

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>

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.

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, Rom, Lom, Manushes and others and also includes Travellers without denying 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.

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

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| Full official name of the participant | UET Centre |
| Official legal form of the participant. This legal form must be suitable for an NGO. | With the decision No.564, dated on 16 th of November 2009 of the Court of Judicial District of Tirana, UET Centre it has been registered as a Non-Profit 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

UET Centre is a civil society organization established in 2009 as an initiative of a group of researchers and lecturers at the European University of Tirana (UET). UET Centre intends to contribute towards the progress and democratization of the Albanian society through policy-oriented research projects, capacity building and joint programmes in these main areas:

- Good Governance and EU Integration
- Economy and Sustainable Development
- Human Rights and Social Inclusion
- Information Technology, Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship

UET Centre has an extensive experience in project development, networking and stakeholders' engagement. It has proven to be **a committed a reliable partner** in successful project management in various national and international programmes of research, capacity-building and development such as:

- *International institutions as donors and partners:* European Commission; British Council/British Embassy; USA Embassy; NUFFIC/Netherlands Embassy; Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation; German Society for International Development GIZ; Open Society Foundation; World Vision; UNICEF; GFK; Konrad Adenauer Stiftung; etc.
- *Local (non)governmental organizations:* Agency for the Support of Civil Society; Ministry of Education and Science; Albanian Investment Development Agency; Business Albania; Chamber of Commerce; Agency for Research, Technology and Innovation; Albanian School of Public Administration; Municipality of Tirana; Regional Government; ABC Foundation;
- *Local and international higher education institutions:* LSE Research on South East Europe, UCL School of Slavonic and East European Studies, CERI Sciences Po, European University Institute, Central European University, University of Graz, University of Salzburg, University of Sapienza, University of Limerick, University of Luneburg, etc.

UET Centre maintains its commitment to *impact the society at large in Albania. To do so, the centre pays particular importance to its strategic communication, visibility of actions, dissemination of information, knowledge-sharing and exchange of experiences and know-how.*

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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 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Executive Director; 2. Project Manager (for capacity building and development projects): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Coordinator; • Finance Officer; • Support Unit; 3. Head of Research Projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associated Researchers; • Project Assistant; |
| Full official address, notably street/post box, postal code, city, country | UET Centre, Office 211 Boulevard: "Gjergj Fishta" Nd: 70, H1, 1023 Tirana, Albania |
| E-mail address | kebjana.haka@uet.edu.al |
| Website | http://www.uetcentre.org/portal/ |
| Statutory registration number, VAT registration number (whichever available) | VAT No: L01927452U |
| CONTACT PERSON: | |
| Name (Ms, Mr) | Ms. Kebjana Haka |
| Telephone number | +355 69 85 93 601 |
| E-mail address | kebjana.haka@uet.edu.al |

2. THE PROJECT

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| Title of the project | Working together and Joint Forces for Roma youth social inclusion through tailored policies and good practices on minority rights |
| Period covered by the project (Section 4 point 3. of the Contest Rules) | From February up to the November 2016 |
| Geographical location of the project (Section 4 point 2. of the Contest Rules) | Tirana/Durres/Fier - Albania |
| Source of financing of the project | This project was supported by Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Rule of Law Program South East Europe. |
| <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> | |

Better understanding of decision maker on the role Roma Focal Point, which will help to make sure that strategies and policies are adapted to the needs of the Roma people and build on the lessons learnt at local and regional level. The project aims to mainstream minority rights at the work of policy makers at the local level through the direct engagement of the Roma communities as Roma Focal Point. Project strives to increase the participation of the Roma communities in the local development agenda and to have strategic community development plans implemented in the municipalities of Tirana, Durrës, and Fieri. The participants at the roundtable were youth, activists and members of Roma communities, Roma NGOs and other CSOs working on social inclusion, local government, student and lecturers. Local government by approving Roma youth experiences as FC effectively, will have maximum impact and this is essential for addressing the problems faced by Roma people today.

