3rd Task Force meeting of the Roma Integration 2020

Regional Cooperation Council
Roma Integration 2020

Skopje, 4 December 2018
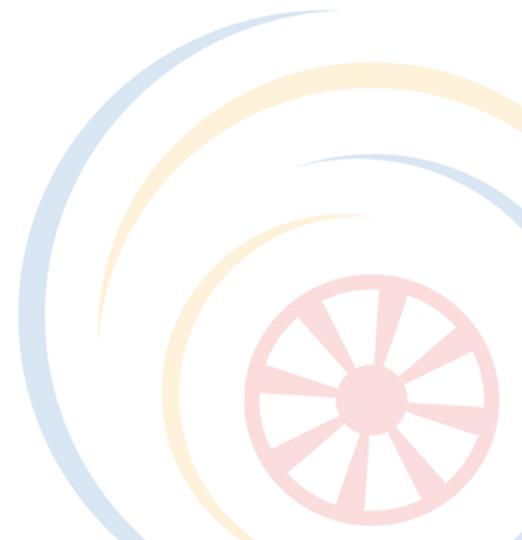
Task Force

II meeting: Belgrade, 20-21 September 2017

- Monitoring and Reporting Template – final; Incorporate in Strategy/Action Plan

- Reporting deadline (June), update (December)

- Continue monitoring and reporting support

- Initiate Roma responsible budgeting

- Discussed: implemented activities, regional online reporting platform, Joint Declaration, Phase II

2018 Achievements

![ROMA INTEGRATION 2020 – Regional Cooperation Council]

Strengthening capacities

- **Consultation-meetings and communication with governments**

- **Expert support**
  - Action Plans
  - Monitoring Reports 2017
  - Working Group on Roma responsible budgeting

- **Contribution to EU Enlargement agenda**
  - **EU events;**
  - **Roma Inclusion Seminars.**

National Platforms

- **2018 cycle completed**
  - improved dialogue
  - Increased access to information from the field

Recommending Policies

- **Policy Briefs issued after National Platforms – recommendations on prioritization and necessary improvements**

Regional Conferences

Filling in the Budget Gaps in Roma Integration Policies,
Tirana, 10 November 2017,80+ participants

- strengthened links with donors
- funding obstacles identified

Addressing Discrimination and Anti-Gypsyism in the Enlargement Region, Berlin, 13 February 2018, 80+ participants

- concept introduced, need to recognize it officially
- combat institutional anti-Gypsyism
- target mainstream population

Regional Conferences

Holistic Approach to Housing of Roma in the Enlargement Region, Bar, 31 May – 01 June 2018, 80+ participants

- regional publications prepared
- pursue legalization

Economic (In)Dependence of Romani Women: Challenges and Early Causes, 31 October 2018, Belgrade, 100+ participants

- current vs. promising practices

Innovative Approaches to Employment of Roma, Budapest, 10-11 December 2018 (upcoming)

Regional and International Cooperation – Project Synergies

- ROMACTED

- EC WB UNDP Regional Roma Survey 2017

- FRA & EUROSTAT

- EIGE (European Institute for Gender Equality)

