

**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.

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

*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.

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.

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	Regional Roma Educational Youth Association-RROMA
Official legal form of the participant. This legal form must be suitable for an NGO.	NGO

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

RROMA-Regional Roma Educational Youth Association is an **independent Roma youth NGO** working in the Republic of Macedonia. Formed as a network on the 15th of December 2007, RROMA concentrates on **youth empowerment** and **mobilization** through creativity, trainings and campaigning. Our vision for our youth is for them to become **promoters of positive values and active agents in social happenings**. Our mission is focused on affirmation and promotion of the opportunities for **personal development and integration**, as well as promoting **active citizenship and self-inclusion** in the creation of youth policies of young Roma.

RROMA currently has 40 active and enthusiastic youth working for our NGO with a **total membership of around 250 youth**. Our youth organize and conduct trainings, campaign in their respective communities and are extremely dedicated to **encouraging positive values** within both **Roma and non-Roma** communities. We invest in our youth through **capacity building** trainings and then expect them to **transfer this knowledge** to the youth in their own communities. They have proven themselves motivated and reliable with the responsibilities handed to them. Our NGO is truly supported by grassroots efforts and we are very proud of this.

In the past, the organization became the **first Roma NGO** to be appointed of the MK National Agency as a **National contact point** for promoting the Youth in Action programme among Roma youngsters in Macedonia. As well, the organization received the **MTV Staying Alive Award in 2010** for its creative action to **raise awareness** among youngsters regarding **HIV/AIDS**, thus making it the first Roma and macedonian organization in the world to receive such award.

Main objectives of the organization:

- **Support** of young Roma in the process of High School education
- Support in giving information for scholarships, internships etc. for getting into University
- Developing the feeling for **self-inclusion and active citizenship** among young Roma

<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>RROMA has a staff of four people, 3 full-time employed and 1 part-time (the executive director, program coordinator, youth coordinator and volunteer coordinator). At this stage, the position of volunteer coordinator is vacant. The organization tries to engage youngsters with different profiles by offering them to be coordinators or staff for certain projects, so they can have benefit.</p> <p>The structure of RROMA is the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General Assembly (GA) consisted by 13 members with different profiles (representatives of the Roma youth, Local Authorities, NGO representatives, Educational workers etc). The GA meets one or if needed more times in the year to approve the financial and narrative report of the organization, strategy paper etc. - Executive board is consisted by the 5 members (2 staff members and 3 external members). The board has the mandate from the GA to monitor the work of the executive team, ask questions about the budget, undertake actions, activities, make partnerships etc. according to the program and strategy of the organization. - Executive team of RROMA: Director, Program coordinator, Youth coordinator and Volunteer coordinator. <p>The finances are runned by a certified accountancy bureau called JIK Ekonomist-Kratovo.</p>
<p>Full official address, notably street/post box, postal code, city, country</p>	<p>Toso Kukovski bb PO32 1360 Kratovo Macedonia</p>
<p>E-mail address</p>	<p>info@rromassn.org</p>
<p>Website</p>	<p>www.rromassn.org</p>
<p>Statutory registration number, VAT registration number (whichever available)</p>	<p>Registration nr. 6565522 VAT: 4014010500910</p>
<p>CONTACT PERSON:</p>	
<p>Name (Ms, Mr)</p>	<p>Mustafa Jakupov</p>
<p>Telephone number</p>	<p>+38978424180</p>
<p>E-mail address</p>	<p>mustafa@rromassn.org</p>

2. THE PROJECT

Title of the project	Aids doesn't know about discrimination...Protect yourself!
Period covered by the project (Section 4 point 3. of the Contest Rules)	From: June 2010 To: Supported financially by MTV SAF till July 2014, officially ended by RROMA 31 December 2014 OR Ongoing since: _____
Geographical location of the project (Section 4 point 2. of the Contest Rules)	<i>22 municipalities in the Republic of Macedonia (Kratovo, Probistip, Kocani, Vinica, Stip, Berovo, Delcevo, Pehcevo, Radovis, Strumica, Gevgelija, Prilep, Bitola, Struga, Veles, Kriva Palanka, Kicevo, Sveti Nikole, Kumanovo, Skopje, Kavadarci, Negotino).</i>
Source of financing of the project	<i>MTV Staying Alive Foundation (http://www.mtvstayingalive.org/)</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>	

