

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	DISUTNI ALBANIA
Official legal form of the participant. This legal form must be suitable for an NGO.	NGO "Disutni Albania (Non governative association)

<p>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>	<p>NGO "Disutni Albania", in Korca was founded in March 1995 and was registered as a legal entity in the Court of First Instance in Tirana on 25.01.2002 (no protocol 117). At the beginning its organizational activities were primarily local-oriented. In November 2011, the organization "Disutni Albania", started to appear in the bilingual TV show in English and Romani language, titled; "KNOW US BEFORE YOU JUDGE US", sponsored by UNICEF. In 2002, NGO "Disutni Albania", in collaboration with other charitable organizations supported Roma families in need, with food packages. In the same year, our NGO implemented another project, financially supported by Soros; "Roma integration through its values".</p> <p>Disutni Albania implemented a project: "Roma community awareness for participating in the 2005 elections" funded by USAID & PARTNER INDIA. Since 2005, NGO "Disutni Albania" has organized and supported many concerts held for the occasion of International Roma Day on April 8;</p> <p>In collaboration with the Albanian Red Cross and Roma Youth Forum, "Disutni Albania" has worked to improve the living conditions of Roma people in need, time after time.</p> <p>Implementations of many other projects in collaboration with other Albanian and Roma organizations as The Social Club of Korca Civil Society who have offered their partnership with our organization.</p> <p>In Collaboration with the Municipality of Korca, facilitation of Roma community participation in planting new trees in the city;</p> <p>Participation in the carnival event held in Korca City;</p> <p>Blood donation in the International Day of Blood Donation in cooperation with Roma Youth Forum.</p> <p>In collaboration with the Albanian Public Television TVSH, "Disutni Albania" has started to broadcast a bilingual program for Roma community. In this case we have good opportunity to transmit qualitative programs for children socialization and Roma parenting motivation. We work to improve our programs daily.</p> <p>From 2014 to 2016, "Disutni Albania" has implemented the Roma Versitas Program, funded by REF-Roma Education Fund, for all Roma and Egyptian students in Tirana and Korca, who needs further qualifications in computer skills, English knowledge and specific subjects from their studies. The program was very useful for our students and it will continue for two more years.</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>Chairman: Arben Kosturi 15.08.1967 Korçë (Alb)</p> <p>Coordinator: Emiliano Aliu</p> <p>Member Elona Kodhel 08.07.1987 Korçë (Alb)</p> <p>Eris Rusi 18.09.1983 Korçë, (Alb)</p> <p>Member: Danjel Hyseni 24.08.1992 Korçë (Alb)</p> <p>Member: Esat Xhambazi 28.11.1954 Korçë (Alb)</p> <p>Member: Kristi Mejdani 07.05.1993 Korçë (Alb)</p> <p>Member: Miranda Fejzo 14.04.1977 Korçë (Alb)</p> <p>Member: Manjola Malësori 11.05.1979 Korçë (Alb)</p> <p>Member: Elena Xhambazi 26.04.1986 Korçë (Alb)</p>

Full official address, notably street/post box, postal code, city, country	Rr. Mihal Grameno, Lagjia 3, Shtëpia 2, Korçë, Albania
E-mail address	arbenkosturi@yahoo.co.uk
Website	www.disutni-albania.webs.com
Statutory registration number, VAT registration number (whichever available)	VAT REGISTRATION L14714191E
CONTACT PERSON:	
Name (Ms, Mr)	Mr. Arben Kosturi
Telephone number	+355684869611
E-mail address	arbenkosturi@yahoo.co.uk