- ESAP

- REF
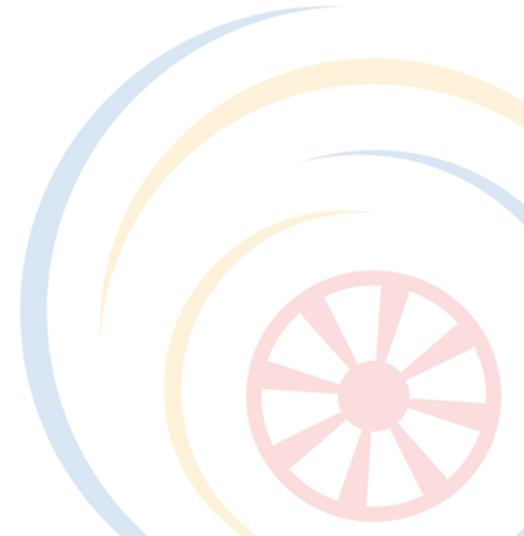
Visibility

- **Website**

www.rcc.int/romaintegration2020/

www.rcc.int/romaintegration2020/romadecade - since 2018

www.rcc.int

- **Social Media**

Twitter @RomaIntegration // Facebook @RomaIntegration2020

More than 11 000 followers in total

RCC Channels

- **RI 2020 Newsletter + inputs to Roma Inclusion Newsletter**

- **Publications**

Targeting Roma in Housing Policies of the Western Balkans

Guidelines for Roma responsible budgeting – in preparation

Roma Integration 2020 Monograph – in preparation

- **Media covering of RI2020 events & TV and Radio appearances**

Balkan Barometer 2018 vs (2017)

- **Perception - importance of Roma integration for**
  - regional cooperation - **2.8** (2.6)
  - EU Integration - from **3.0** (2.7)
  - **support remains below average**

- **Perception – support for affirmative measures**
  - education – **76%** (73%)
  - public employment – **73%** (70%)
  - housing – **71%** (66%)

- **From 2019 – question on social distance**

Monitoring Reports 2017

- **Improved reports and monitoring capacity**
- **Increased budgetary allocations**

- **Remaining issues:**
  - impact indicators
  - disaggregated information
  - institutional capacities
  - lack of mainstreaming
  - 54% measures implemented; 47% of budget executed

- **Follow up – Meetings with Statistical Offices**

Regional overview - Education

- increased enrolment and completion at all levels of education

NEEDS RESOLVING:

- from project based to institutional action
- affirmative action: improve and scale-up existing models
- transition from one level of education to another
- support dropouts and children returnees
- review curricula + more materials in Romani
- segregation

Regional Overview - Employment

- improved outreach

- increasing number of Roma in ALMMs

NEEDS RESOLVING:

- monitoring in period after initial employment / establish real number of unemployed

- recognizing needs of Roma in employment programmes

- participation criteria (not accounting for Roma)

- Representation of Roma in public sector

- short duration of employment programmes

Regional Overview - Housing

- construction continues (predominantly donor funding)

- more mapped territory (continue)

- introducing holistic and participative approach (implement)

- eviction and alternative accommodation criteria (continue)

NEEDS RESOLVING:

- adjust legalization criteria / do Roma benefit?

- increase government funding

- local level capacities & participation, discrimination

- include Roma settlements in urban plans

- comprehensive social housing database

- prioritize Roma – mainstream policies

Regional Overview - Health

Outreach activities:

- health insurance

- preventive services

- awareness raising

NEEDS RESOLVING:

- over-reliance on health mediators / insufficient institutional ownership

- lacking mainstream support and information

Regional Overview – Institutional Capacities/Structure/Mechanisms

- **IDBs**
  - structure unchanged
  - meet rarely
  - should provide more inputs and decisions

- **Staffing of NRCPs offices**

- **Lack of connection to budgets – Lack of personnel dealing with expenditure for Roma integration**

Roma Responsible Budgeting Initiative

- **Working Group (WG) Formed**
- **In-economy and WG Meetings Concluded**
- **Document developed**

- **Main Findings:**
  - different stages of programme budgeting
  - **policy ↔ budget** (lack of/insufficient connection)
  - **exact expenditure cannot be stablished**
  - lack of capacities

Roma Responsible Budgeting – Proceeding to 2019

| pilot 2 budget programmes (5 steps) | on-the-spot expert support and training | Economy-specific guidelines |

Additional Suggestions

- NRCPs in budget hearings

- amend budget circular (expenditure reporting)

- staffing (1 employee in NRCP office/Ministry of Finance)

Joint declaration

Text prepared & shared

- concrete objectives in thematic priorities ↔ EU interim benchmarks
- evidence based policies
- Roma responsible budgeting
- include local governments and Roma CSOs
- Roma integration indicators in flagship initiatives
- Western Balkans in post-2020 Agenda

