

ROMA INCLUSION AND EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME DISCUSSION PAPER

EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2014 – 2021

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1. SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME

Programme title:	Enhance roma inclusion and empowerment	
Programme area(s):	Roma inclusion and empowerment	
Areas of support:	<p>PA 7 Roma inclusion and empowerment</p> <p>Innovative approaches to enhancing the inclusiveness of public institutions and policies</p> <p>Empowerment of Roma</p> <p>Combating all forms of discrimination, including stereotyping of Roma</p> <p>Collecting knowledge, and synthesising expertise on different Roma groups, languages, cultures, histories and identities in Europe</p>	
Specific concerns in the MoU:	<p>The programme shall address the following two aspects: empowerment of Roma and rendering institutions and policies more inclusive.</p> <p>All measures should be based on the principles of participation and inclusive approaches and be in line with the 10 Common Basic Principles of Roma Inclusion as stated in the Council Conclusions on the Inclusion of Roma from 8 June 2009; the EU Roma strategic framework for equality, inclusion and participation for 2020-2030; and the Hungarian national social inclusion strategy.</p> <p>The programme shall also target Roma children, youth and women.</p> <p>The programme shall include one or more small grant scheme(s) supporting Roma civil society organisations and civil society organisations working on social inclusion of Roma.</p> <p>The national Roma Contact Point in Hungary responsible for Roma Inclusion and Empowerment shall be actively involved in the preparation and implementation of the programme, including, when feasible, as member(s) of the Cooperation Committee.</p> <p>No more than 60% of the total eligible expenditure of the programme shall be available for infrastructure (hard measures).</p>	
Programme Grant:	Total	€ 31,534,000
	EEA Grants	€ 14,531,000
	Norway Grants	€ 17,003,000
Programme Operator:	Ministry of Interior	
Donor Programme Partner(s):	-	
Other Programme	-	

Partner(s):	
International Partner Organisation:	European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)

Hungary is one of the Member States of the European Union with a significant Roma population. Despite the prosperous socio-economic developments in recent years, the Roma population is still in a worse position in a number of key areas of social inclusion (e.g. educational attainment, employment rates, especially those of Roma women, access to services at local level, health and housing conditions and discrimination) compared to non-Roma. Social inequalities in Hungary are also reflected along territorial patterns characterized by an extremely fragmented settlement structure. With regard to territorial inequalities, important factors are the available infrastructure (e.g. utilities and transport), as well as the differences in quality of education, the availability of public services and the lack of various professional competencies and specialists. The previously mentioned territorially cumulative disadvantages disproportionately affect the Roma population and lead to disintegration of local communities, which obstructs social inclusion efforts.

Another significant dimension of social inequalities is digitalization – in terms of access to internet and digital infrastructure, as well as the increasing importance of basic digital skills. Social and labor market success depends more and more on the ability to manage digital devices, treated by education and training experts as a key competence, similar to basic communication competencies.¹ The unequal territorial, social and cultural distribution of digital pedagogical culture, tools and associated skills threatens to further accumulate disadvantages, which seriously endangers further development of social inclusion. Among the Roma population, digital skills levels are also particularly low, and even more so the access to digital infrastructure such as WIFI and digital equipment (e.g. laptops, tablets, digital access to education and employment services, etc.), which have been exacerbated during the Covid-19 pandemic, for example, preventing Roma children from participating in online education and learning.

A cross-cutting challenge is discrimination experienced by Roma, which has been identified as a significant problem in both recent European and national surveys² which justifies strong commitment and horizontal approach to combat discrimination. Discrimination experienced by the Roma is present in every day interactions³, whereas in public discourse which is strongly present in the online sphere the persistent underrepresentation and misrepresentation of the Roma also poses a challenge to be addressed.

The harmonization of the current Roma inclusion and empowerment programme with the Hungarian budget resources and the evolving plans of the development sources for social inclusion for the 2021-27 programming period is a basic principle. Another important aspect is to address problems that came into prominence in the current pandemic situation and to strengthen Roma communities in particular. Accordingly, the programme aims to strengthen the social inclusion and empowerment of the Roma by:

- improving local access to services such as public administration, employment, education and health related services;

¹ Digital Education Strategy of Hungary (Magyarország Digitális Oktatási Stratégiája, DOS)

² European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, Second European Union Minorities and Discrimination Survey Roma and a multi-wave research by the Research Institute for Social Sciences

³ Minority Rights Group Europe 2021. *Romák Magyarországon: A diszkrimináció kihívásai*. Report. Authors: Kinga Júlia Király, Gábor Bernáth and Jenő Setét.

- empowering disadvantaged Roma communities through enhanced local engagement and capacity building of Roma, pro-Roma organizations;
- learning and skills development support for disadvantaged Roma students and improving their educational performance;
- strengthening and promoting Roma identity, culture, language, history and art as well as raising awareness.

In the planning and implementation of the Roma inclusion and empowerment programme, strengthening bilateral relations between Hungary and the Donor States is a priority. Therefore, the programme will foster both programme and project level cooperation and mutual knowledge sharing between organizations with the aim to facilitate transfer of knowledge and establish long-term partnerships.

2.PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

2.1 Needs and challenges the programme will address [max 1100 words]

2.1.1 Needs and challenges

The Roma population size in Hungary exceeds 5%, that means at least about 550,000 people taking into account the limitations of methodological research.⁴ Although based on professional literature, the “real population” - at the extreme values of estimates - can be between 500,000 and one million.⁵ The social inequality is significant among Roma population as the rate of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion was three times higher (52.9%) among Roma compared to 16,9% of the national population in 2019. The primary target group of the government's social inclusion policy and its strategic document, the Hungarian National Social Inclusion Strategy (HNSI Strategy, a new version looking to 2030 just under approval), is people affected by poverty and social exclusion, with special focus on Roma people and households with children. The Strategy considers the social exclusion of the Roma primarily as a social, educational, health and cultural issue which is even more amplified at the territorial level, and takes a complex approach to improve their situation with the help of an extensive network of public, civil society and church actors.

