

# Piloting Roma Responsible Budgeting

## 2019 Takeaways

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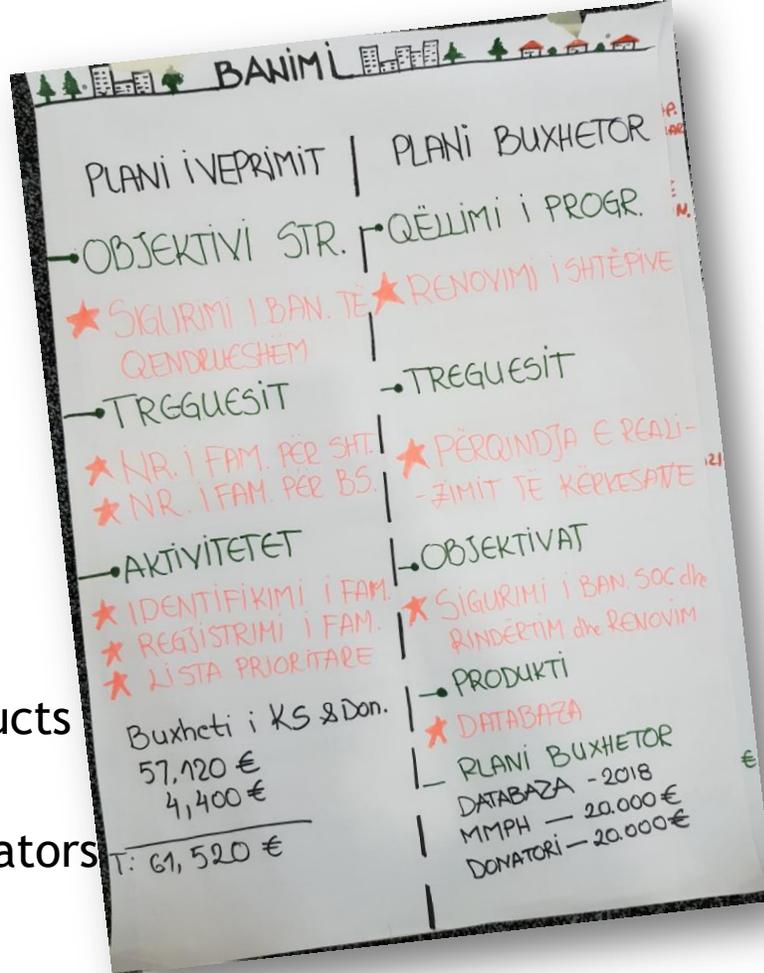
# Process focus in 2019

- Introduction of RRB Guidelines
  - **outreach efforts** - public services reach equally Roma as they reach other persons in a similar situation
  - **affirmative efforts** - to allocate a dedicated portion of public services to Roma in order to ensure equality (increased access)
  - **adjusting efforts** - to introduce new (needed) public services that are tailored to the specific circumstances of Roma
  - Emphasis on the **5-step approach** and identification of budget programs of most relevance to Roma integration
- Training and coaching line ministries to adopt the ‘Guidelines’ in their budgeting process
- Piloting RRB in at least two LM
- Efforts to synchronize policy goals with budgetary allocations

 ROMA INTEGRATION 2020  
Regional Cooperation Council

Guidelines for  
ROMA RESPONSIVE  
BUDGETING





# Achievements

## Responsive budget

- Earmarked budget for Roma integration
- Concrete budget lines/products
- Concrete performance indicators and targets
- Concrete capital investments

## Responsive attitude

- Soft pressure - RRB now a discussion point at budgeting time
- NRCP have an additional tool to promote Roma integration
- MoF aware
- Bringing together policy and budget specialists
- A new and different perspective in budget making process

### Important for:

budget transparency

sustainable commitment with public funds

efficient & tailored services to Roma

reduced gap between policy and resources committed

social and economic inclusion of Roma

# In Albania...

## Budget commitments

- One 'product' of 1.63 mln EUR of economic aid to 2,800 Roma families;
- 255.000 EUR (at least 5% or 225 Roma family beneficiaries of housing program;
- 9.500 Eur for 2700 Roma children in pre-school education;
- 7.4 mln Eur for 12300 Roma children in basic education;
- 308.000 Eur for free textbooks for 12300 Roma children.

## Normative commitments

- MoF annual instructions on MTBP requires:
  - Detailed MTBP format with well defined Goal, Objectives, Performance Indicators, Targets, no. beneficiaries, cost unit, economic nature of expenditures, etc.,
  - Roma Budget = unit cost x no. of beneficiaries,
  - budget consultation process,

2020 Roma budget allocation (in 000 Euro)



# Challenges

## Present ones

budget does not match the funding need as defined in the Action Plan

lack of disaggregated data, lack of budget information available

reluctance to 'reset' budget planning

rigid budgetary system in place

lack of in-depth understanding of Roma integration by...

Lack of costed policies and pertinent laws

weak and limited budget consultation process

## Ways to overcome

Policy drives the budget - soft pressure from policy to budget officials

The role of statistical office and disaggregated data

Smart reporting formats, national wide reporting software, etc.

Bottom up pressure from Roma advocates, civil society, academia, etc.

Flexibility rests with LM rather than MoF

Ongoing awareness, coaching, events, transfer of know-how, good cases



We need to see beyond figures,  
behind figures are faces, are  
people

## Challenges cont.

- Budget plan vs Outturn budget
  - Weak reach out to beneficiaries
  - Weak capacity to deliver services
- Budget cuts
  - Social services and social care are more likely to 'suffer' due to budget cuts.
  - Services oriented to vulnerable categories
  - Investments fund for vulnerable categories



## My roof for your roof...

- Someone may suffer as a result of budget cuts / or re-distribution due to an emerging issue



# Does RRB have a future?

## A way forward

- agree that this is a long process
- monitoring of initial inputs in 2019 and,
  - come up with lessons learned
  - mistakes in the 1<sup>st</sup> year become a practice for next year
  - Identify a good practice model
  - exchange practices in the region
- in-depth sector analysis of public expenditures (where the money go?)
- continuous coaching of LM officials,
- participatory budgeting & budget consultation
- early stage intervention in the MTEF 2021-2023 preparations...
- mobilize civil society and Roma advocates
- Close work with MoF to foster accountability, transparency and performance of budget programs.

## Normative scenario

- a) Take advantage of PFM reform - ongoing opportunities
- b) Budget program segregation - into sub-programs and products related to Roma
- c) Budget circular / instructions - obligatory requirement to set up '1 specific objective', 'performance indicators' and 'targets'
- d) budget monitoring directives - demand reporting versus specific objective, indicators, targets, etc.

5=Very likely, 4=likely,

3=somehow,

2=very little, 1=not at all



# Does RRB have a future?

## DECLARATION OF WESTERN BALKANS PARTNERS ON ROMA INTEGRATION WITHIN THE EU ENLARGEMENT PROCESS

We, the Prime Ministers of the Western Balkans, reiterate our commitment for integration of Roma in our societies and pledge to step up our efforts as part of the European Union enlargement process and regional cooperation.

4. Agree to develop, adopt and implement regional standards on **public budgeting related to Roma integration** for mainstream and targeted policies, use and increase the **public budgeting**, both central and local, reaching Roma communities to achieve the abovementioned objectives, use available

This process has been facilitated by:



**A budget is more than just a series of numbers on a page, it is an embodiment of our values**

## Invest less today on shifting attitude & re-organizing the approach or pay high cost tomorrow acting on its implications

- Only Laws & Policies aren't changing
- We need to rethink, restructure the whole system
- Be the change..!!!

