share of boys and girls in that frame.

However, IPRA efforts on awareness rising, advocacy, skills development in issues like urban transformation processes, employability, combatting poverty etc. add up also the male Roma population as direct or indirect beneficiaries of our efforts.

IPRA has opened a preschool center in April 2014 and it is free of charge for children in Roma neighbourhoods. There is no gender imbalance among the children benefiting from this preschool center. There is almost a perfect balance of gender among the children continuing to the preschool education.

**3. COOPERATING ENTITIES (fill out only if applicable –**

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.

İş-kur İzmir Office (Employment and Recruitment Institution): Main public administration in Turkey dealing with employment and recruitment services. İş-kur supports vocational training efforts of NGOs by providing daily wages to the participants in order to promote continuity and succession of the courses. Since MHRE Project which started at 2014 spring, that transfer of cash takes place as additional cash benefit. This later continued with RWW Project which started at February 2015 for a year. Our latest Dodo Project which started at September 2016 will continue to provide that transfer of cash as well. In total, an amount of 238.000 TL will be transferred to participants of women stitch workshop starting from 2014 until 2017. İş-kur also certifies all trainees in these 3 projects, a total of 166 women.

Konak Public Education Center (HEM, Ministry of Education): HEM provides preschool teachers for our free daily nursery and preschool education facility which started to run in April 2016 and has served more than 50 children and their families in total. HEM also provides trainers for women stitch workshop since 2014.

İzmir ASPB (Ministry of Family and Social Affairs Izmir Office): Izmir ASPB provides additional trainers all through these stitch courses in women workshop on topics demanded mostly by Roma women themselves like women and reproductive health, addiction, early and forced marriages, domestic violence, addiction, legal rights and counselling, etc.

Konak Municipality:  
Konak Municipality supports our activities in logistics and organizational support like renovating the preschool facility, providing network support, etc.

İzmir Metropolitan Municipality:  
İzmir Metropolitan Municipality supports our activities in logistics and organizational support and also provides trainers on additional topics.

Open Society Foundation:  
Open Society Foundation supports all these 3 projects (MHRE, RWW and Dodo) financially with a total of 245.172 TL.

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.

İş-kur İzmir İl Müdürlüğü (Employment and Recruitment Institution İzmir Office):

Legal Form: public institution

Official Address: Akdeniz Mh. Şehit Fethi Bey Cd. No: 47 Konak İzmir TURKEY

Konak Public Education Center (HEM, Ministry of Education):

Legal Form: public institution

Official Address: Eşrefpaşa Cd. No: 252 Konak İzmir TURKEY

İzmir ASPB (Ministry of Family and Social Affairs Izmir Office):

Legal Form: public institution

Official Address: Gazi Bulvarı No:97 Çankaya Konak İzmir TURKEY

Konak Municipality:

Legal Form: local administration

Official Address: Dokuz Eylül Meydanı No:11 Basmane Konak İzmir TURKEY

İzmir Metropolitan Municipality:

Legal Form: local administration

Official Address: Cumhuriyet Bulvarı No:1 Konak İzmir TURKEY

Open Society Foundation:

Legal Form: nongovernmental organization

Official Address: Kılıçalı Paşa Mh. Meclis-i Mebusan Cd. Orya Han No:19 Kat:7 34433 Beyoğlu İstanbul TURKEY

### **Section 3, point 4. of the Contest Rules)**

## 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.*



Photo 1: Project staff interviews with Roma people in Ege neighbourhood which is under threat of an urban transformation process in the agenda.



Photo 2: A flyer for the 2015 Gürçeşme Festival which was organised in cooperation with Konak Municipality.



Photo 3: Roma girls chant and dance in the 2015 Gürçeşme Festival which was organised in cooperation with Konak Municipality.



Photo 4: Roma women enjoying lunch after Leadership for Women training in frame of RWWD Project.



Photo 5: Trainees in Dodo project discuss techniques for sewing Dodo blankets in guidance of expert trainers and Dodo consultant.



Photo 6: Roma children enjoying time before they were shuttled free to the summer sports facility of İzmir Metropolitan Municipality.



Photo 7: Roma children at IPRA Preschool Center



Photo 8: Trainees of wedding workshop in RWWD Project visiting IF Fashion Wedding Fair 2015 in Izmir.



Photo 9: Participants of Urban Transformation Symposium held in frame of MHRE Project.

**We wish you good luck!**