The spatial structure of Hungary shows large inequalities: the more developed parts of the capital, west and north-west are contrasted with less developed areas in the south and east, south-west, south-east and north-east, where economic, social and employment indicators are much worse.⁶ Legislation applies an efficiency approach to obligatory local service supply, but spatial

⁴ Obádovics Csilla – Bálint Lajos – Durst Judit – Szabó Laura – Spéder Zsolt *A roma népesség előreszámítása 2050-ig*. KSH NKI. Budapest, 2019. július 31.

⁵ Péntes, János, Patrik Tátrai, and István Zoltán Pásztor. *A roma népesség területi megoszlásának változása Magyarországon az elmúlt évtizedekben* [Changes in the Spatial Distribution of the Roma Population in Hungary During the Last Decades] *Területi statisztika* 58.1 (2018): 3-26.

⁶ 109 out of 197 districts qualifying the legally defined beneficiary status (105/2015 Government Decree). Based on data from 2017-18 used in National Development and Territorial Development Concept 2.0 in these territories the education, health and social problems are concentrated, the birth rate is higher but migration is significant (annually 0,6-1,1%), the death and dependency ratio are high, the employment level is low (31%), the unemployment rate is the double of the national rate (more than 11,2%), number of enterprises per 1000 inhabitants is of two-third of the national data and only 14% of large enterprises operate in these districts. OFTK 2.0, pp. 18-19.

conditions and the severely fragmented settlement structure in Hungary contributes to the unequal access to quality services combined with the low level of mobility of the local population. Altogether these pose various socio-economic challenges and increase tendencies of territorial concentration of poverty.

The concentration of socio-economic disadvantages also correlate with Roma population density on district⁷ and settlement⁸ levels. The regionally concentrated socio-economic disadvantages also put great pressure on locally present early childhood development, education and social service system, which is aggravated by the shortage of professionals (e.g. social workers, special and social pedagogues, teachers, etc.) which is an identified challenge throughout all thematic intervention areas of HNSI Strategy 2030.⁹

Academic success and secondary school qualification substantially increases future employment chances, whereas in international comparison, the connection between the family's socio-economic background and the students' school performance shows strong correlation¹⁰ in Hungary and also contributing to that Roma children are more exposed to early school leaving. Besides psycho-social factors, cognitive and soft skills, the impact of peer groups is of utmost importance at school age and evidence shows that low performing Roma students have fewer peer relationships in school especially with well performing students.¹¹

With substantial development and rising number of opportunities for social participation in the online sphere (e.g. e-governance, job search, teleworking, etc.) adequate digital skills are of rising importance. However the difficulty of acquiring digital competences, accessing electronic services and employment opportunities, has also put vulnerable groups at a disadvantage. Nowadays, it is proved to be essential to focus on territorial and disadvantage-compensating aspects in digitalization developments, and the global pandemic situation strongly increased the need for digital inclusion. Three consultative forums of the Ministry of Interior during the previous year confirmed that the pandemic situation has increased disadvantages in both children's access to education and families' rising need to access online platforms and services.¹² The availability of technology for internet connection has improved in Hungary above EU average in recent years (with 90% fixed broadband coverage and 97% mobile broadband coverage at household level; DESI 2020) with a focus on underdeveloped regions. The increase in number of users show a

⁷ *A roma népesség számokban, a Mikrocenzus adatai alapján készült becslés nyomán, vonatkoztatási év 2016.* KSH-NKI, Budapest, 2017.

⁸ Obádovics Csilla – Bálint Lajos – Durst Judit – Szabó Laura – Spéder Zsolt *A roma népesség előreszámítása 2050-ig.* KSH NKI, Budapest, 2019. július 31.

⁹ The thematic areas of intervention are: Birth and childhood; Public, vocational and tertiary education; Youth, having children, lifestyle; Employment, adult education, social economy; Territorial inequalities, settlement development – housing and energy poverty – climate awareness and climate protection; Physical-mental health, health care provision; Roma identity, community building, awareness raising, justice.

¹⁰ HNSI Strategy 2030 using OECD data from PISA 2018; <https://www.oecd.org/pisa/publications/pisa-2018-results.htm>

¹¹ *Társadalmi riport, 2014.* Társadalmi Részvételért Felelős Államtitkárság, Budapest, 2014. Pp. 300.

¹² The consultation forums are the "Let it be better for children!" Evaluation Committee (Legyen jobb a gyermekeknek! Értékelő Bizottság) and the education-child welfare policy board of Roma Coordination Council (Roma Koordinációs Tanács, which comprises all together 60 stakeholders). The mentors of General Directorate of Social Inclusion (Társadalmi Esélyteremtési Főigazgatóság) as a professional background institution for methodological and territorial coordination of social inclusion policy and representatives of Tanodas have participated in the mentioned meeting for needs assessment regarding the pandemic emergency.

slower increase (82% of households with fixed broadband subscription, DESI 2020) with significant inequalities (only 47,5% of Roma had internet access compared to the national average of slightly over 80% based on HCSO data in 2020). This shows a significant need to reinforce digital inclusion of the Roma as a complementary area of intervention to poverty reduction measures, and including acquisition of skills and competences as well as provision of necessary digital equipment in order to successfully deploy digital solutions and platforms in fostering social inclusion as highlighted in EU Roma strategic framework.¹³

In addition to socio-economic exclusion, the level of discrimination is significant towards the Roma in Hungary¹⁴ that indicates the need for social inclusion and empowerment measures to address the existing discriminatory attitudes and antigypsyism specifically. A recent study showed¹⁵ that those measures can be the most efficient that raise empathy towards the Roma while decreasing the sense of threat. As deep-rooted prejudices and stereotypes in mainstream society are made apparent by the media, besides the promotion of cultural diversity, the need for reinterpretation and readjustment of the representations of the Roma minority is an identified need in the HNSI Strategy 2030.

2.1.2 Funding gaps and complementary funding

When designing the programme we identified how additional financial sources could contribute to the strategic plans of social inclusion policy also looking for complementarities with plans evolving in the framework of the European Union 2021-2027 programming period.