To be signed in early 2019
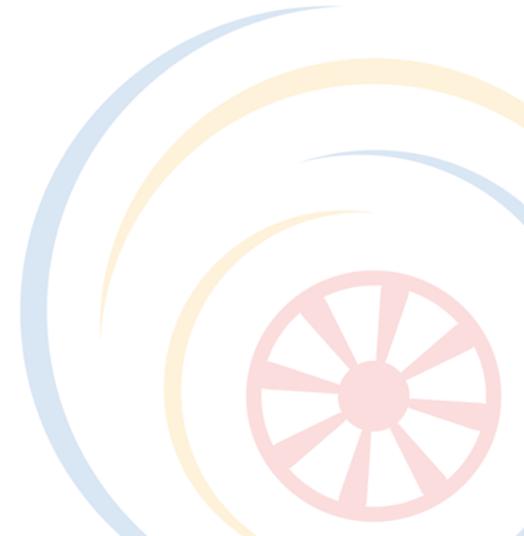
3rd Task Force meeting

ROMA INTEGRATION PHASE II

Regional Cooperation Council
Roma Integration 2020

Skopje, 4 December 2018
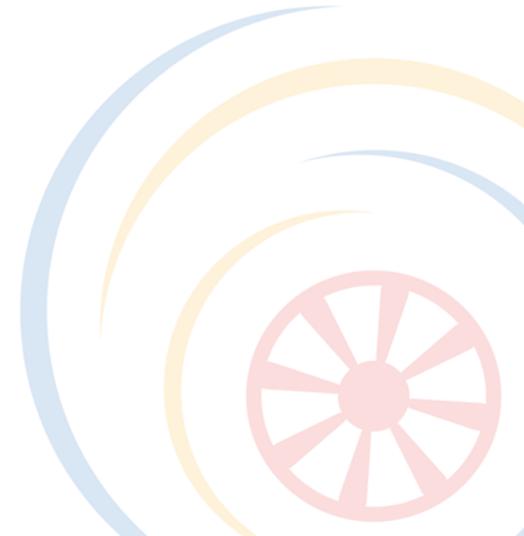
Basic Information

|	
Name	**Roma Integration (phase) II**
Implementing	**Regional Cooperation Council**
Donors	**European Union & Open Society Foundations**
Timeframe	**January 2019 – December 2021**
Location	**Western Balkan and Turkey (enlargement)**
Team	**7**
Office	**Belgrade**

Intervention Logic

IMPACT*:*

To reduce the **socio-economic gap between the Roma and non-Roma population** *in the Western Balkan and Turkey.*

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE:

To increase the **rate of implementation** *and the* **budgetary allocations** *for the Roma integration policies by the governments of Western Balkans and Turkey   as part of the EU accession.*

Objectives (intermediary outcomes)
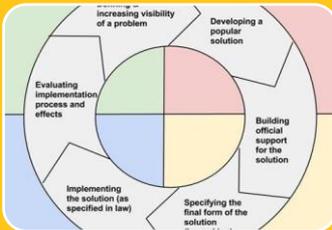
Improved **capacities and practices** of the governments and the civil society of the Western Balkans and Turkey **in formulating, budgeting, implementing and monitoring** their Roma integration policies, including a specific focus on mainstreaming Roma integration priorities in sector strategies and reform.

Enhanced **regional cooperation and exchange** of know how among the governments and the civil society of the Western Balkans and Turkey on the issue of integration of Roma, including concrete actions.

Increased **input** of the governments of the Western Balkans and Turkey to the process of Roma integration in the context of **EU accession**, as well as on the post 2020 EU policy on Roma integration.

Outputs: 1. Policy Capacities

- Institutional structure and policy documents.

- Mainstreaming in sector strategies and budgets.

- Actions in:
  - housing legalization, and
  - formalizing undeclared work.

Outputs 2: Regional cooperation

- Policy (formulation / implementation) evidence.

- Regional standards:
    - budgeting,
    - monitoring and reporting,
    - housing legalization, and
    - formalization of undeclared work.