2. THE PROJECT

Title of the project	RomaVersitas Albania
Period covered by the project (Section 4 point 3. of the Contest Rules)	From: 01/09/2014 To: 31/08/2016
Geographical location of the project (Section 4 point 2. of the Contest Rules)	The project activities were concentrated in Tirana and Korça, targeting Roma and Egyptian students from all over the country attending universities in these centers.
Source of financing of the project	Roma Education Fund 122.132 Euro Disutni Albania 4600 Euro
<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 particular emphasis on the following: If the project financing is substantial, please explain how the project will be implemented, including a timeline, a budget, and a monitoring and evaluation plan.</i></p> <p>The project main objective was the increasing of the retention rate, academic performances and graduation rate, while build the self-esteem and identity of about 60 Roma/Egyptian full-time students enrolled in tertiary education in Albania in the first year and 20 new students in the second year of the project (in total 80 beneficiaries in 2 years of the project), and to improve their professional and personal skills through provision of training programs, academic tutoring and mentoring, while strengthening their Roma/Egyptian identity, over a 2-year period of time.</p> <p>The project activities were concentrated in Tirana and Korça, targeting Roma and Egyptian students from all over the country attending universities in these centers. Tirana were and still is the capital and largest city of Albania. The city hosts many public institutions and public and private universities, and is the center of the political, economic, and cultural life of the country.</p> <p>Korça is a city in southeastern Albania. By the number of population, it is the sixth largest city in Albania. Korça otherwise is called the capital of Roma, where a large proportion of them are located in this city. The city hosts the Fan Noli University, which offers several degrees in the humanities, sciences and business. The University includes a school in Agriculture, Teaching, Business, Nursing, and Tourism.</p> <p>The project consisted on five components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of the Advisory Board, Roma Versitas Student Resource Center and Library; Academic tutoring scheme; Provision of Mentoring Services; Provision of academic development services; and Student Initiatives and Projects - SIP. <p>The PDOs outcome indicators, above listed were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The improvement retention rate of Roma/Egyptian students (less of 10% drop-off rate in project beneficiaries); To increase GPA of Roma/Egyptian students against individual baseline result increase success rate in tutoring subjects, were 80% of the 60 Roma/Egyptian students are expected to successfully pass the exam(s) in which they received tutoring); To improve foreign language/computer and personal skills; To increased community involvement of Roma/Egyptian students through 10 Student Initiatives and Projects. 	

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.

Over the 2 years' implementation of Roma Versitas program in Albania, it is observed to be a continuation of this program, as has been observed the beneficiaries of this program have been growing not only in academic performance, also they could adapt to studies, are trained on computer programs, have advanced in English, learned more about the Roma history and language, are closer to each other, etc.

2 Resources Center, Tirana and Korca furnished, equipped and functional;

- Until May 2016, over 50 students benefited over 1000 hrs of tutoring, and 9 of them have been graduated successfully and 55 of them have pass successfully in the next academic year.

- Were involved over 46 tutors in different subject to assist the beneficiaries in the tutoring scheme.

- RVA Program during the first academic year 2014/2015 has successfully assisted 64 Roma students and for the second academic year 2015/2016 are 67 students. From the 55 students who were assisted for the first academic year of RVA 42 of them are continuing RV for the second academic year 2015-2016, 25 new students are new beneficiaries for the 2nd academic year of RVA, 15 students are studying for Master of Science and 52 for Bachelor. In two years of the implementation of the project and regarding exclusively to the Roma Versitas program were that the personal development skills have to be more specific and in separated courses, the students have to be pushed on the implementation of their initiatives or projects to be related to the community and to cover more Roma settlements.

In the implementation of the first two years Roma students increased their retention rate, academic performances and graduation rate, while learn more about Roma language and on Roma identity. This last have to be mention because more and more Roma students are losing their connection with the language and their identity.

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.