The social inclusion service system is a complex set of measures building on the cooperation of public, civil society and church organizations reaching children and their families in a differentiated way. Service development is based on pilot programmes and when indicated, inclusion of these pilots into mainstream services. Developments build on each other as steps to help the individual from the earliest age all the way until reaching labour market. The social inclusion service system includes a rising number of permanent service providers (nearly 700 in total) offering daily personal social and development support for Roma and non-Roma children and adults. These social inclusion service providers are situated in settlements and certain areas of settlements where it is most needed based on cumulative socio-economic disadvantages and the number of children.

The financing basis of the service system established since 2011 is provided by the following:

- operational support for Sure Start Children's Houses and Tanodas - after school education programmes, and Roma Special Colleges from a national budget source
- programmes financed from the national budget through tenders (e.g. ethnic minority programmes, 'Útravaló' Scholarship Programme, family porta programme)

¹³ Guidelines for planning and implementing national roma strategic frameworks, COM(2020) 620 final, ANNEX 1 to the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council, A Union of Equality: EU Roma strategic framework for equality, inclusion and participation. SWD(2020) 530 final.

¹⁴ European Commission (2019). Commission Staff Working Document. Roma inclusion measures reported under the EU Framework for NRIS Accompanying the document Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council Report on the implementation of national Roma integration strategies, SWD/2019/320 final. Available at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52019SC0320>

¹⁵ <https://www.ppk.elte.hu/eloiteletek-kontra-empatia>

- programmes co-financed by the European Union

Within the framework of the European Union 2021-2027 programming period, ensured by the Social Cohesion Developments priority of the Human Development Operational Program Plus (HDOP Plus) the target system of developments for social inclusion the following: 1) Further reduce the proportion of people living in poverty; 2) Preventing the reproduction of poverty; 3) Reducing territorial and social inequalities, strengthening social cohesion. The intervention areas in which the set of interventions are under preparation and negotiation – in accordance with HNSIS 2030 and Hungary’s national development aims to be reached by 2030¹⁶ – are aimed at:

1. creating labour market opportunities, restart and social inclusion;
2. decreasing the poverty of families with children;
3. creating educational opportunities;
4. complex development of most deprived settlements;
5. improving social inclusion and housing situation of people living in segregated housing conditions; and
6. strengthening social inclusion policy improvement and coordination.

The digital inclusion of vulnerable groups would be a stepping stone in social inclusion and empowerment of Roma. Ensuring the availability of digital space at local level in the most disadvantaged areas and that of long-term support in using digital services and platforms can build on fixed broadband coverage advancement in Hungary in recent years.

The social inclusion of people living in segregated areas is addressed by a complex programme for segregated areas according to plans from HDOP Plus with a strategic methodology¹⁷ supporting local municipalities as project promoters. Civil society organisations (including Roma and pro-Roma CSOs) can be partners in these projects but a stronger civil society driven approach planned in this programme strongly supports the CSOs’ capacity building to deliver and expand their activities.

The support of successful school career of disadvantaged, especially Roma children and youth is a priority for social inclusion policy also accentuated in HNSI Strategy 2030. Accordingly, there are several measures planned for the 2021-27 programming period complementing the public education system and disadvantaged students’ school progress aiming to raise the level of educational attainment. Moreover, the ‘Útravaló’ Scholarship scheme is supporting disadvantaged, including Roma students from elementary school until university with scholarship applying performance incentives and teacher mentoring since 2005 financed by national budget source. There is further need to raise the educational achievement specifically of Roma disadvantaged children. Through peer mentoring by students of similar age this programme aims to strengthen the social cohesion with raising social awareness and ensures implementation of a new approach.

The comprehensive approach to promoting Roma identities, culture, language, history and art also including awareness raising ambition developed in this programme represents a larger scale endeavour than the ethnic minority programmes financed by central budget sources of social inclusion policy field would have the capacity.

¹⁶ These national development aims are the draft of Hungary’s Partnership Agreement still under approval in cooperation with the European Commission.

¹⁷ <http://romagov.hu/a-telepszeru-lakhatas-kezeleset-megalapozo-szakpolitikai-strategia-2014-2020/>

2.1.3 MoU special concerns

As declared in the Memorandum of Understanding the two main focuses of the programme is the empowerment of Roma and to make institutions and policies more inclusive.

The programme is in line with the conclusions adopted by the European Council in 2009 containing 10 common principles for the social inclusion of Roma as it builds on Roma communities and their organisations' experiences and involvement as well as their feedback on consultations. The programme concept is also based on the planned new European Roma Strategic Framework in terms of combatting antigypsyism and enhancement of digital inclusion and the HNSI Strategy. Particular emphasis is placed on horizontal aspects of the HNSI Strategy 2030: equal access to public services, the situation of Roma women and digitalization.

In order to meet the specific need of Roma children one programme element is specifically targeted at disadvantaged Roma children (Call 3) while Call 1, Call 2 and Call 4 also incorporate Roma children among its target groups. With regard to Roma women the programme applies mainstream targeting ensuring additional points in selection criteria in open calls.. Further specific calls targeting Roma girls and women are not planned from the Grants because of planned continuation of specific programmes implemented in coming years from EU funds. These planned programmes are targeting: 1) Roma girls (10-18) supporting their school career, health prevention with personal and group mentoring and also supporting the parenting skills of their parents and 2) Roma women with on-the-job training and employment scheme.

The implementation of small grant scheme will be met by supporting local engagement in design and implementation of initiatives in coordination of Roma and pro-Roma organizations to enhance social inclusion of marginalised Roma communities.

The National Roma Contact Point in Hungary is the Deputy State Secretariat for Social Inclusion at the Ministry of Interior. The same unit performs the professional tasks of the Program Operator, so it actively participates in the entire process of program planning and implementation.

Not more than 60% of total expenditure is planned to be spent on hard measures on programme level, ensured by limiting this type of costs on programme level.

2.1.4 Common values and principles

The programme shall comply with the principles of implementation described in Article 1.3 of the Regulation.

Respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities

The principles of the rule of law, equal treatment and equal opportunities will be integrated into the selection procedure of the project promoters, and pre-defined, publicly available evaluation criteria will ensure transparency in the selection phase. The assessment of the applications will be carried out by independent evaluators and the ranking of the proposals will be determined solely based on the scores obtained against the evaluation criteria. The rule of law ensures that the relevant legislation is fully complied with throughout the planning and the implementation process. The proposed interventions will focus on areas with higher ratio of Roma population than the national data where it is relevant (concerning Outcomes 1-3) and will demonstrate a highly inclusive and participatory approach.

Good governance, projects must be participatory, inclusive, accountable, transparent, efficient and effective, zero tolerance for corruption

In line with this, audit trails, internal procedures and the IT infrastructure (i.e. interfaces) used will ensure financial prudence and full respect of all relevant regulations. Programming will involve all relevant stakeholders including the representatives of the Roma minority and civil society (Roma and pro-Roma organisations) both at programme and project level, and their comments and suggestions will be duly considered throughout the planning process. There will be zero tolerance for corruption and strict rules will be enforced in order to avoid conflict of interest. During audit and monitoring activities, particular attention will be paid to the proportionality of and the necessity of eligible expenditures for the implementation of the project as well as to the use of eligible expenditures for the purpose of achieving the objective(s) and the expected outcome(s) of the project in line with the principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness. The progress of projects and project activities will be assessed in accordance with the objectives set, in addition, monitoring plans will be set up and monitoring visits will be carried out.

Projects must be in line with sustainable development, long-term economic growth, social cohesion and environmental protection

All the interventions foreseen will be in line with sustainable development goals of ensuring more inclusive and equitable education as well as improved access to services and assistance, fostering the empowerment of the disadvantaged, reducing social inequality and strengthening social cohesion.

Projects should follow a results-oriented and risk-management approach

All interventions will have to specify the expected results and the ways these will be achieved. The selection criteria should prioritize proposals/ projects which are able to create added value and more value for the funding provided to better address the needs of the Roma community and achieve the outcomes set.

2.2 Expected outcomes of the programme and their contribution to the overall objective of the Grants

2.2.1 Outcome 1: Improved access to online services and digital infrastructure for the Roma in disadvantaged areas

The programme aims to improve Roma's digital skills and access to online services. Online services primarily include access to public administration services¹⁸, employment services¹⁹, education services²⁰ and health services²¹ that are available online or can be arranged online. As a result, Roma will be able to take advantage of online opportunities, leading to an increase in their social inclusion and empowerment. This will be achieved through an open call for proposals with two components for lower and higher amount of project funding:

Call 1a, 1b - Availability of digital spaces and improved digital competencies of Roma

Call 1 will build the capacity of organizations engaged in social inclusion of the Roma in disadvantaged areas²² so that they are able to provide physical infrastructure for Roma to access online services specified above. This includes computers, tablets and other equipment for accessing online services, including establishment of IT access points (e.g. community computer labs, etc.). At the same time, the human capacity of organizations will be developed so they can competently train and support the Roma to use digital equipment, develop their digital skills and access online services as well as collecting, understanding and properly using data in daily work.

Projects will deliver a range of trainings and regular assistance to ensure the Roma are empowered to access online services. Projects will provide Roma with comprehensive digital training courses to improve their digital competences (e.g. based on Digital Competence Framework) and digital skills.

Addressing the specific needs of Roma women and girls (e.g. not sufficient access to medical support for children, pregnant Roma women or new mothers, lacking digital skills to increase employability prospects, awareness raising on online risk exposure and access to online support service opportunities for victims of violence and harassment) will be encouraged by assigning extra scores in selection criteria.

Outputs:

- IT access points provided to Roma
- Roma trained in digital skills
- Organizations engaged in social inclusion of the Roma equipped with IT equipment

¹⁸ Electronic public administration services (e.g., application for social benefits or personal document issues, taxation) under the competence of either regional, central state authorities or municipality.

¹⁹ Electronic administrative services of National Employment Service, online consultation with employment officer, and other non-formal informative or training services relating to employment, employability or entrepreneurship arranged online.

²⁰ Participation of students in formal online education in case of emergency such as COVID-19, other formal and non-formal education services arranged online based on local need and online consultation with professionals of pedagogical assistance services.

²¹ Electronic health care services and online consultation with health care professionals arranged.

²² *A roma népesség számokban, a Mikrocenzus adatai alapján készült becslés nyomán, vonatkoztatási év 2016.* KSH-NKI, Budapest, 2017.

Target groups:

- Roma adults living in disadvantaged areas, settlements
- Roma children and youth of school age
- Roma girls and women

2.2.2. Outcome 2: Enhanced social inclusion of marginalised Roma communities

The programme aims to enhance social inclusion of Roma through capacity building of Roma and pro-Roma organizations. These organisations will then foster social inclusion by more effectively working with Roma communities on their needs and challenges, and by helping them to implement local level initiatives.

Call 2a, 2b²³: Local engagement and capacity building of Roma and pro-Roma CSOs for field social work

Therefore, **Call 2** aims to promote local engagement and build the capacity of Roma and pro-Roma civil society organizations to foster social inclusion of the Roma and severely disadvantaged non-Roma living with the Roma in segregated areas. Means of capacity reinforcement involves direct organizational development, expansion of CSOs' activities in the field work and improve the local skills for planning and monitoring the results of interventions implemented in the localities. The direct organizational development can include hiring new staff, staff training, networking and professional mentoring (e.g. knowledge and experience transfer) between Roma and pro-Roma civil society organizations and grassroots initiatives. Delivery of locally designed initiatives will also be supported, may it be in areas of employability, housing, social inclusion and community building, education and/or health to ensure the inclusion of wide range of activities tailor made to the local needs. Involvement of volunteering and other community building activities supporting the social cohesion in the locality will be encouraged in the initiatives supporting the activities in the aforementioned areas.

Participatory approach as a basic principle (i.e. engagement and participation of Roma in all stages of project design and implementation) prevails in this programme. On the one hand, call specifically targets Roma and pro-Roma organizations, and the engagement of the Roma as active participants within civil society organizations. On the other hand, social inclusion and empowerment of Roma is also facilitated through project activities in multiple ways such as active involvement in community-based participatory planning, volunteering and participating in community building activities and monitoring their results.

