

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>

¹As 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	Udruzenje muzicke umetnosti (English title: Music Art Project - El Sistema Serbia)
Official legal form of the participant. This legal form must be suitable for an NGO.	Nongovernmental organisation

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	Music Art Project – El Sistema Serbia is a Serbian NGO established in 2010 with the aim to promote social inclusion of marginalised groups, in particular Roma children, through music education using the El Sistema methodology. Music Art Project (MAP) is an accredited member of El Sistema global and El Sistema Europe, a movement present in more than 60 countries and which reaches over 4 million children. In 2014 Music Art Project signed the Letter of Intent with the programs' founder "Fundación Musical Simón Bolívar" of Venezuela, formalizing our position within the El Sistema global network and obtaining support for our activities. At the national level, the El Sistema methodology has been recognized by the Ministry of Science, Education and Technological Development as new and innovative methodology that should be implemented in the Serbian educational system and supported by the UNESCO national commission, since it protects the intangible cultural heritage through the internationally recognized method by UNESCO global. Recently, in September 2016, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities with the aim to support the presence of El Sistema at the local level and facilitate its widening throughout the country. Furthermore, at the national level, the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit of the Government of the Republic of Serbia (SIPRU) is an affiliated partner of El Sistema Serbia.
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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	Three experts are the core team based in Belgrade: managing director, programme director and programme coordinator. There are programs in six cities in Serbia managing themselves as official “nucleos” (local El Sistema center). Although “nucleo” run independently and often customize their programs they are all strongly connected to the core team in Belgrade that serves as the executive and operational administration managing the creation, implementation, outfitting, development, and supervision of the nuclei. Thus, in all nuclei currently 15 teachers are involved in the programme.
Full official address, notably street/post box, postal code, city, country	Kumanovska 13 11000 Belgrade Serbia
E-mail address	office@musicartpro.rs
Website	www.musicartpro.rs
Statutory registration number, VAT registration number (whichever available)	VAT number (PIB in Serbia): 106569163 Registry number: 28011776
CONTACT PERSON:	
Name (Ms, Mr)	Ms. Djurdja Papazoglu
Telephone number	+381 65 205 1817; +1 819 230 3653
E-mail address	djurdja@musicartpro.rs

2. THE PROJECT

Title of the project	Orchestras and choirs of hope
Period covered by the project (Section 4 point 3. of the Contest Rules)	From: 17/11/2015 To: 16/05/2016
Geographical location of the project (Section 4 point 2. of the Contest Rules)	<i>The project was implemented in Vranje district in southern east Serbia (candidate country).</i>
Source of financing of the project	<i>Funded by the European Union and Swiss Government through the development programme European PROGRESS implemented by UNOPS</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>	

The overall objective of the Project "Orchestras and choirs of hope" is to enhance creative, emotional and intellectual capacities of children in Vranje. Since the programme has been successfully implemented in 6 towns in Serbia and has reached around 360 children the aim is to widen the network of schools and towns where the El Sistema methodology is implemented.

The specific objectives of the project are:

- Strengthen the capacities and enhance the knowledge of music teachers in the existing educational system to work with vulnerable and marginalized children by the application of the new El Sistema methodology.
- Enhance the inclusion of children from marginalized groups in the joint music project so that they can exercise their right to education and development; strengthen their self-esteem, discipline and motivation.
- Widen the network of schools/institutions implementing El Sistema methodology at the local and national level.

Raise awareness of social workers and teachers regarding the possibilities of strengthening social inclusion through the application of El Sistema methodology.

El Sistema project in Serbia, even though to modest degree, contributed to improvement of the situation regarding human rights in general and, in particular, Roma inclusion. El Sistema's approach to music education emphasizes intensive ensemble participation from the earliest stages, group learning, peer teaching and a commitment to keeping the joy and fun of musical learning and music making ever-present. The backbone of El Sistema student training is preparation for participation in orchestral and choral ensembles, which are at the soul of the Núcleo community and culture. Moreover, according to the Study prepared by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) (["Program to Support" 2007, 1 and 8](#)), the primary individual benefits attributed to these programs include improvements in academic achievement and in the psychological development of children and young people. Its social benefits include reducing the school dropout rate and the rate of youth violence, including enhancement of income generation opportunities. Music Art Project - El Sistema Serbia addresses this problem through its music innovative education initiatives which lays in prioritizing group to individual music classes. In pursuing our mission, we invested all our efforts in boosting the ties and cooperation between the Roma and Serbian communities, making the orchestras structures become the schools of successful social life because to sing and to play together means to intimately coexist toward perfection and excellence, following a strict discipline of organization and coordination in order to seek the harmonic interdependence of voices and instruments. That is how they build a spirit of solidarity and fraternity among them, develop their self-esteem and foster the ethical and aesthetical values related to the music in all its senses. This is why music is immensely important in the awakening of sensibility, in the forging of values and in the training of youngsters to teach other kids. Moreover, this programme increases self-esteem due to the mandatory public performance, self-control, critical-analytical thinking.

