

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

*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

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.

1. THE PARTICIPANT

Full official name of the participant	Citizens Association Institute for Human Rights Skopje
Official legal form of the participant. This legal form must be suitable for an NGO.	Citizens Association registered under the framework of the Law on Associations and Foundations in Republic of Macedonia
Participant's history, aim and main activities (no more than 300 words). Demonstrate in particular the eligibility criteria under Section 3 points 2. and 3. of the Contest Rules	The Institute for Human Rights (IHR) was established in 2009 as nongovernmental organization dedicated to promotion, advancement and protection of the human rights and freedoms through continuous education of the professional public, as well as analysis of the situations, organizing expert discussions within the frames of the legal profession and discussions for the general public, with the aim of strengthening the capacities and mechanisms for promoting, guaranteeing and protecting the human freedoms and rights. Since its establishment, the Institute has worked on numerous projects and published many publications related to rule of law and human rights issues. Some of the projects dedicated to the Roma issues are: • "Right for education of the Roma children with special focus on Roma girls" ; • "Strengthening the mechanisms for implementation of the rights of the smaller communities" ; • "Discrimination of the Roma in the educational process: Breaking the wall of rejection and segregation" • "Shortcoming of the law for prevention and protection against discrimination"; • "Analysis of application of Law on prevention and protection against discrimination" The members of the Managing and Advisory Board of the IHR are a group of distinguished legal and other professionals: relevant experts - former judges (at the European Court of Human Rights as well as at the Supreme Court and Constitutional Court of the Republic of Macedonia), University professors, lawyers, and moreover representatives of other CSOs and state institutions, who provide relevant expertise for different aspects of protection of human rights.

Annex 1: Application Form

Staff count: approximate number of people, voluntary or paid, full-time	5 fully engaged employees 3 volunteers
Full official address, notably street/post box, postal code, city, country	Rajko Zhinzifov 49A, 1000 Skopje, Macedonia
E-mail address	ihr@ihr.org.mk
Website	www.ihr.org.mk
Statutory registration number, VAT registration number (whichever available)	6486703
CONTACT PERSON:	
Name (Ms, Mr)	Dzenifer Dzeladin
Telephone number	+ 389 70 907 264
E-mail address	dzenifer.dzeladin@ihr.org.mk

2. THE PROJECT

Title of the project	Improving the right to education of Roma children with a special focus on Roma girls through establishing a long term mentorship
Period covered by the project (Section 4 point 3. of the Contest Rules)	From: <u>01.11.2015</u> To: <u>29.02.2016</u>
Geographical location of the project (Section 4 point 2. of the Contest Rules)	<i>Districts Madgari (Municipality of Gazi Baba) and Gjorche Petrov (Municipality of Gjorche Petrov) 1000 Skopje, Macedonia</i>
Source of financing of the project	<i>Embassy of Canada for Serbia, Macedonia and Montenegro</i>
Objectives, design, planning and activities of the project (Section 4 point 1., Section 5, criterion 1 of the Contest Rules): <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</i>	

This project contributed to increase of retention rate and improvement of educational performance/outcomes through additional mentored classes of mathematics, Macedonian and English language and human rights-children's rights, to Roma children in primary education where there are mixed primary schools classes with at least 15% Roma children enrolled. The activities under the auspices of this project were focused on two municipalities on the territory of Skopje, the Gazi Baba and Gorce Petrov Municipality which have the largest population of Roma ethnicity after the Shuto Orizari Municipality. The main project activities were:

- Establishing present and future cooperation with the municipalities of Gazi Baba and Gorce Petrov in Skopje;
- Establishing cooperation with three schools "MPS Njegosh" MPS Gorce Petrov "and" MPS Strasho Pindzur " in the municipalities of Gazi Baba and Gorce Petrov in Skopje and signed Memorandum of understanding with the Faculty of Pedagogy "Ss. Kliment Ohridski "Skopje;
- Selection of the four mentors –students at the Faculty of Pedagogy - of Roma nationality for implementing the additional tutoring classes;
- Realization of mentoring classes of mathematics, human rights- children's rights, Macedonian and English language mentoring classes that were held once a week for 60 minutes per subject and covered total of 116 Roma children from three schools;
- Providing the Roma pupils with the necessary school materials for smooth realization of their school assignments and improving their grades. The students were given a box containing notebooks, pens, pencils, rulers, all kind of colors, etc;
- Conducting meetings with parents of Roma children in all three schools in which they could emphasize the problems faced in the education of children, their concerns and needs for better education and to learn about their rights regarding the education of their children;
- Realizing meetings with parents of Roma children in all three schools in which they could emphasize the problems faced in the education of children, their concerns and needs for better education and to learn about their rights regarding the education of their children;
- Conducting analysis "Right to education of Roma children with special focus on Roma girls" that sums up the information gathered during the project implementation and the data obtained through free access to public information and as well contains

specific conclusions and recommendations;

- Public presentation of the analysis and the video was held on 02.03.2016 and it was our honor to have the Ambassador of Canada H.E. Phillip Pinnington to address the audience which was consisted of representatives of all stakeholders regarding the education of the Roma children;

- The meetings with parents in the village Jurumleri, Gazi Baba Municipality, led to an initiative. Namely, the IHR in the behalf of the Roma parents delivered an initiative-petition signed by 26 Roma parents (of children aged 3-5) aiming to enable Roma children from this village to attend preschool kindergarten located in the village since there were obstacles to it. (This activity was not funded and was realized on voluntary basis);

We believe that the exemplary realization of all these activities, the results and their indicators make this project very successful one.