This long-term project worked on a serious and global issue, promoting young Roma as agents of change that care about themselves and the lives of others in the society. RROMA noticed that the data about the knowledge of young Roma about AIDS, HIV and STD is very limited or there is no data at all. On the other hand, sex has been always a taboo theme for our community and as such the exposure to AIDS, HIV and STD is always present. The youth of RROMA had the idea to assess the knowledge about AIDS, HIV and STD within the Roma communities in the beginning only in 6 municipalities by having a survey distributed among young Roma from the age of 15 till 27 years. This later on grew and got supported by MTV SAF for 4 years and involved 22 communities from 22 municipalities, also high schools from that municipalities. The idea was to have a data-base that has been missing for this community, a data that can be later distributed to the institutions responsible for health care. Parallel with the data collection, RROMA started an awareness campaign about AIDS, HIV and STD. It was a creative campaign conducted by the Roma youth by making creative videos, posters, organizing the first Staying Alive Festival in Kratovo, using social networks and services as Facebook, Twitter etc. Part of the Roma youth was trained in creative campaigning to boost their skills; part visited a ToT about HIV and STD prevention to be able to pass the knowledge in their communities by having workshops with Roma and Non-Roma youth. The whole project concentrated on 4 target groups Roma, Non-Roma, Media and Institutions. It also demonstrated commitment and active citizenship to tackle global issues together. But, also promoted Roma girls as empowered young individuals that could stand in front of a class of 30 youngsters and talk about HIV/AIDS, proper condom usage etc. The project was truly breaking stereotypes and prejudices, not only about the Roma community, but also breaking myths about Sex and HIV/AIDS. The Project goal was to improve the knowledge within the Roma community that considers AIDS, HIV and STD as a taboo theme. Working nationally on this project we managed to reach out to Roma and non-Roma youth from 22 communities and improve their knowledge about HIV transmitting. The awareness campaign was not only improving knowledge, but also promoting positive values about the Roma community and promoting them as agents of change and people that care about their health and the health of the others that live together with them in the society.

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.

RROMA was involving Roma youngsters directly in the activities of the project. 22 youngsters received training in creative campaigning, directly contributing to the design, outreach and impact of the campaign, also directing a promo-video (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R_tviffXx6I) and the first Roma youth flash-mob in Kratovo (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oTFm-Vyhus4>). Other 9 youngsters received training in Lobby and Advocacy, which was directly beneficial to RROMA, since their skills helped and enabled the NGO to sign memorandums of cooperation for Roma youth issues on the local level with 11 municipalities (Kratovo, Kriva Palanka, Berovo, Delcevo, Kocani, Vinica, Strumica, Radovis, Pehcevo, Veles and Stip). By the end of the project, RROMA trained 22 Roma youngsters as peer educators that conducted HIV/AIDS awareness raising workshops in 22 communities, but also act as youth leaders that can mobilize 440 youngsters from their communities. The project included pre and post questionnaires and in total 4400 questionnaires have been collected and processed. All data was published on the blog dedicated for the project. RROMA approached and worked systematically on this project which can be also seen by the demographic research published on the blog (<http://zastitise.blogspot.mk/2011/12/demographic-research.html>).

By the end of the project, the organization had Roma youth that could talk with Roma youth about HIV/AIDS, but also breaking the taboo of not speaking about sex in the community/family (<http://www.mtvstayingalive.org/blog/2014/08/talking-sex-with-young-roma/>). Inspiring are the Roma girl peer educators that managed to break many stereotypes, as well the leadership of the project that consisted of young Roma men and women, who despite the initial refusal/rejection by the community managed to deliver an outstanding project in the end. For example, in the first visit in Vinica the old Roma women wanted to throw stones on the youth leaders, because they believed that they are promoting sex in the community. By the end of the project, they became strong supporters of their youngsters.

The project managed to create good data that was partially published in the official blog (<http://zastitise.blogspot.mk>)

Overall, the results show that around 1200 condoms were distributed during 1st of December (World Aids Day) in 2010 to 2014. Average 212 condoms per year were distributed during the workshops in 22 municipalities. An average number of 245 youngsters (male and female) from 14 to 18 years participated annually in the 45 to 60 minutes informative meetings (workshops) organized by the Roma youngsters in 22 municipalities. A 39 pages online comic book was created containing comics from 18 different Roma youngsters (<https://issuu.com/rroma/docs/comics>).

Share of Roma staff carrying out (implementing) the project (Section 5, criterion 3 of the Contest Rules):

Please describe, in no more than 300 words, how many people – paid or volunteer, full-time or part-time – are directly carrying out (implementing) the project. What is the share in % of Roma among these people?

Do not confuse the people who carry out (implement) the project and the people who benefit from the project! For example, teachers and social assistants carry out a project while children benefit from it. However, sometimes it may be difficult to distinguish: for example, unemployed people may receive training as beneficiaries of the project and at the same time they can be employed by the project or do volunteer work to carry out the project. Therefore, describe clearly the people who carry out (implement) the project.