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.

Around 180 children in Vranje district have been involved in the project (60 brass players and 120 children singing in choir from the music school "Stevan Mokranjac", 3 public elementary schools). Regarding the target group a great progress achieved by children is evident, which can be confirmed by the evaluation done by teachers, since the beginning of the project till its end. The general position of all teachers is that they are more relaxed and children are more satisfied and make progress more easily. The Study evaluating the impact of the project on children confirmed a great effectiveness and positive impact. In addition, contribution of great importance of this project is related to the professionalization and technical improvement of self-taught Roma trumpet players, which contributes to the extension of their working life. This is of the utmost importance since almost all Roma living in Vranje district play trumpet for a living, but are forced to finish their careers in their fortyish. The reason for this early interruption is the lack of techniques, as a consequence they cripple their oral cavity which becomes dysfunctional and they are unable to play trumpet any more. As a result, they are forced to cease playing and therefore earning, which has negative consequences for them, their families and society as a whole. The aim of the project is to prevent this overwhelming trend in Vranje district and besides teaching them brass instruments playing techniques, also to help them extend their working life and achieve higher level of professionalization. Moreover, they are also taught skills necessary to promote them and secure the job. In this manner, Music Art Project with El Sistema methodology contributes to breaking of the vicious cycle of the Roma exclusion- Study carried out assessing the impact of El Sistema methodology in Vranje, Jagodina and Paracin. Along with key findings, which are very positive, a set of recommendations were produced. All classes envisaged by the project carried out, secured continuity of children at classes. This contributed to strengthening of working habits, sense of responsibility, structured learning time, which especially benefitted the children from marginalized groups. All children and youth involved in the project have improved playing technique, which is particularly important for self-taught Roma musicians, mainly trumpet players, as this represents a precious contribution to the extension of their working life. This has far-reaching benefits for them, their families as well as for the society as a whole. Thanks to the group classes and El Sistema methodology according to which every child is prized for accomplishing tasks and each member of the group has the opportunity to have a lead role in a group, children have

enhanced their self-esteem. This is particularly noticeable within socially excluded children. In addition, children are more motivated as this method is very stimulating for them.

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 foresees cooperation with 4 Roma NGOs. In each of them, one managerial post is budgeted/ paid, while 2 volunteers in each NGO are to be included in the project. Task of the volunteers is to monitor the work of primary schools and to maintain contact with the parents, in cooperation with professors from the mentioned schools who are working with children, in order to achieve their regular attendance and successful progress of the project. Professors implementing the project in the music school and primary schools, 10 of them in the Vranje district, are paid by the Ministry of Education and are including El Sistema program in the regular curriculum. In addition, they receive reimbursement for their overtime in the frame of after school activities, for which they are reimbursed through the project "Orchestras and Choirs of Hope". The project thus includes financing through public system as well as from additional sources. In addition to professors in public schools, 4 psychologists and 4 pedagogues are also included, paid by the Ministry of Education. In total, on the territory of Serbia El Sistema program has a network of 30 professors, 10 psychologists and over 20 volunteers within institutions

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.

So far, work in the Vranje district involved over 60% of girls, from the total number of children. However, having in mind that the project involved children who, are street players, players that are not within the education system and the fact that number of Roma children in the education system is generally smaller, it is understandable there were no Roma girls. Thus the continuation of the project this year foresees work in the music schools as an extra curricular activity. Consequently, the project will reach out to Roma girls, having in mind that Roma children represent majority of pupils in the schools selected for the project.

