

ACTION PLAN FOR THE INTEGRATION OF ROMA THROUGH THE STRUCTURAL FUNDS IN BULGARIA

This plan contains proposals for operations within the frames of three programmes (OPHRD, OPRD and RADP), as well as intersectoral interventions that would give a serious impetus to the process of integration of Roma.

The plan is directly related to the implementation of:

- Framework programme for integration of Roma into Bulgarian society (approved with Decision of the CoM on 12/05/2010),
- National action plan for the Decade of Roma inclusion,
- Strategy for educational integration of children and students from ethnic minorities (approved by the Minister of Education in March 2010),
- Health strategy for disadvantaged people belonging to ethnic minorities (approved with decision of the CoM in September 2005) and
- The national programme for improvement of the housing conditions for Roma in Bulgaria (approved with CoM Decree from 22/03/2006).

The plan is directly related with the provisions in NSRF and the three Programmes, in particular with Annex 17 “The Roma in Bulgaria” of NSFR and Chapter 6 “Fields of action in regard with the Roma community” of OPHRD. The planned indicators respond to the indicators of the relevant Programmes.

The implementation of the Plan is shared responsibility of the relevant institutions (Managing authorities and intermediary bodies), civic sector and Roma community. The implementation is being coordinated by the Minister on management of the EU funds: for this purpose the Minister establishes a working group, involving representatives of the relevant institutions and active civic organizations with proven capacity in the area.

With the purpose to accelerate the integration of Roma, the Plan envisages the following interventions to be realized by the end of the current programme period:

Operational programme “Human Resources Development”	
Priority axis 1	Promotion of the economic activity and development of the inclusive labor market
Area of intervention	1.1. integration of vulnerable groups in the labor market
Name of operation	Take your life into your own hands
Short description of the operation	The operation is targeted at the most marginalized and vulnerable group among the unemployed – the discouraged and inactive people, large part of who are Roma. The operation envisages the implementation of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - search / outreach and motivation of the discouraged and inactive people; - training and professional qualification; - mediation for employment; - involvement in a follow up employment, traineeships and apprenticeship
Duration	2010-2013
Justification for the implementation of the operation	The integration of the non active persons on the labor market is one of the greatest challenges standing in front of the employment policy in Bulgaria. The inclusion of discouraged persons on the labor market requires special efforts. The Directorates “Labor bureau” is lacking enough resources in order to address the challenge of identifying and motivating the discouraged especially when they belong to minority ethnic groups. Establishment of public private partnership between Labor bureaus (LB), NGOs working within communities of vulnerable groups and entrepreneurs is needed. In 2008 within the framework of National programme for differentiated

	<p>payments (NPDP) a programme “Activation of inactive persons” was launched. 200 Roma labor mediators were assigned in 100 LB. The present operation is complementary to this programme and envisages active inclusion of NGOs, working in the community and the establishment of public private partnership.</p> <p>Within the framework of intervention 1.1. “Integration of vulnerable groups on the labor market” several measures are presented, targeting representatives of vulnerable groups. The listed activities include provision of opportunities for training, internships, apprenticeship. The implementation of the latter amongst the most marginalized – the ones that have completely left the labor market, most of which are within the statistic category of discouraged persons require targeted social work in the community for identifying and motivating. Behind the statistics of discouraged persons a great variety of typical life cases is hidden and that often demand different approach for activating the target groups. Knowledge on specific relationship and psychology of minority communities is needed especially in cases of discouraged persons. Sometimes the assessment of the most adequate measures can be made on site by the competent social workers or other specialists working with marginalized communities. In the case of most vulnerable groups often is required the application of individual programs that are extensive in time than the regular ones and require intensive external support. The inclusion in certain programme however must be preceded by preliminary activation of inactive persons that includes their identification and establishment of preliminary contact, it could be initiated by the discouraged themselves however it happens rarely. For this purpose different communication channels may be used, including media, however in places with higher number of discouraged persons living in compact socially isolated communities the approaches must be based on intensive community work in order to be effective.</p>
Geographic scope	The activities will be implemented on the territory of Republic of Bulgaria in populated areas and living regions with high number of discouraged and inactive persons, regions with high concentration of Roma population in particular.
Approach for realization	Opened competition for call for proposals pursuant to CoM Decree No 121/31/05/2007, in effect from 08/06/2007
Budget (in BGN)	30 000 000
Specific eligibility criteria	
Eligible beneficiaries	Educational and training institutions and organizations; NGOs, working in the community amongst marginalized groups; centers for information and professional orientation; LB; entrepreneurs.
Requirements to the beneficiaries and their partners (if applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leading beneficiary can be an NGO, working in the community amongst marginalized groups - Partner can be training institution/organizations licensed in the area of professional training, LB, entrepreneurs.
Eligible activities	<p>Component 1. Identification of discouraged persons amongst the most marginalized communities, especially in regions with compact Roma population:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1. Establishment of local centers for activation and support; 1.2. Identification of discouraged persons through the usage of different methods of community work – establishment of contact with local leaders, social work door to door, motivation meetings and individual conversations; 1.3. Motivation of discouraged persons for registration at LB and inclusion in programs for qualification and employment; <p>Component 2: Professional qualification and prequalification: Local centers for activation and support in partnership with institutions, licensed to deliver professional qualification will implement the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evaluation of group and individual needs - Establishment of groups for trainings - Development and adaptation of special training courses and programs;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of individual programmes for training and personal development, matching participation in relevant group forms of training, individual lessons, self training and self preparation, group and individual mentorship, complementary motivational and socially integrative measures (including work with families, establishment of public trust and support, work with the community); - Training for attainment of certificate of qualification or part of profession. <p>Component 3. Mediators services for finding job Each and every project must include activities from the above three components.</p>
Eligible target groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - unemployed persons without education, or with low degree of education and no specialty and profession, - representatives of vulnerable ethnic groups, - non active persons
Indicators	
	<p>Number of persons, attained mediators services: 10 000 Number of persons passed training for professional qualification: 6500 Number of persons, passed training for key competencies: 3 500 Number of persons, passed internship programme: 9 000</p>

