

Roma Integration and EU funds: Opportunities post 2020

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EU funds and Roma Integration

- During EU Accession and especially after 2007 European funds have become the main tool for supporting Roma integration
- European funds have become not only policy implementation tool but also policy formulation one providing also successful examples for consultation and involvement of all stakeholders, including CSO
- During 2007 – 13 period ESF supported 7 Roma targeted calls for about 62 mln BGN or 32 mln euro, while ERDF supported social housing call for 11 mln BGN or 5,64 mln euro
- During 2014 – 2020 period ESF co-financed operational programs have planned 325 mln BGN or 166,67 mln euro for Roma targeted operations. Regions in Growth OP (ERDF co-financed) will support social housing in certain urban municipalities

The present period: Assets

- Stronger political attention at EU level: EU Framework for NRIS, Council's Recommendations from December 9, 2013, etc.
- Political attention at national level: BG NRIS approved by the Parliament, Municipal Roma Integration Plans
- IP "Socio-economic integration of marginalized communities such as the Roma"
- Participation of Roma NGOs in preparing operational programs and in the Monitoring Committees
- Partnership between municipalities and NGOs is obligatory
- Multi-funded operations

The present period: Weaknesses

- Lack of Roma integration institutions with executive responsibilities and capacity to steer national level projects: NCCEII is out-of-legitimacy
- Low administrative capacity of rural municipalities
- Low interest of most of the urban municipalities
- The capacity of CSO is not used and their participation is limited: through de minimis, low pre-payment, etc.
- Administrative burden
- Lack of supportive public environment! ! !

Opportunities post-2020

- Strengthen European dimension in Roma integration: both for EU and Western Balkan countries
- Stronger attention to community development and overcoming anti-Roma stereotypes
- Stronger attention to creating positive public environment
- Preserve IP “Socio-economic integration of marginalized communities such as the Roma” and expand the Roma targeting dimension
- Ensure mainstreaming
- Engage also EAFRD

Opportunities post-2020

- Maintain and expand civil society participation in planning EU funds
- Strengthen CSO participation in using EU funds for Roma integration through:
 - - remove state aid / de minimis for Roma integration projects
 - - use CSOs as concrete beneficiaries of big national projects, as operators of global grants...: examples of EEA grants and Swiss cooperation
 - - provide targeted financial support to CSOs which are active at local and national level in promoting Roma integration via European and national dedicated funding instruments: f.e. as part of a possible European Values Instrument
- -introduce revolving fund or another financial instrument to facilitate CSO participation