

# Sustainable development through equal access for all on the labor market - ID 77484



*Applicant:* Roma Civic Alliance of Romania

*Partner:* TRUST – Young Roma for Unity, Solidarity and  
Transparence

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# The national context 2006 - 2013

- ◆ In 6 ½ years:

- 2 suspensions of the same president (2007&2012), 2 referendums

- 6 prime ministers, 6 governments

- 6 directors of Managing Authority SOP HRD



# Then, and at the same time


- ◆ 2008 - first projects starts and coincides with the year recession spreads
- ◆ MA SOPHRD tries to keep up, and emits dozen of clarifications and instructions
- ◆ ESF suspension in August 2012. Active in December 2012



# Meanwhile ...Romania

The top priority: EU funds absorption!

- ◆ SOP HRD, an overview 2007 – January 2013:
  - 10 379 submitted projects
  - 3 017 approved
  - 2 455 funded
  - 5 526,84 M lei = approx.1 270,34 MEUR
  
- ◆ For 2 years no call has been launched



# Meanwhile ... Brussels/EC

## ◆ December 2012 - EU Funds

– Unclaimed: 78.3%

– Interim: 8.7%

– Advances: 13.0%

Romania is a netto contributor – gives more than it absorbs from EU funds



# SOP HRD 2007 - 2013

- ◆ Objective: HR development, equal chances for LLP, a modern and inclusive labor market.  
900.000 persons sustainably employed until 2013
- ◆ In March 2012:
  - 167.695 employees
  - 13.047 entrepreneurs
  - 5.585 rural employees

TOTAL: 186.291 people

713.709 left



# Roma in SOP HRD

- ◆ 7 Axis
- ◆ Eligible target groups, the vulnerable ones, Roma are included:
  - Axis 1: High education, PhD programmes, etc
  - Axis 2: Reducing school drop-outs
  - Axis 5: active employment (vs employability)
  - Axis 6: social inclusion



# The project

- ◆ 18 months (November 2010 – April 2012)
- ◆ Budget: 2.083.481 lei – 500.000 EUR
- ◆ Main results:
  - 2.030 beneficiaries, out of which:
    - 2000 informed
    - 300 integrated services (counseling&mediation)
    - 174 trained
    - 15 employed





## The implementation – the management

- ◆ 2010, after signing the contract: the pre financing is reduced from 30% to 10%;
- ◆ The initial plans are repeatedly changing, we start to patch the implementation;
- ◆ Reimbursements - over 2 months delay.  
The last one, received after 8 months (April 2012-January 2013);
- ◆ VAT – not received to date, February 2013.



# The implementation – the beneficiaries

- ◆ 3 counties from SV Romania (Dolj, Gorj, Mehedinti)
- ◆ Over 100 beneficiaries traveled daily to Craiova for 3 months, 8 hours per day
  - Average distance daily: 100 km
  - Average amount needed: 10 euro. 1000 euro daily for travel. We had to cut the food
  - Average time for travel expenses reimbursement: 2 months



# Sustainability?

- ◆ What is happening with the rest of 159 people trained?
- ◆ With what resources do a NGO can implement and sustain the EU funded projects?
- ◆ What leverages do we have when the Government is breaching the contracts?



# Way forward I

- ◆ small community based projects up to 50.000 EUR, according to the proposed 2014-2020 framework – a reduced bureaucracy
- ◆ targeted financing at Roma grass-root NGOs, as there is a danger that the new programming will not reach Roma communities as there is ever increasing expertise requirement on the part of applicant NGOs



## Way forward II

- ◆ consultations in the elaboration of Operational Programmes and axis of intervention on wider bases at regional and local level
- ◆ creation of guarantee and loan mechanisms for own contributions and cash flow for implementation



## Way forward III

- ◆ creating legislative frameworks in support of social economy initiatives and adapt legislation for effective public - private NGO initiatives/partnerships
- ◆ technical assistance for designing and particularly for implementation phases for local NGOs including the grass-root local Roma NGOs



Give to every human being every right that  
you claim for yourself.

(Robert Ingersoll)