Building the capacity of Roma youth and field experts to monitor the results of Roma-targeted interventions would have long-term implications for genuine empowerment of Roma. The community-based participatory planning as a preparatory task for local interventions will be encouraged to engage Roma and non-Roma communities of the locality in mutual dialogue involving interested stakeholders (e.g. local authorities, service providers, employers, local professionals, etc.). The local need analysis conducted through applying a community-based participatory planning process should apply a systemic approach (e.g.: based on FRA's Local Engagement for Roma Inclusion, LERI²⁴ project). The local level engagement and cooperation

²³ The Roma inclusion and empowerment programme is financed from both the EEA and Norwegian Grants. One call can only be financed from one Grant, therefore this call for proposals will be split in two (but keeping the same content).

²⁴ <https://fra.europa.eu/en/project/2015/local-engagement-roma-inclusion-multi-annual-roma-programme>

enhanced among Roma and non-Roma citizens, communities and local stakeholder organizations also aim to combat discrimination and antigypsyism on the local level.

Relating to constrained local economies specifically affecting disadvantaged areas voluntary partnerships will be enhanced between CSOs and private sector organizations based on cooperation agreements contributing to the locally designed initiatives without financial compensation to the corporations from project funding. The voluntary involvement of private sector organizations under their CSR policy as well as project proposals addressing the specific needs of Roma women and girls will be encouraged by awarding extra scores in selection criteria.

Outputs:

- Roma and pro-Roma CSOs have strengthened capacity to deliver and monitor
- Roma disadvantaged communities supported

Target groups:

- Roma disadvantaged people
- Roma and non-Roma citizens in the locality
- Roma women and girls

2.2.3. Outcome 3: Improved education and empowerment of disadvantaged Roma students

The aim of ***Call 3 (Support of education and career choices development of Roma girls and boys)*** is to improve school performance of disadvantaged Roma children and promote their empowerment.

The learning skills of Roma students will be improved through personal and online peer mentoring as well as by community building events. Roma and pro-Roma organisations involved in youth work and/or educational activities will facilitate daily peer mentoring between older secondary school students and younger students with Roma background attending elementary or secondary schools. Possible activities to support the peer mentoring could include, for instance: recruiting and engaging mentors and mentees, family involvement, supervision of online and in person peer mentoring, and conflict management by support organisations and professionals. Roma children can use tablets with mobile internet access with support from the organisations, where needed. One possible source of recruiting the mentors can be through the national programmes to fulfil a mandatory community service²⁵ requirement. Further possible mentoring schemes could include those where successful Roma secondary and higher education students or Roma and non-Roma university students mentor younger Roma students.

Roma and pro-Roma organisations will also organise community building activities including thematic skill development sessions such as events, trips, camp, work trial etc. Based on the children's needs, provision of complementary support services (e.g. self-awareness programmes, language courses, career guidance, psychologist, etc.) and in-kind support strengthens the personal improvement of disadvantaged Roma children.

²⁵ The fulfilment of community service obligation is a requirement defined in law (20/2012. (VIII. 31.) Decree of Ministry of Human Capacities, Act CXC of 2011 on National Public Education) for secondary school students to be eligible to start graduation exams.

The applied mentoring approach facilitates digital skills development as an indirect empowerment tool. Empowerment will be achieved through improved school performance of Roma children with strengthened learning skills and supporting their conscious career choice. Moreover, the call supports social inclusion and awareness-raising through enhanced cooperation between Roma and non-Roma students belonging to the same age group and coming from different socio-cultural backgrounds establishing positive personal attitudes on individual level also serving as a measure to strengthening social cohesion and address antigypsyism.

Outputs:

- Roma children are empowered through better school performance and having a bigger social network with Roma and non-Roma students from different socio-economic background
- Learning support and career guidance provided to disadvantaged Roma children

Target groups:

- elementary and secondary school students with disadvantaged Roma background
- secondary and high school students as mentors who can share their experiences with their further education choices

2.2.4 Outcome 4: Strengthened Roma identity and awareness of Roma culture

Besides interventions against poverty, the programme will enhance the social inclusion and empowerment of the Roma by initiatives with potential to strengthen the positive and fact-based Roma identity as part of the social and cultural diversity in Hungary. The programme aims to increase the visibility and awareness raising potential of cultural values and academic knowledge relating to social and cultural participation of the Roma. Through providing adequate information about Roma culture, history and languages the programme enhances substantial contribution to collect knowledge, and synthesize expertise on different Roma groups, languages, cultures, histories and identities in Europe while enrich the common knowledge about Hungary's biggest minority.

The online world, through availability of digital content and development of web media contents and services, is a powerful tool for public outreach and promoting the historical, linguistic, cultural heritage. Meanwhile the increased digital appearance of Roma culture and history creates channels for strengthening Roma identities and connecting to it and, it also challenges stereotypes and presents a more varied picture. Learning about the folklore and heritage, festivities, history, past and present of the Roma nationality will help increase public understanding and acceptance.

Call 4: Better awareness of Roma culture and history by the Roma and the mainstream society

To achieve this, **Call 4** aims to enhance online visibility, digital content creation and development and digitalization of the rich cultural, linguistic, historical and artistic heritage of Roma complemented by connecting offline activities and events contributing to the dissemination and promotion of the functions. The online appearance and representation should serve as modern virtual social inclusion measures with functions of promotion, awareness-raising and interactivity. The raised visibility, availability and transferability should place special emphasis on reaching out to younger generations and raising awareness among the mainstream society of Roma culture and history.

Large-scale and sensitive projects will be supported that display certain aspects from the diverse historical, linguistic, cultural merits and academic knowledge produced by and/or related to the

Roma minority in Hungary will be supported in order to enhance strengthened Roma identity and awareness raising. The call shall support the implementation of projects in which self-representation of the Roma (regarding the content and the implementation) and the wider social context with strong awareness raising components are present and mutually reinforcing in project design as well as in communication and dissemination plan.