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.

This project targeted the drop-out during primary school as a main problem regarding the Roma pupils in primary schools, especially regarding Roma girls where it results with early child marriages, The drop out is particularly evident in the time of transition from lower to higher years of education, as well as from primary to secondary education.

It aimed at improving the education of Roma children aged 6-12, on topics in which they show lower achievement in certain subjects which are important for improving of their education and contributed to increase retention rate and improved educational performance through mentorship of Roma children who study in the three elementary schools. It was observed that because of the fact that the project coordinator and the mentors were Roma nationals, the students were more open, intrigued and they had better understanding of the material since it could be explained in their mother tongue too. Great influence to the motivation of the students was the fact that the project coordinator and the mentors of the additional classes were Roma nationals and they were real cases of all the possibilities that the education gives, which resulted in increased grades, increased attendance of classes and hard work of the students.

Additionally, the students were motivated to fight for their rights, they closely acknowledged the meaning of the education and its value as a tool for accomplishing their life goals. In this regards, there are several cases in which the students were encouraged to ask from their teachers to be replaced from the last school desk to the front ones with aim to better focus on the material taught and be mixed seating composition with their co-students Macedonians.

Analysis "The right to education of Roma children with a special focus on Roma girls" summarizes the information gathered during the project and presents a realistic picture of the situation of the education of Roma children. Based on the findings of analysis conclusions and recommendations were prepared in order improving the condition for enabling implementation of the right to education of Roma children. The analysis was published and disseminated in hard copy and it is as well available in electronic version.

The results of this project will be part of long-term activities to be undertaken by all stakeholders, including civil society, state institutions in the field of education, municipalities and schools, in order greater inclusion of Roma children, especially girls education process, increased continuing education at higher levels and reducing underage marriages.

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 implementation team was 60% consisted of Roma nationals as the Project coordinator, the four mentors, and majority of women included in the video are Roma. The rest of the team and the people included in the video were non-Roma but it must be emphasized that they dedicate their work to Roma integration, inclusion and empowerment.

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.

As the name of the project "Improving the right to education of Roma children with a special focus on Roma girls through establishing a long term mentorship" says, the project was planned to bear gender imbalances due to the focus of Roma girls. Nonetheless, as the realization of the activities started it was evident that there will be no gender imbalances as equally Roma girls and Roma boys were interested for and participated in the mentoring classes and were direct beneficiaries of this project. There was a gender balance in the selection of the Roma mentors. In the video there was gender misbalance which was due to the nature of the focus of the video.

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 project was fully (100%) implemented by the Institute for Human Rights.
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.	IHR implemented this project as sole applicant but we would like to give our acknowledgements to the Municipality Gorce Petrov and Municipality Gazi Baba, the elementary schools MPS Gjorce Petrov, MPS Strasho Pindzur and MPS Njegos and the Faculty of Pedagogy "Ss. Kliment Ohridski " Skopje at the University "Ss Cyril and Methodius". For the needs of the project memorandums of understanding was signed with every of these institutions. We are also grateful to the municipalities and schools' administration, staff, teachers, students and their parents about the mutual cooperation, successful participation and contribution to the project.

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.

Amateur documentary video "Education - a window of opportunity for Roma girls" available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kFRhGELLwzM>

The final analysis "Right to education of the Roma children with focus on Roma girls" available at: <http://ihr.org.mk/pub/obrazovanie.pdf>

The project coordinator Dzenifer Dzeladin was a guest speaker on national television MRTV in the Roma program “Biandipe” where she promoted the project, its results and benefits.

Video available at:

<https://www.facebook.com/%D0%98%D0%BD%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B8%D1%82%D1%83%D1%82-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D1%87%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%B5%D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%B8-%D0%BF%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%B2%D0%B0-%D0%98%D0%A7%D0%9F-Institute-for-Human-Rights-IHR-115670208493264/videos>

The project was continuously promoted on the IHR web page and its social network profiles.

Video of the last mentoring/tutoring class:

<https://www.facebook.com/%D0%98%D0%BD%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B8%D1%82%D1%83%D1%82-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D1%87%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%B5%D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%B8-%D0%BF%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%B2%D0%B0-%D0%98%D0%A7%D0%9F-Institute-for-Human-Rights-IHR-115670208493264/videos>

Album of the implementation of the whole project:

https://www.facebook.com/%D0%98%D0%BD%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B8%D1%82%D1%83%D1%82-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D1%87%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%B5%D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%B8-%D0%BF%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%B2%D0%B0-%D0%98%D0%A7%D0%9F-Institute-for-Human-Rights-IHR-115670208493264/photos/?tab=album&album_id=1057981780928764

Picture disseminated by the Canadian Embassy to Serbia, Macedonia and Montenegro on its official facebook fan page:

<https://www.facebook.com/KanadauSrbiji/photos/a.439038192892750.1073741828.436079483188621/767855530011013/?type=3>

We wish you good luck!