

REGIONAL CONFERENCE:

**“REGIONAL METHODOLOGY FOR MAPPING HOUSING OF ROMA”**

05 November 2019, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

**:: CONCEPT NOTE::**

**RATIONALE**

The Regional Cooperation Council’s Roma Integration 2020 Phase II (Roma Integration 2020) action, funded by the European Union and the Open Society Foundations, works with the economies of the Western Balkans and Turkey to improve their performance in formulating, implementing, budgeting and monitoring of Roma integration policies within the EU integration process.

The second phase of the action builds on the recently adopted [Declaration of Western Balkans Partners on Roma Integration within the EU Enlargement Process](#), which sets the targets regarding Roma integration that should be achieved by the time each economy becomes a member of the EU. In the area of housing, the Declaration states:

*“We, the Prime Ministers of the Western Balkans... [p]ledge to the achievement of the following objective[s]: b. Housing: Wherever possible, legalize all informal settlements where Roma live; or provide permanent, decent, affordable and desegregated housing for Roma currently living in informal settlements that cannot be legalized for justified reasons.”*

In this regard, a conference was organised during the first phase of the action, focusing on the issues of legalisation and social housing and promoting the holistic approach in housing. The conference resulted in a legal overview of the housing legalisation legislation across the region “[Targeting Roma in Housing Policies of the Western Balkans: A legal overview](#)” and “[Recommendations on Improving Roma Targeting in the Housing Policies of the Western Balkans](#)”.

The Western Balkans governments developed [Roadmaps 2019-2021](#) to guide the assistance provided within the Roma Integration 2020 action with a view to achieve the objectives of the Declaration in the areas of housing and employment.

The starting challenge in the area of housing is that data on the housing of Roma are limited, particularly regarding legalisation, which is in fact a precondition for any housing programme. This is the reason that the Regional Declaration is not setting a quantified target in the field of housing. The data used to develop the Roadmaps 2019-2021 are estimates, that are not reliable, but are the best available.

The Roma Integration 2020 action has started an initiative to overcome this initial challenge in the area of housing by proposing a regional methodology that should serve to establish the baseline data, set the quantifiable target to be achieved and enable monitoring of the achievement of the set target in the area of housing, notably legalisation. Experts in the field of housing mapping are working with the governments in the region to identify the available, existing data in housing and propose a methodology for mapping housing at regional level that would be applicable for all the economies in the Western Balkans.

The Regional Conference “Regional Methodology for Mapping Housing of Roma” is organised to agree on a regional methodology and kick off a Regional Working Group on Mapping Housing of Roma that would pilot the methodology and initiate a wide mapping process that would potentially cover the whole region, potentially with the financial help by the EU.



## METHODOLOGY

In the first part of the conference, relevant government representatives from the region shall provide an overview of the data that are available in the respective economy regarding housing. The experts engaged to draft the regional methodology shall then present the proposed methodology and open a discussion with the conference participants on the methodology for mapping of the housing of Roma.

After elaborating and discussing the regional methodology a regional working group will be established comprised of the National Roma Contact Points and other relevant representatives from the economies in order to lead the piloting of the methodology in two municipalities per economy, and the follow up activities to be implemented shall be determined, by which the conference will be concluded.

Additionally, to visualise the situation of the Roma in the area of housing, a renowned artist from the region, Mr Sead Kazanxiu from Albania, will perform for the participants of the conference.

## PARTICIPANTS

- National Roma Contact Points (7 expected)
- Representatives from the relevant ministries in charge of housing (7 expected);
- Representatives from the relevant ministry in charge of local self-government (7 expected);
- Representatives from the cadastres (one per economy dealing with the orthophoto and one dealing with the issue of registering ownership/legalisation) (14 expected);
- Two representatives from each of the two municipalities where the mapping should be piloted per economy (14 expected);
- Roma civil society representatives (7 expected); and
- Representatives of the relevant international organizations: EU/EC, OSF, ASB, BMZ, Caritas, COE, CEB, EIB, Habitat for Humanity, HELP, Hilfswerk, Norad, OSCE/ODIHR, OSF, RHP, SDC, Sida, UNDP, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, WB, etc.

In total, some 70 participants are expected at the conference.

The location of the conference is set for venue name in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

## DRAFT AGENDA

- Opening Session
- Session I: Existing data on housing of Roma
- Session II: Regional methodology for mapping housing of Roma
- Session III: Regional working group on mapping housing of Roma
- Concluding remarks and follow up
- Artistic performance