The international outreach encouraged by creating and developing multilingual interfaces and bi-, multilateral cooperations. Inclusion of thematic focus on Roma girls and women or relevance to their specific situation or challenges will be expected in all projects.

The envisaged digitalized and/or web-based content would include, but not limited to:

- online thematic collection and promotion of Roma folklore, traditions, cultural heritage, history through making digitalised objects and material available online and/or digitalization of them;
- development of linguistic, and language teaching and learning materials based on linguistic methodological research supporting and promoting Romani and Boyash language learning and teaching;
- production, development and broadcasting of multimedia content related to Roma every day and historical culture putting special emphasis on knowledge transfer, awareness raising and sensitization aspects;
- online display and dissemination of results in the field of social science or socio-economic phenomena and dynamics affecting the Roma;
- creating, developing and displaying educational online web content, using interactive solutions;
- Creative content (co)produced by Roma artists and artisans using digital technologies or for online use

Outputs

- Roma artists, artisans, civic and academic experts supported
- Roma identity, culture, history and languages promoted

Target groups:

- Roma general public
- Roma and non-Roma children and youth
- Roma women and girls
- Experts and professionals involved in Romani studies, linguistics and social inclusion of Roma

2.2.5 Expected impact and sustainability [max 300 words]

Overall the programme shall contribute to:

- increasing the availability of online services and information for disadvantaged, specifically Roma people in disadvantaged areas through enhanced opportunities of digital inclusion (Call 1);
- strengthened Roma communities, and Roma and pro-Roma civil society organizations (Call 2);
- digital competence development by increasing the level of autonomy among the involved target groups allowing them to make more conscious decisions (Call 1 and 3);

- decreasing the level of online risk exposure (cyberbullying, hate speech, online addictions) in parallel with the use of digital devices;
- combatting antigypsyism and reduce the level of discrimination against the Roma through enhanced visibility of the Roma relevant web media content (Call 4) and peer mentoring among Roma and non-Roma students (Call 3);
- supporting social cohesion through better cooperation on local level between the Roma and non-Roma (Call 2 and 3) impacting the wider community in the area of interventions;
- improved future career and social mobility prospects of Roma children and youth. Early school leaving is a multifaceted problem, but the increased availability of digital infrastructure in disadvantaged areas relating to online education services within Call 1 and learning support through peer mentoring (Call 3) aims to contribute to prevention of early school leaving.

Sustainability aspect of the programme:

Ensuring the long-term benefit of the Grants the spill-over effects of the planned programme elements are taken into careful consideration not only in programme development but also in the design of calls for proposals. Technical specificities, involvement of reasonable and adequate contributors in project elaboration as well as services designed during project lifetime are supposed to serve and underpin sustainability prospects.

2.3 State aid rules [max 150 words]

In order to ensure compliance with the legislation, the calls for proposals will be checked and approved by the State Aid Monitoring Office of Hungary prior to publication.

3. BILATERAL AMBITIONS [MAX 500 WORDS]

The programme will be implemented with the aim to enhance bilateral cooperation both at programme and project level, as well as through the allocation from the Bilateral Fund set aside for the programme to address topics of bilateral interest. The scope and planned results of the programme are being defined by the Programme Operator (PO) in consultations with the Financial Mechanism Office (FMO), the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Hungary and the National Focal Point (NFP).

3.1 Bilateral cooperation at the programme level

Bilateral cooperation between Donor States and Hungary holds great potential for the exchange of experiences and expertise, mutual learning and joint activities relating the social inclusion and empowerment of marginalized communities or certain groups of society at risk of social inclusion.

As a Donor Programme Partner has not been appointed, the Programme Operator (with the support of the FMO) will use its own network and reach out and enhance networking with sectoral, national, international organizations in the Donors States helping to make contact with stakeholder organizations in the Donor States and contributing to disseminate calls for proposals including bilateral cooperation. The programme is going to strengthen bilateral relations for example by:

- addressing issues of mutual interest;
- arranging study trips and meetings;

- two-way knowledge transfer to improve mutual knowledge and understanding;
- encouraging projects with bilateral project partners.

3.1.1 Role of Donor Programme Partners

Donor Programme Partners have not been appointed for Hungarian Roma inclusion and empowerment programme.

3.1.2 Cooperation Committee

The Cooperation Committee (CC) is the main forum for collaboration between the PO and the FRA. Representatives of the donors (including through their local embassies in Hungary), the Financial Mechanism Office, the National Focal Point and the Programme operator of HU Culture programme will be invited to participate in the CC meetings as observers. The CC meetings will also provide a platform to exchange experience and contribute to mutual capacity building. The CC will decide the use of bilateral funds and confirm bilateral activities. The tasks of the Cooperation Committee as described in the Regulations of EEA and Norway Financial mechanisms 2014-2021 include: (a) advising on stakeholder consultations; (b) advising on the preparation of the concept note; (c) advising on bilateral activities and possible project partners in the Donor States, as appropriate; (d) advising on selection criteria and the texts for call(s) for proposals; (e) reviewing progress made towards achieving the outputs, outcome(s) and objective of the programme; (f) reviewing progress made towards strengthening bilateral relations, as appropriate; (g) examining the results of the implementation of the programme; (h) reviewing the draft annual programme reports; (i) advising the Programme Operator of any modification of the programme affecting the achievement of the programme's expected outcome(s) and objective; and (j) advising on the use of the funds for bilateral relations, where relevant.

3.2 Bilateral cooperation at project level

The programme highly supports donor partnership projects in order to ensure the exchange of best practices, knowledge transfer and promotion of innovative social inclusion and empowerment approaches to social, economic and cultural barriers affecting the exclusion of certain social groups. The programme would like to enhance cooperation between organisations in Hungary and the Donor States based on issues of mutual interest in order to lay down the foundations for long term cooperation beyond the programme. In order to facilitate bilateral partnerships online platforms shall be used until Covid-19 situation improves to allow study trips, personal workshops and seminars as well.

Project level bilateral cooperation will be optional, but enhanced in the evaluation process for open calls for proposals in the programme.

