

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	Democratic Transition Initiative - DTI
Official legal form of the participant. This legal form must be suitable for an NGO.	NGO / Civil Society Organization

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

The Democratic Transition Initiative (DTI) is a non-governmental organization that promotes the principles of local economic development, sustainable civil society, human/minority rights, and fights against xenophobia. The organization was founded in 2002 on the heels of the USAID/OTI program with the same name. It picked up on the momentum of a nation-wide network of local non-governmental and media organizations. In addition, it has advanced the cooperation of these organizations with the government and governmental institutions on local, regional and national level. We view Serbia as a society with a developed civil sector, local communities, and equal opportunities for all citizens, regardless of their gender, ethnic and political background. We work to promote the idea of a democratic Serbia, whose citizens have capacities to participate in the European and global integration processes, and to fully adopt all EU standards. DTI activities are gathered around the four major aims – local economic development, civil society development (human/minority rights) and media development.

Our trainings were in the area of:

- Strategy and action planning
- Local economic development
- Citizen participation and LED action planning
- Business and job skills training

A twinning part of the project we implement with our partners and for our target audiences, is provision of support and technical assistance in the areas of:

- Establishment of innovative municipal services (introducing new solid waste management practices – waste separation; environment protection; establishment of municipal service/information centers, communication offices, organizing campaigns, exchange of best practices and experiences with the cities from the European Union, media development)
- Sustainable and Inclusive Local community development (re-organizing of municipal structures and communication channels; establishment of sustainable dialogue/communication mechanisms with local community stakeholders and citizens in general; support and TA in establishing local LED commissions and groups)

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	DTI currently employees four people on a full-time basis, whereas over 40 activists and consultants were engaged on short-term basis since 2006, when we started our most active engagement with Roma families as vulnerable groups.
Full official address, notably street/post box, postal code, city, country	Democratic Transition Initiative, Ruzveltova 1a Street, 11000 Belgrade, Republic of Serbia
E-mail address	office@dti.org.rs
Website	www.dti.org.rs
Statutory registration number, VAT registration number (whichever available)	VAT number 103584856, statutory number 17587676
CONTACT PERSON:	
Name (Ms, Mr)	Ms. Jelena Nešić
Telephone number	+381 63 248 644
E-mail address	jelena@dti.org.rs

2. THE PROJECT

Title of the project	Belgrade Nova Platform - Strengthening Cooperation of Institutions and CSOs in Belgrade to Support Inclusive Education for Roma
Period covered by the project (Section 4 point 3. of the Contest Rules)	From: <u>15 April 2013</u> To: <u>18 May 2015</u> (approval of final report) OR Ongoing since: _____
Geographical location of the project (Section 4 point 2. of the Contest Rules)	<i>Belgrade, Serbia</i>
Source of financing of the project	<i>84.365 euros (80%) EIDHR Programme, 21.091 euros (20%) own funding by the Applicant</i>
<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>	

BELGRADE NOVA PLATFORM offers integrated approach to responding to identified problems, needs and constraints. In partnership of a CSO that provides education and support to vulnerable, deprived and families in need with the City of Belgrade as Associate, our action is providing a methodology in the very design: participation and inclusion.

As parts of the civil sector, associated with a local government with a great understanding of needs to support integrated community development, we have recognized a joint interest and joint goals with the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Serbia as defined in this Call: *Strengthening the role of civil society in promoting human rights and democratic reform, as well as strengthening political participation and representation*. CSO partners in the action are working effortlessly with the local communities in implementing innovative educational initiatives, training and development of meaningful partnerships. Our specific objective was designed to respond to capacity building through gaining immediate/direct experience, both in partnering at the local level and in mastering the practical skills, based on the broader needs. Therefore, our design envisioned capacity building in many areas: substantive participation and understanding of the basic life skills, economic activities, enhancing human rights potential at the very grass-root level, increasing capacities of both CSOs and institutions, but also other stakeholders. Reaching our action purpose - *Strengthening cooperation between civil society and institutions to provide high quality education and schooling for Roma children, by increasing capacities of both the system and beneficiaries* - is ensuring sustainable results and contributing to the global objective.

The results are grouped in the following manner, after choosing the intervention strategy coming from the problem tree analysis:

Result group 1: Recommendations report on Roma education in Belgrade communities produced

Result group 2: 150 Roma children involved in educational activities (compensatory classes); 20 school teachers and assistants trained and involved; 4 modules of adult Roma education (including economic activities); 2 modules of media training

Result group 3: 30 representatives of local/national government institutions, local CSOs and international organizations networked and planning together through Belgrade Nova Platform; 12 coordination meetings held, with participation of main stakeholders.

Result group 4: 5 community centers equipped and adjusted for educational purposes

Result group 5: 1 media campaign conducted; 1 documentary produced; joint promotional campaign by the City of Belgrade and partners conducted.

The action was addressing the following target groups and final beneficiaries in a way of accomplishing the above results:

- App. 150 Roma children (7 to 15 years of age)
- App. 50 Roma families
- App. 20 school teachers and assistants
- App. 30 representatives of local and national government institutions, local CSOs and international organizations
- App. 15 representatives of media
- App. 20 university students

Final beneficiaries: Citizens of Belgrade - local communities, schools and teaching staff in local communities, civil society as a sector, media sector, Belgrade administration, national level administration.

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.

The target groups of the project are as follows:

App. 150 Roma children (7 to 15 years of age) - although limited in scope and focusing only on five local Roma settlements over a period of 17 months, the project has helped Roma children to study and learn more efficiently, resulting in better performance at school.