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>We implement El Sistema's music teaching methodology in the existing public school framework through our partnerships with both government entities and NGOs, such as the Ministry of Education. The majority of our time and funding in the last five years has concentrated on training teachers who've committed to using El Sistema methodology in their teaching, as well as building our base of students. The Ministry of Education has provided us with support in introducing a teaching methodology within established music schools. Although "nucleo" run independently and often customize their programs they are all strongly connected to the core team in Belgrade that serves as the executive and operational administration managing the creation, implementation, outfitting, development, and supervision of the nucleous. This makes our program more sustainable, because they use school resources and facilities that children already have access to. In fact, many of our teachers are paid to teach El Sistema methodology by local city organizations, such as Cultural Centres in Novi Sad and Belgrade, or the Ministry of Education, because they realized its long-term value. In the Vranje district, our Organization covers over 70% of the organizational share, because it is tasked with composing of the curriculum, monitoring of the children's progress, conducting of studies and progress analysis, teachers' training and monitoring of their progress, organization of concerts, round tables, conferences, PR and visibility activities, as well as contacts with municipalities, city Council, Ministry of education and other relevant institutions.</p>
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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>Participants in the project in Vranje district:</p> <p>Music school "Stevan Mokranjac" in Vranje Primary schools: Dositej Obradovic from Vranje Vuk Karadžić from Surdulica Predrag Devedžić from Vranjska Banja NGO Roma Cultural Centre – Vranjska Banja IB-17364375 VAT-102469993 Romani Asvi, Vranje; IB- 17657313, VAT-104484526 SASTIPE, Vranje IB- 28184441 VAT-109218290 Roma Women's Association; Association of Roma Intellectuals, Surdulica/Vladicin Han IB-17436406 VAT-100927987</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.

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

<http://musicartpro.rs/>

<https://twitter.com/Elsistemaserbia>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PLnqp9EW9cLeXvG7f4BFG8iWLCwwp4D_2n&v=jhQpqc_zMms

(Sistema Serbia participated with 20 children from Cuprija (8 of them from the Roma community) at the "SEYO – Sistema Europe Youth Orchestra" 2015 Summercamp)

<http://www.ertestiftung.org/civil-society-forum/wbcsf2015/forum/>

(Sistema Serbia played with children from Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia at the opening of the civil society forum)

We wish you good luck!

European UnionSecond Roma Integration Award for the Western Balkans and Turkey
Annex 1: Application Form

From: djurdja papazoglu <djurdja72@gmail.com>
Sent: 28 November 2016 23:26
To: JAROLIM Alexandra (NEAR)
Subject: Roma awards

Dear Ms. Jarolim,

Please find below the clarification requested:

The association Music Art Project – El Sistema Serbia has been established in 2010 and since 2014 we are working with children, with particular focus on vulnerable children, such as Roma, poor, orphans, and disabled. Since June 2014, the programme has been implemented in six towns in Serbia in collaboration with primary and musical schools, as well as with Welfare Centre in Novi Sad and Zvecanska Orphanage in Belgrade.

The fundamental characteristic of El Sistema methodology is its inclusiveness in contrast with segregation, i.e. the aim is to integrate children from segregated groups into mainstream society. Thus, our programme is not focused exclusively on Roma children, but on all children, with particular focus on vulnerable groups and stimulate their interaction with non-vulnerable children. Nevertheless, Roma children have represented a significant share of the total number of children involved. Namely, in the Welfare Centre in Novi Sad out of 20 children involved in the programme, 70% of them are Roma. In School for Music Talents in Cuprija, out of 70 children, there are 20 Roma children; in Jagodina and Paracin out of 100 children in total, around 10% are Roma. In Obrenovac out of 30 children, 10 are Roma, whereas in Vranje, out of 180 children, almost 50% are Roma.

Please find below some videos that testimony our work with children from vulnerable groups, including Roma community:

2016 – Vranje <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZlOFJfMtyD4>

2015 – Children performing in la Scala in Milan together with Youth orchestra from Caracas <https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PLnqp9EW9cLeXvG7f4BFG8iWLCwwp4>

2015 – Children from Serbia performing at the Western Balkans Summit, part of the Berlin process held in Vienna <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hQboB-1uSJQ>

2014 – Children performing Ode To Joy in Kolarac Concert Hall in Belgrade, where significant number of Roma children took part https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y_MZHQzLhPU

We remain at your disposal for any other information you may require.

Kind regards,
Djurdja Papazoglu
Music art project- El sistema Serbia