Possible areas of cooperation on project level:

- learning and/or research collaboration between education institutions to enhance international experiences and raise language competences of involved children;
- joint initiatives to support minority language research, learning and use;
- exploration and adaptation of methodologies to promote social and cultural diversity and awareness raising online
- exchange of best practices through international knowledge sharing, etc;

3.3 BILATERAL FUND

Potential activities for cooperation under the Bilateral Fund:

- expert advice (e.g. involve DPPs from other programmes to advise on specific calls development or dissemination opportunities of information on matchmaking),
- match-making seminars,
- study visits (in the light of Covid situation: online conferences),
- training activities,
- networking, exchange of best practices and experiences, communication, dissemination.
- two- (three-, four-) way transfer of knowledge and experience, concerning for example: initiatives and approaches involving digital equipment, online access as means to overcome social and geographical exclusion of certain social groups and to reach, engage and empower their target groups,

4. COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS [max 250 words]

EEA and Norway Grants have cooperation with international partner organisations (IPOs). The Memorandum of Understanding mentions the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) as an IPO for the the ‘Roma Inclusion and Empowerment’ programme area.

The FRA established by a Regulation of the Council of the EU (EC 168/2007):

- to provide assistance and expertise on fundamental rights issues to the European Union institutions and the Member States, when they implement EU law,
- to collect, record, analyse and disseminate relevant, objective, reliable and comparable information and data on fundamental rights issues in the EU,
- to promote dialogue with civil society, in order to raise public awareness of fundamental rights and actively disseminate information about its work.

The tasks of the FRA at the work on ‘Roma Inclusion and Empowerment’ programme area are: collecting data and evidence, support for the Commission and Member States in their reporting on the measures for effective Roma inclusion (Roma Working Party), and suggesting novel approaches to collect information on the situation of people vulnerable to poverty, social exclusion and violation of rights.

The major roles of the IPO are: advising at overall strategic level in applying European standards on human and fundamental rights; in the programme development phase making input to programme design, advising on risk management and communication; in the programme implementation phase ensuring programme benefits from FRA good practices, recommendations and expertise related to policy analysis, cooperation committee and selection committees for projects.

5. MODALITIES

The programme will be implemented the following way:

	Outcome	Number and name of call(s)/ SGS(s)/ PDP(s)/FI(s)	Financial Mechanism	Min/max amounts to be applied for	Planned Amount (€) (Per call, SGS, PDP, FI)*	Project grant rate (%)	Eligible applicants	Eligible partners
Call for proposals:	1	Call 1a – Availability of digital spaces and improved digital competencies of Roma	EEA Grants	50.000 – 70.000	6.261.043	100	Any entity, public or private, commercial or noncommercial and non-governmental organisations, established as a legal person in Hungary.	Any public or private entity, commercial or noncommercial, as well as non-governmental organisations established as a legal person either in the Donor States, Hungary or a country outside the European Economic Area that has a common border with the respective Beneficiary State, or any international organisation or body or agency thereof, actively involved in, and effectively contributing to, the implementation of a project
		Call 1b – Availability of digital spaces and improved digital competencies of Roma	Norway Grants	225.000 – 500.000	6.940.863			
	3	Call 3 – Support of education and career choices development of Roma girls and boys	EEA Grants	125.000 – 285.000	7.500.000	100	Any entity, public or private, commercial or noncommercial and non-governmental organisations, established as a legal person in	Any public or private entity, commercial or noncommercial, as well as non-governmental

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							Hungary involved in youth work and/or educational activities	organisations established as a legal person either in the Donor States, Hungary or a country outside the European Economic Area that has a common border with the respective Beneficiary State, or any international organisation or body or agency thereof, actively involved in, and effectively contributing to, the implementation of a project
	4	Call 4 – Better awareness of Roma culture and history by the Roma and the mainstream society	Norway Grants	200.000 – 375.000	7.500.000	100	Any entity, public or private, commercial or non-commercial and non-governmental organisations, established as a legal person in Hungary, especially Roma and pro-Roma organizations (involved in social and civic, cultural and scientific activities), universities and research organisations, cultural institutions with Roma relevant objects (museums and public collections).	Any public or private entity, commercial or noncommercial, as well as non-governmental organisations established as a legal person either in the Donor States, Hungary or a country outside the European Economic Area that has a common border with the respective Beneficiary State, or any international organisation or

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								body or agency thereof, actively involved in, and effectively contributing to, the implementation of a project
Small Grant Scheme:	2	Call 2a – Local engagement and capacity building of Roma and pro-Roma CSOs for field social work	EEA Grants	125.000 – 200.000	2.000.000	100	Roma and pro-Roma civil society organisations	Roma and pro-Roma civil society organisations and church based organisations, local or Roma minority self-governments
		Call 2b – Local engagement and capacity building of Roma and pro-Roma CSOs for field social work	Norway Grants	125.000 – 200.000	4.000.000	100	Roma and pro-Roma civil society organisations	Roma and pro-Roma civil society organisations and church based organisations, local or Roma minority self-governments
Pre-defined project*:	Not relevant							

* Considering the MoU special concern stating the limitation of eligible costs spent on hard measures not more than 60% of total eligible cost will be ensured at programme level.

Expected results and indicators

	Description	Indicators	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Target
Objective	Enhanced inclusion and empowerment of Roma				
Outcome 1	Improved access to online services and digital infrastructure for the Roma in disadvantaged areas	Number of Roma that have accessed public administration services ²⁶	Cumulative number	TBD	TBD
		Number of Roma that have accessed employment services ²⁷	Cumulative number	TBD	TBD
		Number of Roma that have accessed education services ²⁸	Cumulative number	TBD	TBD
		Number of Roma that have accessed health services ²⁹	Cumulative number	TBD	TBD
		Share of Roma who have demonstrated digital competence ³⁰	Percentage	TBD	TBD
Output 1.1	IT access points provided to Roma	Number of IT access points established for Roma to access online services	Cumulative number	0	TBD
		Number of settlements with high percentage of Roma population with access to online services ³¹	Cumulative number	0	TBD
		Number of Roma that have used IT access points Disaggregated by Gender	Cumulative number	0	TBD

²⁶ Electronic public administration services (for instance application for social benefits, personal document issues or taxation) under the competence of either regional, central state authorities or municipality.