- Public support.
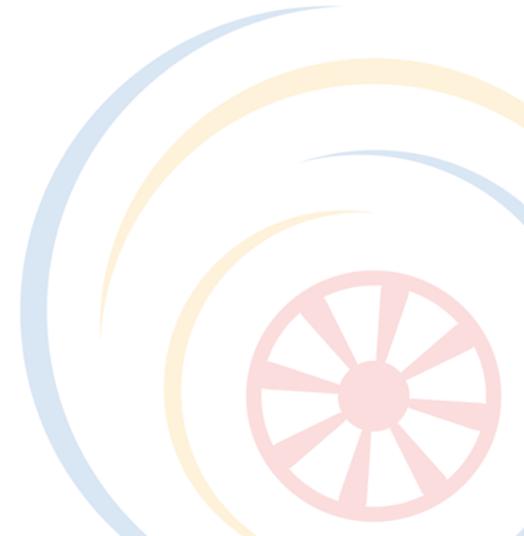
Output 3: EU Accession

- Roma integration in EU accession:
    - reporting
    - political documents
   - processes
    - IPA planning.

Activities & Calendar

Activity	1-I	1-II	1-III	1-IV	2-I	2-II	2-III	2-IV	3-I	3-II	3-III	3-IV
A1.1. Roma Integration Policy and Governance Clinic	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
A1.2. Sectoral Roma Integration Actions	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
A1.3. National Platforms on Roma Integration		■	■		■		■			■		
A2.1. High level meetings on Roma integration	■									■		
A2.2. Task Force Meetings			■					■				■
A2.3. Regional analyses	■	■				■			■			
A2.4. Regional conferences on Roma integration	■		■	■				■			■	
A2.5. Media dissemination	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
A2.6. Mainstreaming Roma issues into RCC	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
A2.7. Online Roma integration Regional Reporting Tool		■	■	■	■		■					
A3.1. Participation of NRCPs at EU fora		■	■	■		■			■		■	■
A3.2. Input on Roma Integration to the EU		■		■		■				■		■

A1.1. Roma Integration Policy and Governance Clinic

- Continuous support by the Action Team to the NRCPs and inter-disciplinary bodies for:
  - NRCP role and function
  - inter-disciplinary body meetings
  - Roma integration policy documents
  - Sector strategies and budgets
  - Concrete actions / measures
  - Annual monitoring and reporting
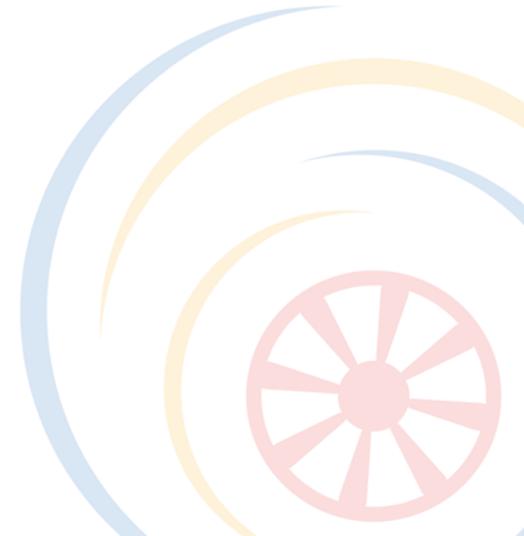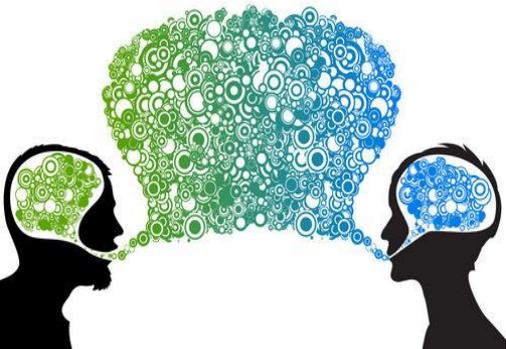
A1.2. Sectoral Roma Integration Actions

- Capacity building and technical assistance
  - action team and consultants
  - developing documents, mentoring public servants, trainings

  - Budgeting
  - Monitoring and reporting
  - Formulation of strategies and action plans
 - Mainstreaming in sector policies
  - Implementation

