



EU AND SERBIA AT WORK

FACT SHEET

WE ARE HERE TOGETHER – EUROPEAN SUPPORT FOR ROMA INCLUSION

Project *We Are Here Together – European Support for Roma Inclusion* is funded by the EU and implemented by OSCE Mission to Serbia in cooperation with Office for human and minority rights.

Since June 2013, the project has supported the implementation of the Strategy for Improvement of the status of Roma in the Republic of Serbia in following areas: **access to fundamental rights, citizen participation, education, health and social care, adequate housing and creation of new jobs**. Apart from numerous efforts to improve the status of Roma, their community remains one of the most vulnerable in Serbia, which is manifested by their extreme poverty and their hindered access to rights and services. Project *We Are Here Together* was created with the aim to combine resources on the ground, coordinate relevant services and institutions and work efficiently in several key areas for the Roma status.

Large part of project activities has been implemented in 20 pilot towns/cities: Bela Palanka, Bojnik,

Bujanovac, Knjaževac, Koceljeva, Kovin, Kragujevac, Krusevac, Leskovac, Novi Sad, Odzaci,

Palilula, Pancevo, Prokuplje, Smederevo, Sombor, Valjevo, Vranje, Zitoradja and Zvezdara.

Programmes aimed to prevent children from leaving school, as well as those designed to support Roma employment, have been implemented across Serbia.

The project is funded by the EU with **€4,8 million**.

RESULTS

- There have been more than **749 administrative and judicial procedures** initiated in order for Roma to obtain personal document and legal assistance, and get included in health care, education and social care systems. So far, 292 requests have been resolved.
- **Mobile teams for Roma inclusion**, apart from the assistance provided in the enrolment of 600 children in pre-school institutions, also work on the ground and assist individuals and entire families.
- In **the first mentor-monitored training cycle** aimed at Roma and civil society organisations (CSOs) dealing with Roma inclusion, 30 OCDs and four networks took part.
- School year of 2014/2015 saw the provision of **monthly scholarships for 525 Roma** students, as well as mentor and peer support. Training and licensing of 178 pedagogical assistants have been supported as well. It is planned that the next year brings additional 475 student scholarships.
- Following the situation analysis in 20 pilot towns/municipalities, priority list is being prepared for the creation of infrastructure projects. Creation of urban development plans for 13 subtenant settlements is planned. All of the Roma settlements in Serbia have been mapped, while information system that would allow monitoring and improvement of living conditions is being prepared.
- 19 selected businesses with potential to employ Roma, as well as Roma entrepreneurs, receive support in the form of equipment, mentoring and training, in order to employ some 70 Roma.





EU AND SERBIA AT WORK

WHAT USERS SAY

Sinisa Konstantin from the village of Bavaniste, Municipality of Kovin, says he is satisfied with the cooperation with mobile team for Roma inclusion, whose support brought electricity, packages of social care, food etc. to the residents of the settlement. According to a scholarship holder, Željka Fan from Zabalj, high school students want a college degree, which is why the scholarships are so important to students and their parents.

Thanks to mobile team deployed in the Municipality of Smederevo, Safeta Haske has for the first time received personal documents, thus acquiring access to social and health care services.

Project envisages the establishment of mobile teams in additional 20 towns and municipalities. New employment methodology may be obtained from relevant ministries and agencies. Local self-governments, ones that have drafted detailed regulation plans of Roma settlements and developed construction projects in the framework of this project, will be able to apply for donations (within IPA 2013) and improve living conditions.

CONTACT

Ana Milenic, EU Delegation, E-mail: ana.milenic@eeas.europa.eu

Maja Milenkovic, OSCE Mission to Serbia, Tel: 062 8848 012, E-mail:

maja.milenkovic@osce.org