The main message should be: *It is needed!!! Roma youth participation, should be “inspiring, motivating and empowered”, and easy to understand among others people involved*

*The project **primary target** are:*

1. Roma minority group in Albania, particularly:

1.1 Roma youth such as university students and graduates in the disciplines of law, social sciences, economics and humanities;

1.2 Roma young professionals that are interested in work placement and community work;

1.3 Roma community leaders and activists; entrepreneurs.

The project also targets:

2. Policy makers at the local level in Albania as well as non- Roma youth working on issues of minority rights. **Partners in the project:**

□ European University of Tirana (UET) – leading higher education institution in Albania. UET provides financial and academic support to Roma youth: study scholarships; student advising and mentorship through Student Services, Career and Internship Office and Office for Project Development

□ Institute of Romani Culture in Albania (IRCA) - very much influenced by services provided at advocacy bodies such as the Italian Institute of Culture in Albania, British Council, Peace Corps Volunteers as well as the career advice, research and documentation centers functioning within universities in Europe and North America, with most of which IRCA initiators have had their own experiences. Combination of volunteer advocacy with education services and recreation activities, has led to establishment of three youth networks: Romani Students' Network, Romani Corps of Volunteers as well as Romani Youth Parliament - Forum. Most of IRCA's activity is also featured “Kaxxura”-Radio. **Stakeholders** in the project are: Civil society organizations working on youth issues; Roma and human rights; universities, local and international donors with activities that have a focus and/or interest in human and minority rights in Albania. **This project seeks to mainstream minority rights at the work of policy makers at the local level through the direct engagement of the Roma community as Roma Focal Point.** The project will propose and establish Roma Focal Points (RFP) network and develop some practical guides to prevent discrimination against the Roma community as part of the decision making process at the local level.

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.

1. The project promoted Roma Community rights at the work of policy makers at the local level through the direct engagement of the Roma community as Roma Focal Point.
2. The project established Roma Focal Points (RFP) network and developed some practical guides to prevent discrimination against the Roma community as part of the decision making process at the local level. RFP network on sharing experiences between Roma association and other entities, media professional, lawyer, social services and monitoring activities.
3. The project offered to 25 Roma youth/students an in-depth analysis and development effective of RFP approach of the human rights system in Albania and discrimination against Roma Community;

The project objectives were achieved through the following **activities**:

- 1.1 Coordination meetings with the representatives of local level. (May 2016 - UET Centre – IRCA) Meetings with stakeholders and Roma Youth Community as Roma Focal Points at Municipality of Tirana, Municipality of Durrës and Municipality of Fieri.
- 1.2 Establishment of Roma Focal Point in Municipality of Fieri, Tirana and Durrës.
Two Roma Focal Points conducted the Internship in each municipality for 1 month (4 weeks). RFP during their internships assessed Roma Communities rights and express their needs in the municipal level, monitored Roma community access to public services. RFPs have prepared a policy report on monitoring findings.

Organization of two day Seminar/Workshop (23 – 24 June 2016): “*Participation and engagement of Roma community in local government*”. 25 Roma youth/students together with non-Roma youth, academic staff, representatives of local authorities, Roma community leaders and activists in civil society to exchange experiences, ideas, knowledge on Roma rights and youth and build networks for future cooperation.

Organisation of Round table (24 October 2016)

“*Engagement and impact of Roma Focal Points at the local government: Ways to move towards participatory policy making.*” During the roundtable the best practices of the Roma Focal Points at Municipality of Fieri, Durres and Tirana were presented as well as recommendations on how to move forward. The round table was attended by 25 young representatives of the Roma community, academic staff, representatives of local authorities and civil society organizations.

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.

Establishment of Roma Focal Point in Municipality of Fieri, Tirana and Durrës.