A1.3. National Platforms on Roma Integration

- Once per year in each economy

- Gathering governmental and non-governmental stakeholders

- Achievements and challenges – setting priorities

- Link with Roma Seminars
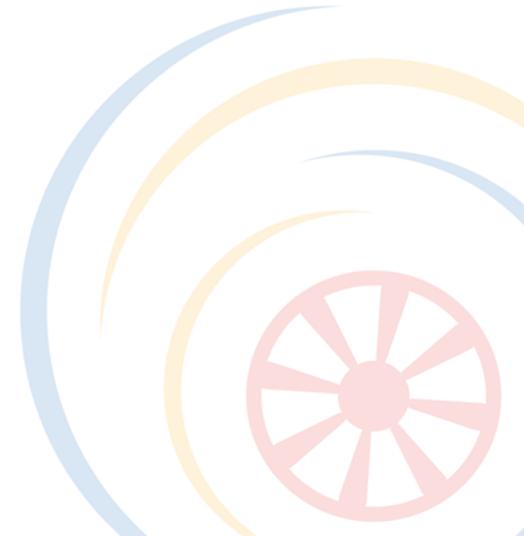
A2.1. High level meetings on Roma integration
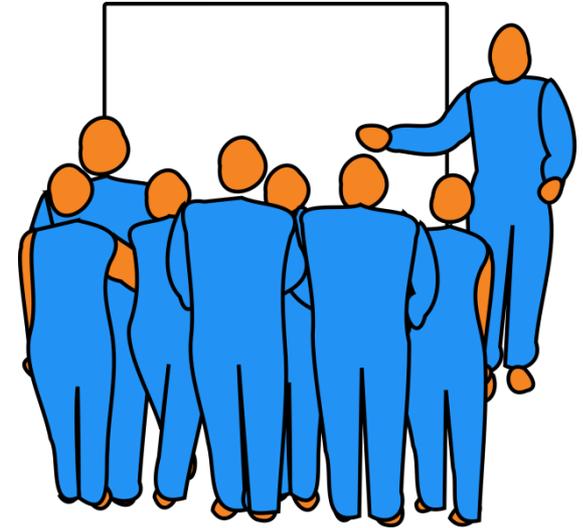
- February 2019, Skopje:
  - REGIONAL DECLARATION ON ROMA INTEGRATION AND EU ACCESSION

- 2021, third semester
  - PROGRESS ASSESSMENT ON THE REGIONAL DECLARATION

A2.2. Task Force Meetings

- NRCPs, 2 NGO representatives, donors, RCC
- Strengthened role and enhanced effectiveness
- Wider scope of topics
- Ad-hoc participation of relevant officials
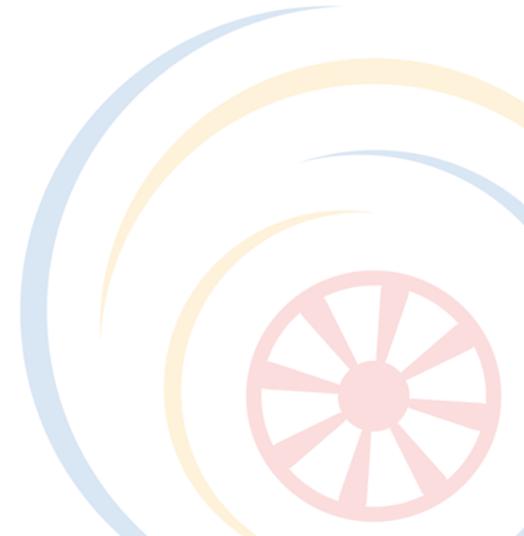
A2.3. Regional analyses

- Evidence for policy input
    - Negative narratives and anti-Gypsyism
    - Effective way to include Roma in mainstream policies
    - Effective employment measures for Roma

A2.4. Regional conferences on Roma integration

- Maximum 2 per year
- Topic corresponding to:
  - project objectives
  - regional analyses
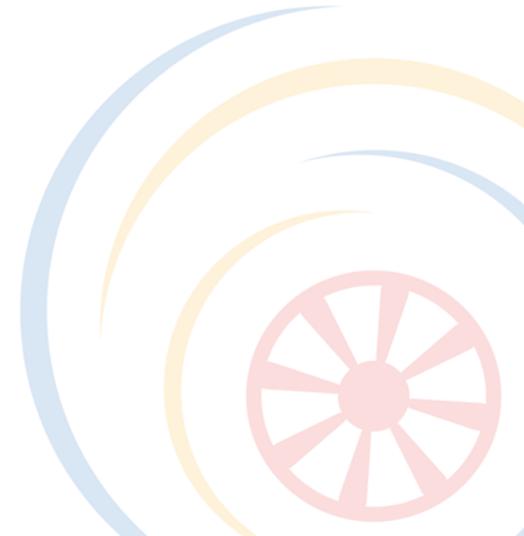
A2.5. Media dissemination