The project was 100% lead by Roma youth for Roma youth with Roma youth. Non-Roma too were included in the project, but as indirect beneficiaries taking part as participants in the workshops designed, organized and run by Roma youngsters. In the beginning, the executive team decided to contract and select 3 Roma youth coordinators (2 boys and 1 girl) responsible for the management and coordination of the project. Those youngsters were responsible for the trainings, campaigning and researching. In the second year of the project a new task division was created. Until the end of the project, 2 Roma girls were coordinating the whole project and the peer educators were changing for delivering the trainings. A cooperation was established with a comic group called Toxic comics and RROMA started to create comics on the topic of HIV/AIDS (<https://issuu.com/rroma/docs/comics>), but also publishing evaluation reports for MTV SAF (https://issuu.com/rroma/docs/evaluation_report_saf).

Share of women and men (girls and boys) among beneficiaries of the project (Section 5, criterion 4 of the Contest Rules):

Please state, in no more than 300 words, what the share of women and men (girls and boys) is among the beneficiaries of the project. If there are gender imbalances, please explain them and explain how these findings have been or will be used to adjust the objectives, design, planning or activities of the project. If the project is intended to benefit one gender only, please justify why that is appropriate to achieve the objectives of the project.

The leadership of the project was mainly managed by Roma girls. Overall in the activities the participation of boys and girls on the workshops was 60% male to 40% female. However, in the advocacy group for example we had 5 Roma girls and 4 Roma boys taking part. Also, on the trainings about campaigning and peer educators the percentage was like 55% male to 45% female. We are proud to say that with this project we managed to create Roma girls role models from the Roma communities involved, such as Merlin Jakupova, Fetija Demirovska and Urmeta Arifovska that managed from Roma youth volunteer to become the Program coordinator of RROMA and work directly with Roma youth in the organization.

3. COOPERATING ENTITIES (fill out only if applicable – Section 3, point 4. of the Contest Rules)

<p>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.</p>	
<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>	

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.

1. Promotional video for the campaign created by Roma youngsters in the first year of the project:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R_tvjffXx6I

2. First Flash-mob created for the first Roma youth festival raising awareness about HIV/AIDS called Staying Alive in Kratovo:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oTFm-Vyhus4>

3. Demographic research and the plan of RROMA for reaching out to young people published on the official blog:

<http://zastitise.blogspot.mk/2011/12/demographic-research.html>

4. Informative meeting lead by Roma girls in Prilep:

<http://zastitise.blogspot.mk/2013/05/informative-hivaidis-in-prilep.html>

5. Example of informative meeting in Vinica:

<http://zastitise.blogspot.mk/2011/04/fourth-informative-meeting-in-vinica.html>

6. Example of evaluation reports send to the donor. First evaluation report send to MTV SAF:

https://issuu.com/rroma/docs/evaluation_report_saf

7. Collection of the comics created by Roma youngsters in frame of the project:

<https://issuu.com/rroma/docs/comics>

8. Article "Talking sex with young Roma" published on the MTV SAF site:

<http://www.mtvstayingalive.org/blog/2014/08/talking-sex-with-young-roma/>

We wish you good luck!

From: R.R.O.M.A. <info@rromassn.org>
Sent: 28 November 2016 18:55
To: JAROLIM Alexandra (NEAR); DIGIT NOREPLYARES
Cc: NEAR ROMA INTEGRATION AWARD
Subject: Re: Ares(2016)6480046 - Roma Integration Award- further clarification required from applicant
Attachments: 3.jpg; 4.jpg; 5.jpg; 6.jpg; 7.png; Answer SARA.jpg; Audit-ROMA-30 06 14 ang-def.1-2.pdf; Question MUSTAFA.jpg

Dear Madam,

i am sending you the explanation regarding the project of RROMA. As attachment you can find the Audit letter, confirming that the project ended as foreseen. Moreover, the activities continued with publishing articles, comics, World Aids Day in December and condom distribution etc. Also, i am attaching print screens from conversation with the donor to use the remaining funds for activities of RROMA.

Moreover, if required we can send the financial sheet for 2014.

Below the links from the prtscr:

<https://issuu.com/rroma/docs/comics/3?e=3281398/9584299>

<http://www.mtvstayingalive.org/blog/2014/08/talking-sex-with-young-roma/>

regards,
Mustafa Jakupov

On Thu, Nov 17, 2016 at 6:07 PM, EC ARES NOREPLY <DIGIT-NOREPLYARES@ec.europa.eu> wrote:

[Ares\(2016\)6480046 - Roma Integration Award- further clarification required from applicant](#)

Sent by JAROLIM Alexandra (NEAR) <Alexandra.JAROLIM@ec.europa.eu>. All responses have to be sent to this email address.

Envoyé par JAROLIM Alexandra (NEAR) <Alexandra.JAROLIM@ec.europa.eu> . Toutes les réponses doivent être effectuées à cette adresse électronique.