Two Roma Focal Points conducted the Internship in each Municipality for 1 month (4 weeks). RFPs during their internships assessed Roma Communities rights and express their needs in the municipal level, monitored Roma community access to public services. RFPs have prepared a policy report on monitoring findings.

Organization of two day Seminar/Workshop (23-24 June 2016): “Participation and engagement of Roma community in local government”

25 Roma youth/students together with non-Roma youth, academic staff, representatives of local authorities, Roma community leaders and activists in civil society to exchange experiences, ideas, knowledge on Roma rights and youth and build networks for future cooperation.

In the framework of the project: “Working together and Joint Forces for Roma youth social inclusion through tailored policies and good practices on minority rights”, UET Centre, in collaboration with the Institute of Romani Culture in Albania and with the support of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Southeast Europe Rule of Law Program, in partnership with the European University of Tirana, organized on the 23rd and 24th of June, the workshop for youth interested in the strengthen of the Roma community through the development of their knowledge of minority rights and competencies, leadership and integration at local level with the theme: “Participation and engagement of Roma community in local government”.

The two-day seminar was attended by 25 young representatives of the Roma community, academic staff, representatives of local authorities and civil society organizations. The Coordinator of the Project, Ms Kebjana Haka introduced the project aims and UET Centre to the participants.

The two day seminar/workshop was conducted by international expert/speaker, experts from the field of human rights, UET lecturers, representatives of local government institutions and

international organizations.

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.

Gender equality is a human right and one of our biggest aims towards a project implementation. Women and men's are entitled to live with dignity and with freedom from want and from fear. Gender equality is also a precondition for advancing development and reducing poverty and improves prospects for the next generation. During the implementation of this project in a strong cooperation with IRCA the Institute of Romani Culture in Albania we were engaged to promote this. In this framework we implemented three Roma Focal Point at the Local Governance. The first one Focal Point, established at the Municipality of Tirana, Roma Community were represented by two young women's and there they had the opportunity to follow their internship programme. The two others Focal Points at the Municipality of Durres and Fier, the Roma Community were represented by two boys per each municipality.

It is important to mention that during the workshops organized on 23-24th of June, 2016 with the topic related to the Participation and engagement of Roma community in local government, we observed a perfect representation of the gender balance.

**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 impact of the project is to increase the capacity of Roma to participate in local development and planning of local level institutions to address social inclusion. More concretely, the results of the project during June-October 2016, priority was given to the internships programme. The key target group included 6 Roma youth living in the region of Tirana, Durrës, and Fieri, who then completed their 2-month internships at the respective municipalities at the local level. The Roma Focal Points in Tirana Municipality are: Aurora Koçi and Behije Kodra; Roma Focal Points in Durrës: Elson Korra and Rivald Korra; Roma Focal Points in Fieri Municipality: Renart Koçi and Eduart Koçi.

This project is in line with the UET Centre priorities in the field of social inclusion of Roma communities. In the framework of its Social Inclusion and Human Rights Programme, UET Centre organized on the 24th October 2016 the final activity of the project Working together and Joint Forces for Roma youth social inclusion through tailored policies and good practices on minority rights” supported by “Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Rule of Law Program South East Europe”. The final result of the project is a Policy Paper implemented by UET Centre on the engagement of Roma communities at local government, which was distributed to all relevant stakeholders and is available online at the Publication section of UET Centre website.

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| <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>Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Rule of Law Program South East Europe (RLP SEE) seated in Str. Franzelarilor nr. 5, Sector 2, 020785 Bucharest, Romania.</p> <p>IRCA - Instituti i Kulturës Rome Në Shqipëri Adress: Rr. Myslym Shyri - S. Pitarka 24/b P.O. Box 154 Tirane 1001, Albania</p> <p>Bashkia Tiranë, legal person of the Albanian law, seated in “Sheshi Skënderbej, Tirana 1000” Fier represented by the Head of the Office for the Promotion of the City Mrs. Julinda Dhame.</p> <p>Municipality of Durres legal person of the Albanian law, seated in “Sheshi Liria,15 Fier represented by the Head of the Municipality Mr. Vangjush Dako.</p> <p>Municipality of Fier, legal person of the Albanian law, seated in Str: “Ramiz Aranitasi”, No: 15, Fier represented by the Head of the Municipality Mr. Armando Subashi.</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.