App. 50 Roma families - the project has been relying on a holistic approach, focusing on the whole family, in order to support children properly. Evidence: interview with a few beneficiaries directly by project team members show that a little push in a right direction is often enough. For example, hygiene is often subject to availability of cleaning products for Roma families, but also when explained that only small changes are necessary to protect the health of children better, their future behaviour is changing.

App. 20 school teachers and assistants - to be able to make the best use of the project period and the limited time they had at hand to work with targeted children, the project worked with teachers and assistants to increase their capacities. Evidence: increased understanding of the teachers and assistants for conditions and learning difficulties of Roma children.

App. 30 representatives of local and national government institutions, local CSOs and international organizations - networking, developing understanding and cooperation. Evidence: after the first platform meeting, an organization donated funds for snacks and refreshments to Roma children during their classes in community centers.

App. 15 representatives of media - bringing the topic closer to media representatives/journalists. Evidence: as suggested by participants of the media training, the training was held in one of the five targeted Roma settlements, in order for the participants to develop a better understanding.

App. 20 university students - supporting the project by volunteering to work with the children who need additional learning support. As evidenced in a very detailed report by one of the volunteers, this was a "life-changing" experience for her, since being able to witness regularly lives of these children and their families puts a whole new light on teaching profession, but also on understanding human priorities and values are universal, regardless of the economic and social status.

One of the key themes of the project is development of cooperation between civil and public sectors. This has been achieved mostly by holding regular, live and lively meetings between various stakeholders. To this end, even though the project is of a local character, it is our strong belief that we have significantly restructured codes of conduct on both sides, which will over time result in more meaningful partnerships between civil and public.

Bearing in mind that the project is of a local character, stating that it will result in major socio-economic benefit for target groups would be a bit pretentious. However, should this initiative be replicated to more communities and extended, it would surely produce a major positive impact.

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.

Apart from the project team, there were around 40 additional volunteers, teachers, subcontractor staff conducting educational program, research and media activities. Though not correct to ask our collaborators of their national affiliation, we did target many of the Roma community experienced collaborators to work as support teachers, researchers and student volunteers. Our cooperation with subcontractors was excellent and very responsive. With one of the subcontractors – Novi Svet Roma organization – we developed a joint project proposal after the project has been completed and continued our cooperation as partners.

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.

There was an even approach to gender, as our key target groups are children. We also worked with the whole families, meaning with mothers on some issues and with fathers on other issues. There have been no gender imbalances. Also, an important accent in the project is securing results and sustainability of the practices established through the project. Having undergone the development from small and inexperienced CSO, without institutional support and relying solely on successful implementation, to middle CSO with stable cross-sector partnerships, provided us with both the tools and credibility with local communities to fully implement BELGRADE NOVA PLATFORM. With the particularity of our main target group (Roma), one of the best ways to ensure participation and political representation was to bring it directly to their communities. Additional work on inclusion is done with schools through BELGRADE NOVA PLATFORM, but more importantly with institutions, including CSOs and other stakeholders. Since the initiative for the action also came from the City of Belgrade, in search of options and creative ways to fulfil the needs in the field without having a possibility to employ additional workforce or actually finance for any additional work, this implementation/project meant a great deal to them and we are already exploring jointly donor funding for new project cycles. In addition to extended cooperation in terms of including more students and Roma families, or replicating to other settlements with continued efforts with students, we wish to take the results of this project a step further towards enhancing Roma families sustainability. Through the whole project, we mainstreamed cross-cutting issues, working with Roma women, children and informal collectors, but also strongly including the environmental sustainability element in our educational events (also with media). As explained above, these topics were quite present in our events, by nature of this project.

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.

The logic of distribution of activities and the reason these roles were assigned to partners respectively is underlying the whole action. DTI, as the lead partner, has to be in charge of all the expenditures and payments from the project budget. Therefore, DTI was taking the lead in majority of the activities - providing Project Manager for this action and Project administrator; providing key expertise in research in targeted schools; providing key expertise in preparation and execution of educational activities.

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.

Associates (were not benefiting from the project budget)
City of Belgrade – Agency for EU Integrations and Cooperation with Civil Society
Kraljice Marije No 1 Street, 11000 Belgrade, Republic of Serbia
EuropeAid ID number: RS-2010-BJL-2402071174
City Secretariat for Education and Child Protection
Kraljice Marije No 1 Street, 11000 Belgrade, Republic of Serbia
EuropeAid ID number: RS-2010-BJL-2402071174
City Secretariat for Social Welfare
27. marta No 43-45 Street, 11000 Belgrade, Republic of Serbia
EuropeAid ID number: RS-2010-BJL-2402071174

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://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oXPopOk5bX0> (Support to Dreaming - Podrška za snove - a video documenting the process of the educational support provided to Roma children and their families)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jJCpBpqxBoU> (Serial on CSO activities in the area of human rights, service provision, urban development, culture and civic-political dialogue: Do We See Each Other - Da li se vidimo - Human Rights)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hM_4RkNPP84 (Do We See Each Other - Da li se vidimo - Servisno orijentisane organizacije)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l_WRfD4COmI (Do We See Each Other - Da li se vidimo - Urbani razvoj)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8rTBdcjibZM> (Do We See Each Other - Da li se vidimo - Kultura)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fMjY79Up15g> (Do We See Each Other - Da li se vidimo - Građanski i politički dijalog)

We wish you good luck!