- Network of journalists
- Follow up on topics and long-term coverage
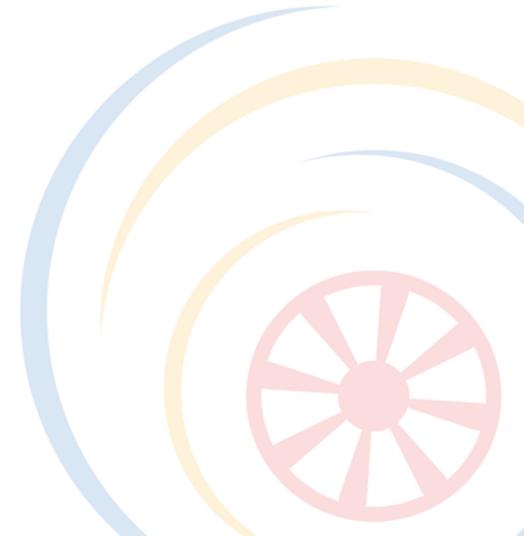
A2.6. Mainstreaming Roma issues into RCC

- Roma issues at core RCC meetings
- Roma related info in RCC publications
- Special RCC editions on Roma integration
- NRCP connection to regional agenda
- Informing the Roma integration process
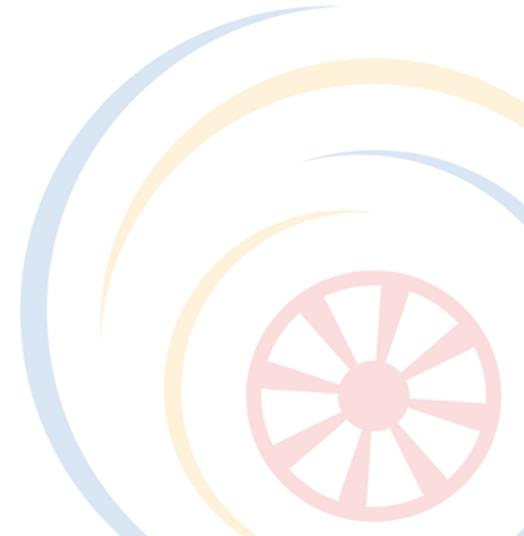
A2.7. Online Roma integration Regional Reporting Tool

- DG Just database
- Software in the region
- Inputs from governments
- Management
- Analysis
- Comparison
- Updating
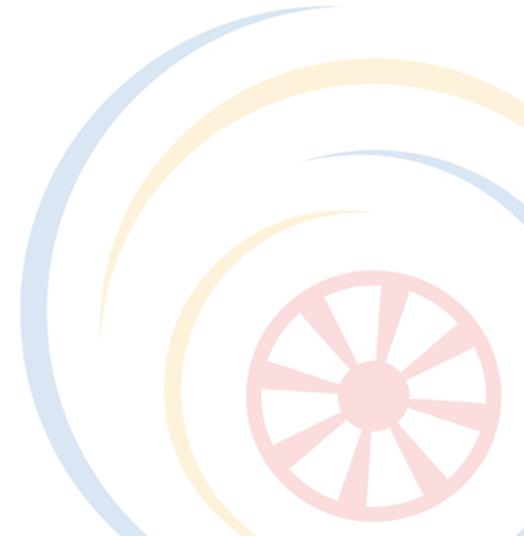
Input to EU enlargement

- A3.1. Participation of National Roma Contact Points at EU fora on Roma Integration
  - participation at EU platforms, Roma week, etc.

- A 3.2. Input on Roma Integration to the EU, including for reporting
  - reporting by the Action Team to the EC