Media coverage:

Roma Focal Point - The Participation and Involvement of the Roma Youth in Local Governance

- <http://www.uetcentre.org/portal/index.php/40-roma-focal-point-the-participation-and-involvement-of-the-roma-youth-in-local-governance>

Daily Newspaper MAPO (see attachment)

- <http://www.uetcentre.org/portal/index.php/40-roma-focal-point-the-participation-and-involvement-of-the-roma-youth-in-local-governance>
- http://www.uetcentre.org/portal/images/Policy_Paper_on_RFP_UET.pdf
This policy paper is the result of the project “Working together and Joint Forces for Roma youth social inclusion through tailored policies and good practices on minority rights” supported by “Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Rule of Law Program South East Europe” and implemented by the UET Centre for the period February – November 2016. The paper is prepared by Blerjana Bino and Kebjana Haka.
- <http://uet.edu.al/index.php/sq/evente/1113-organizohet-ne-uet-aktiviteti-per-angazhimin-e-komuniteteve-rome-ne-qeverisjen-vendore>

Engagement and impact of Roma Focal Points at the local government: Ways to move towards participatory policy making. In the framework of its Social Inclusion and Human Rights Programme, UET Centre organized on the 24th October 2016 the final activity of the project “Working together and Joint Forces for Roma youth social inclusion through tailored policies and good practices on minority rights” supported by “Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Rule of Law Program South East Europe” in cooperation with the Institute of Romani Culture and the European University of Tirana. During the roundtable the best practices of the Roma Focal Points at Municipality of Fieri, Durrës and Tirana were presented as well as recommendations on how to move forward.

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.

We wish you good luck!

UET CENTRE-ROMA RELATED PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

ROMA YOUTH EMPOWERMENT THROUGH EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP



The UET Centre organized on the 03rd July the final conference on minority rights, thus concluding the project “Minority Rights in Albania: Roma youth empowerment through education and leadership”, supported by KAS and in partnership with the European University of Tirana and the Institute of Romani Culture in Albania. The UET Centre organized four workshops on the 6th, 7th, 13th and 14th June 2014, the participants in the workshop were 30 young Roma and non-Roma young activists in each workshop, professionals, students and community leaders who were selected based on an open call for applications.

“KANXURA” RADIO- UET CENTRE SUPPORTS ROMA YOUTH TO ESTABLISH THEIR OWN MEDIA



On 27th May 2015, UET Center organized the conference, "Empowerment of Roma youth through capacity development and education for alternative media", as the final activity of a one-year project in collaboration with the IRCA supported by ABC Foundation. The conference presented the main achievements of the project for Roma youth empowerment through alternative media, as well as: an assessment of the situation about competencies and media spaces for Roma community; establishment of a network of collaborators to develop initiatives that contribute to youth empowerment through education and leadership; training of Roma and non-Roma youth about mass communication, alternative media, media management projects, advocacy and activism through alternative media.

ENGAGEMENT AND IMPACT OF RFP AT THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT: WAYS TO MOVE TOWARDS PARTICIPATORY POLICY MAKING



In the framework of its Social Inclusion and Human Rights Programme, UET Centre organized on the 24th October 2016 the roundtable of the project “Working together and Joint Forces for Roma youth social inclusion through tailored policies and good practices on minority rights” supported by KAS, in cooperation with the IRCA and the EUT. During the roundtable the best practices of the Roma Focal Points at Municipality of Fieri, Durres and Tirana were presented as well as recommendations on how to move forward.