²⁷ Electronic administrative services of National Employment Service, online consultation with employment officer, and other non-formal informative or training events relating to employment, employability and entrepreneurship arranged online regarding employment.

²⁸ Reach of electronic school diary, participation of students in formal online in case of emergency such as COVID-19, online consultation with professionals of pedagogical assistance services; other formal and non-formal education services arranged online based on local need.

²⁹ Electronic health care services (i.e.: reach health examination results online) and online consultation with health care professionals arranged.

³⁰ Digital competence demonstrated means successful accomplishment of at least one digital competence development training giving an official certificate.

³¹ High percentage of Roma means if the share of Roma population in the district is higher than the national average.

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	Description	Indicators	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Target
Output 1.2	Roma trained in digital skills	Number of Roma trained in digital skills ³² Disaggregated by Gender	Cumulative number	0	TBD
Output 1.3	Organizations engaged in social inclusion of Roma equipped with IT equipment	Number of organizations engaged in social inclusion equipped with IT equipment [computer equipment and internet access]	Cumulative number	0	TBD
Outcome 2	Enhanced social inclusion of marginalised Roma communities	Number of people involved in civil society organisation activities ³³ Disaggregated by Roma/non-Roma	Cumulative number	0	TBD
		Number of Roma beneficiaries supported through local initiatives	Cumulative number	0	TBD
Output 2.1	Roma and pro-Roma CSOs have strengthened capacity to deliver	Number of Roma getting formally engaged in CSOs activities (as staff or volunteer)	Cumulative number	0	TBD
		Number of Roma and pro-Roma civil society organizations directly funded	Cumulative number	0	TBD
		Number of Roma and pro-Roma CSO staff trained	Cumulative number	0	TBD
Output 2.2	Roma disadvantaged communities supported	Number of community consultations held to facilitate local engagement	Cumulative number	0	TBD
		Number of locally developed initiatives involving Roma and non-Roma	Cumulative number	0	TBD
		Share of projects addressing the specific needs of Roma girls and women	Percentage	N/A	30% of all projects
Outcome 3	Improved education and empowerment of disadvantaged Roma students	Share of participating Roma children with better or same school performance ³⁴	Percentage	N/A	TBD
		Share of participating Roma children with increased school attendance ³⁵	Percentage	TBD	TBD

³² Trained means when a participant accomplished at least one digital competence or skill development training.

³³ Involvement means volunteers formally signing a contract, and participants in community planning and building activities signing attendance sheet.

³⁴ Better or same school performance means that the overall grade point average improves or remains the same at the end of the year compared to the previous year.

³⁵ Increase of school attendance means that they have 50% less unjustified absence hour from school than before entering the mentoring.

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	Description	Indicators	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Target
		Share of Roma children graduating their school year	Percentage	TBD	TBD
		Share of Roma children continuing their schooling in the following school year	Percentage	TBD	TBD
		Improved attitudes of non-Roma students towards Roma	Scale 1-5		
Output 3.1	Roma children are empowered	Number of Roma children mentored Disaggregated by gender	Cumulative number	0	TBD
		Number of non-Roma and Roma students that mentored Roma children Disaggregated by gender and Roma/non-Roma	Cumulative number	0	TBD
		Roma children level of satisfaction with mentoring	Scale 1-5	N/A	4 or higher
Output 3.2	Learning support and career guidance provided to disadvantaged Roma children	Number of community building events with skill development sessions involving Roma children	Cumulative number	0	TBD
		Roma children level of satisfaction with community building activities	Scale 1-5	N/A	4 or higher
		Number of Roma children that received complementary learning support from organisations Disaggregated by gender	Cumulative number	0	TBD
		Number of student pairs arranged	Cumulative number	0	TBD
Outcome 4	Strengthened Roma identity and awareness of Roma culture	Number of online exhibitions and events (digital art, traditional art and culture, music, literature, performing arts, film, language, history and social sciences and Romani studies)	Cumulative number	0	TBD
		Number of offline exhibitions and events (digital art, traditional art and culture, music, literature, performing arts, film, language, history and social sciences and Romani studies)	Cumulative number	0	TBD
		Number of web-based platforms expanded or established promoting Roma identity, culture, language, history and/or art	Cumulative number	0	TBD
		Number of physical visitors attending exhibitions and events	Cumulative number	0	TBD
		Number of online visitors attending exhibitions and events	Cumulative number	0	TBD
		Share of visitors expressing positive feedback on the exhibitions and events attended (online or physical)	Percentage (random sample)	N/A	TBD
Output 4.1	Roma artists and artisans, academic and civic experts supported	Number of Roma artists and artisans, academics and civic experts supported	Cumulative number	0	TBD
		Number of Roma and pro-Roma organisations supported to promote Roma identity	Cumulative	0	TBD

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	Description	Indicators	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Target
			number		
Output 4.2	Roma identity, culture and history promoted	Number of educational materials produced on Roma culture, history and language	Cumulative number	0	TBD
		Number of creative content on Roma culture produced	Cumulative number	0	TBD
		Number of linguistic and methodological research outputs produced on Roma languages and language use ³⁶	Cumulative number	0	TBD
Bilateral outcome	Enhanced collaboration between beneficiary and donor state entities involved in the programme	Level of trust between cooperating entities in Beneficiary States and Donor States	Scale 1-7	TBD	4.5
		Level of satisfaction with the partnership	Scale 1-7	TBD	4.5
		Share of cooperating organisations that apply the knowledge acquired from bilateral partnership	Percentage	TBD	50
Bilateral output 1	Partnerships between Hungary and Donor state entities supported	Number of participants in knowledge exchange programs (share of Hungarian and Donors State participants)	Cumulative number	0	TBD
		Number of projects involving cooperation with a donor project partner	Cumulative number	0	TBC
		Number of knowledge exchange programs	Cumulative number	0	TBC
		Number of staff from Beneficiary State in exchanges	Cumulative number	0	TBC
		Number of staff from Donor States in exchanges	Cumulative number	0	TBC

³⁶ Research outputs such as studies, articles, documentation produced, etc.