Dear applicant or representative thereof,

Thank you for submitting your application for the Second EU Roma Integration Award for the Western Balkans and Turkey .

Based on the submitted application and declaration of honour we would like to invite you to provide us with further clarification by **Monday 28 November 2016** (23:59:59 Brussels time as registered in the Commission's e-mail system). Please be aware that failure to provide the information within the deadline may result in ineligibility of your application.

Eligibility criterion – *section 4.3 of the Contest Rules*:

Either (1st option) finished between 31 December 2014 and the day of submission of the application and lasted for at least 6 months or (2nd option) it is ongoing for at least 6 months on the day of submission of the application. It goes without saying that for ongoing projects, only activities that actually carried out and results really achieved by the day of the submission of the application may be reported.

In your application, you stated that the project officially ended on 31 December 2014 while it was "supported financially by MTV SAF till July 2014". Please provide justification and/or documents (scanned in original language and with an explanation or summary in English) **demonstrating that the project finished on 31 December 2014.**

You do not have to re-send the application form. It is sufficient to provide the required information in an e-mail replying to this e-mail.

Kind regards

Alexandra

Alexandra Sophie Jarolim

European Commission

Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations
Inter-institutional Relations and Communication

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<http://rromassn.org> ; <http://zastitise.blogspot.com>
<https://www.facebook.com/rroma.org/>
<https://twitter.com/RROMASSN>

REPORT ON FACTUAL FINDINGS FOR AN EXPENDITURE VERIFICATION OF AN AGREEMENT

MTV's Staying Alive Foundation

Project: "Aids doesn't know about discrimination. Protect yourself!"

August 06, 2014

We have audited the Financial Reports of the Project: "Aids doesn't know about discrimination. Protect yourself". This Project is financed by the MTV's Staying Alive Foundation according to the Agreement from 1st June 2013 conducted between Regionalna Romska Obrazovna Mladinska Asocijacija - RrOMA from Kratovo and MTV's Staying Alive Foundation from London.

In accordance with our contract with Regionalna Romska Obrazovna Mladinska Asocijacija - RrOMA ("The Implementer"), we provide our Report on Factual Findings ("The Report"), with respect to the accompanying Financial Reports of the period covering from July 1st, 2013 to June 30th, 2014.

Objective

Our engagement was to perform agreed-upon procedures regarding the expenditure verification of the Grant Agreement between Regionalna Romska Obrazovna Mladinska Asocijacija - RrOMA from Kratovo, and MTV's Staying Alive Foundation from London ("The Contracting Authority") concerning the Agreement.

The objective of this expenditure verification is for the Auditor to verify that the fees and expenditures claimed by the Implementer in the Financial Reports for the activities covered by the Agreement have occurred ("reality"), are accurate ("exact") and eligible and to submit a report of factual findings with regard to the agreed-upon procedures performed. Eligibility means that expenditure and fees have been incurred in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Agreement.

Scope of work

Our engagement was undertaken in accordance with:

- International Standard on Related Services (ISRS) 4400 *Engagements to perform Agreed-upon procedures regarding Financial Information* as promulgated by International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) and
- The Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants issued by the IFAC. Although ISRS 4400 provides that independence is not a requirement for agreed-upon procedures engagements, the Contracting Authority requires that the auditor also complies with the independence requirements of the Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants.
- International Standards on Auditing - ISA

As requested, we have only performed the procedures set out in the terms of reference for this engagement and we have reported our factual findings on those procedures in Chapter 2 of this Report.

The procedures were performed solely to assist the Contracting Authority in evaluating, whether the fees and expenditure claimed by the Implementer and in the Financial Reports have occurred (“reality”), are accurate (“exact”) and eligible.

Sources of information

The Report sets out information provided to us by the Implementer in response to specific questions or as obtained and extracted from the Implementers’ records and accounts. In addition we received verbal representation from the Implementer which we did not obtain in writing.

Factual findings

The total expenditure which is subject of this expenditure verification amounts to USD 12.825,63 for the period covering July 1st, 2013 to June 30th, 2014.

This amount corresponds to the total amount of fees and expenditure claimed on the Financial Reports. We have carried out a complete and exhaustive verification of the fees and expenditure claimed in the Financial Reports.

Use of this Report

This Report is solely for the purpose set forth in the above objective.

This Report is prepared solely for the purpose of submission to the Contracting Authority. This report must be treated as confidential and must not, either in whole or in part, be made accessible to third parties unrelated to the Contract nor used for purposes other than those for which they were supplied or elaborated. The Contracting Authority may only disclose this Report to others who have regulatory rights of access to it.

This Report relates only to the Financial Reports specified above and does not extend to any financial statements of the Beneficiary.

Skopje, August 06, 2014

Zvonko Kocovski, Partner