Role of Civil Society in linking EU funding, NRIS and the Decade objectives

Mirjana Maksimović, Office of the DPM for EI Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit

Zagreb, Croatia
February 28, 2013
EU Framework for National Roma Integration
Strategies to enlargement countries

• Lessons learned from past accessions suggest that promoting Roma integration requires:
  – an enhanced political commitment to Roma inclusion,
  – allocation of appropriate resources under the national budgets,
  – better coordination with all relevant donors and
  – a systematic evaluation and reinforced monitoring.

• Strengthening the involvement of CSOs by encouraging institutionalized dialogues with Roma representatives to:
  – become involved
  – take responsibility for policy formulation, implementation and monitoring
  – on regional, national and local level
Serbia: Roma Inclusion issues in brief

- Strategy for Roma Inclusion adopted in 2009
- Office for Human and Minority Rights new focal point for Strategy implementation
- Action Plan for The National Strategy for Improving the Status of Roma being prepared (period 2012-14) – expected adoption in March 2013
- Seminar on Roma Inclusion issues held between Government of Serbia and European Commission in June 2011
- All key operational conclusions of the Social Inclusion Seminar systematically dealt with in the last period
- Analysis of coordination of the Roma Inclusion mechanisms at the local level in the Republic of Serbia – evaluation of cooperation and coordination among the already existing local-level mechanisms aimed at improving the status of the Roma: Health Mediators, Teaching Assistants, Centres for Soc. Welfare, Empl. Services and Local Roma Coordinators
- New Census data (2011): The total number of persons declared to be Roma is 147,604, i.e. 2.05% of the total population (7,186,862)
Prioritizing Roma Inclusion within IPA

• One of the conclusions of the Seminar on Roma inclusion in 2011 – better use of EU IPA resources for Roma inclus.
• Agreed priorities: Access to Personal Documents, Education, Employment, Social and Health Care, Housing
• IPA 2012 and IPA 2013 cycles significantly recognize Roma Inclusion as a priority
• IPA 2012 Social Development Sector Fiche (€ 6,3 mln)
• IPA 2013 (approx. € 11 mln) for social inclusion and improvement of living and housing among the Roma
• IPA savings – € 3,6 mln for sustainable housing solution for resettled for Belvil and Gazela settlements
• + some other general development projects through IPA
Cross Border Cooperation for Local Needs

- Annually, Serbia has approx. 15 million € for CBC
- Small number of projects dealing with Roma inclusion issues submitted for funding through CBC
- Since 2007 only 3 million € went into Roma inclusion (out of approx. 90 mil € in this period in total)
- Lack of interest, lack of information, lack of capacity, secured other sources of funds, complex procedures...
- In another few months new opportunities: CBC Serbia/Croatia, Serbia/B&H, Serbia/Montenegro
Looking Forward

• Analyse and better understand reasons for weak presence of Roma inclusion projects within CBC
• Promote CBC Program opportunities for Roma inclusion issues, especially among CSOs and LSGs
• Promote cooperation between LSGs and CSOs
• Capacity building still a priority. How to be more effective? *Project Generating Facility* (MtM) in all countries?
• Sustainability of results gained through CSO projects? How to ensure cooperation and partnership with institutions?
• IPA Civil Society Facility and EIDHR remains open
• Europe for Citizens – small new opportunity for the CSOs
• Can we make it more with MB IPA?
Thank you

www.inkluzija.gov.rs
mirjana.maksimovic@gov.rs