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 Transparency

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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:
    - 2,000 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 adapting 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)