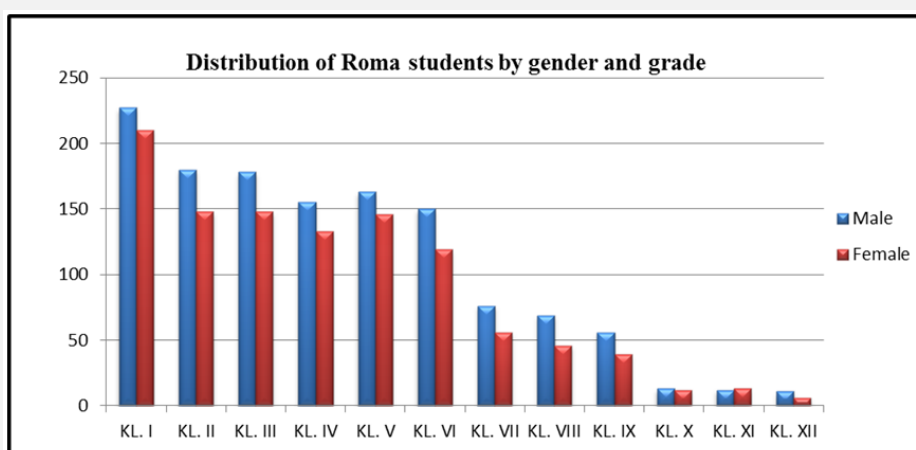
Program staff included: Senior advisors, teachers, tutors, mentors, educational experts, local coordinators working with the community. Project Coordinator drafted the Advisory Board (AB) which consisted of 5 members, of whom one was be the representative of the Ministry for Education and Sports, one was a Student representative from Roma community, and one was the representative of Disutni Albania. Two more posts will given for representatives of civil society organizations, business community and academic sector. The direction scheme was: Project Coordinator; RV Resource Center coordinator; Mentors; Finance/Admin Manager. There were selected 60 tutors for 60 students, English course trainers for two level of English courses, 2 Romanae course trainers, 2 computer trainers, 2 experts for personal development workshops.

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.

Korca Universities	Students present at University 2013-2014	Roma Students	Egyptian Students	High School Graduates	Roma Graduates	Egyptian Graduates	Approx. 2014-2015 and after
Korce	21	5	16	12	4	8	33
Pogradec	5	2	3	10	8	2	15
Bilisht	2	2	0	4	4	0	6
Maliq	1	0	1	3	1	2	4
Total	29	9	20	29	17	12	58

Tirana Universities	Students present at University 2013-2014	Roma Students	Egyptian Students	High School Graduates	Roma Graduates	Egyptian Graduates	Approx. 2014-2015 and after
Tirana	48	26	22	12	12	0	60
<i>F</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>39</i>
<i>M</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>21</i>



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.

Disutni Albania and SHIS organization signed an agreement of collaboration for this project. The main objective was to increase the retention rate, academic performances and graduation rate, while build the self-esteem and to identify about 80 Roma/Egyptian full-time students enrolled in tertiary education in Albania, and to improve their professional and personal skills through provision of training programs, academic tutoring and mentoring, while strengthening their Roma/Egyptian identity, for a period of 2-years. Disutni Albania in addition, signed MoUs with University of Korca,.

<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>Shoqata Internacionale për Solidaritet (SHIS), SHIS (Court registration SHIS Nr. 2514/1 Executive director: Ermira Azemadhi Adress: Rruga “Vaçe Zela”, Nr. 19, Tiranë, Shqipëri Kutia Postare nr. 108 Tel:355 4 22 63 209 Fax:355 4 22 63 209 Email: sekretaria.tirane@shisalbania.org Web: http://www.shisalbania.org Facebook:https://www.facebook.com/pages/Shisalbania/194289827339756</p> <p>Universiteti Fan S. Noli Korçë, Albania <u>Rector:</u>Prof. dr. Ali jashari</p> <p>Tel. & Fax : +355 822 42230 +355 822 42580</p> <p>e-mail: ajashari@unkorce.edu.al alijashari@yahoo.com</p> <p>web> http://www.unkorce.edu.al/</p>
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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.

From the beginning of the Program, 2 years ago, and until now Roma Versitas like project not only mentioned in many public and private television.

<https://youtu.be/o1k-OV-IVf4>

<https://youtu.be/b1YhmKPQTEo>

<https://youtu.be/HP9U3QX3yQk>

<https://youtu.be/YNMt6VNN5U8>

<https://youtu.be/5M0u4ZpAFDY>

<https://youtu.be/zwmR0gocibU>

<https://youtu.be/czCtNYKx2nY>

<https://youtu.be/ubaHP4DGHY>

<https://youtu.be/odZ73TkUL1w>

<https://youtu.be/I5dt7-kaNv8>

<http://www.mapo.al/2015/11/emiliano-alieu-nje-frymezues-me-ane-te-shembullit/1>

<http://www.lapsi.al/lajme/2015/10/23/uet-100-bursa-sociale-p%C3%ABr-student%C3%ABt-ekselent%C3%AB#.V2yA9Gh97IU>

Most of the photos during the RV program can be seen

<https://www.facebook.com/romaversitasalbania>