Operational programme “Human Resources Development”	
Priority axis № 4	Improving the access to education and training
Area of intervention	4.1. Access to education and training of groups in disadvantaged situation
Name of operation	Reintegration of dropped out students in the school system
Short description of the operation	<p>This operation is targeted at reintegration in the schooling system of already dropped out students. It adds value to the operations “Establishment of favorable multicultural environment... “(2008-2009) and “Integration of children and students of ethnic minorities in schooling system””: the indicated operations put emphasis on the prevention of drop out from school, while the present operation is targeting at already dropped out students and their reintegration in school.</p> <p>The approbated approach for reintegration envisages attraction and inclusion of different, interested parties: institutions (schools, departments “Child protection”, Directorates “Social welfare”), NGOs working in the community, parents. It combines overcoming the social and economic obstacles with reinforces and targeted pedagogical impact, motivation of dropped out students and their parents, community work. An emphasis is put on working in Roma community, since a great percentage of the dropped out students in primary education are Roma.</p> <p>The operation envisages the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - identification of dropped out students - motivation of dropped out students and motivation for catching up of the accumulated knowledge deficit - establishment of adaptive fostering environment in school - reintegration in school and mentorship - establishment of sustainable mechanisms for work with parents of dropped students (including endorsement of school mediators’ position)
Duration	2011-2013 r.
Justification for the implementation of the operation	<p>According data provided by MEYS (Ministry of Education, Youth and Science) annually from the school education are dropping out between 16 000 – 18 000 students. According NSI (National Statistic Institute) the percentage of dropped students is nearly 20%, as for the past years a process of deepening the problem is observed – for instance the net rate of registering for 2008 in elementary level has been decreased to 94, 6% (while the same rate three years ago indicated almost 100% registration) and in the primary stage it reaches 81%.</p> <p>Although information on ethnic affiliation of dropped out students is not being collected, sociological surveys indicate that in primary schools the dropping out</p>

	<p>children are mainly from Roma origin. Indirect evidence for this is the strongly decreasing percentage of Roma students in each higher degree or stage of education: according data provided by MEYS Roma children in primary degree are almost 23% from all students, in elementary degree this percentage is 16,8%, and in secondary degree hardly 3%.</p> <p>Prevention of drop out in school and reintegration of already dropped out students is one of the main priorities of the National Programme for development of school education (2006), as well as in the Strategy for educational integration of children and students from ethnic minorities (2004 and 2010).</p> <p>In essence the prevention of drop out from school and reintegration of already dropped out students are two different (although complementary) processes inclusive of different methods and participants. Prevention from drop out is mainly task of schools where the respective students are registered in partnership with NGOs, municipalities and etc. In the programs for inclusion the school as main institution is not enough, although it cannot be substituted. The social work and community mediation must play significant role in each programme for work with dropped out students and their families. Respectively the participation of NGOs based in the community and wide range of institutions (including departments for child protection) as well as schools is imperatively necessary for the success of these programs.</p> <p>Within the framework of OPRHD the following operation was realized “Establishment of favorable multicultural environment...” (2008-2009) and another one is forthcoming “Integration of children and students from ethnic minorities in school system”. Both operations put emphasis on the prevention of dropping out from school. The present operation will supplement their accent through activities for reintegration of already dropped out students.</p>
Geographic scope	The activities will be implemented on the territory of Republic of Bulgaria
Approach for realization	Opened competition for call for proposals pursuant to CoM Decree No 121/31/05/2007
Budget (in BGN)	21 000 000 BGN
Specific eligibility criteria	
Eligible beneficiaries	Schools, universities, municipalities, NGOs
Requirements to the beneficiaries and their partners	The partnership with schools is obligatory, if the school is not leading beneficiary
Eligible activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identification of dropped out students, including establishment of data base and register 2. Motivation of dropped out students for continuing education 3. Social work with dropped out students and their families 4. Overcoming social obstacles standing in front reintegration of dropped out students: purchasing school textbooks, materials, and etc. 5. Activities for catching up accumulated knowledge deficit, including additional activities, additional classes, and etc. 6. Establishment of adaptive fostering environment in school: adaptation of school programs for catching up missed skills and knowledge, training of teachers for work with dropped out students and for work in multicultural environment, endorsement of intercultural and interactive education 7. Reintegration of dropped out students in school and mentorship aiming at facilitating adaptation and prevention of future drop out: including yearly mentorship for reintegrated children by pedagogue/psychologist, elaboration of individual programs for overcoming knowledge deficit, etc. 8. Creation of sustainable mechanisms for work with parents of dropped students, including endorsement of school mediator’s position

Eligible target groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Representatives of vulnerable ethnic groups – Roma and others - Dropped out persons from educational system - Teachers
Indicators	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of persons, participating in measures for prevention for early drop out from school: 7000 - Number of dropped out students, reintegrated in the educational system: 7000

Operational programme “Human Resources Development”	
Priority axis № 4	Improving access to education and training
Area of intervention	4.1. Provision of access to education and training to groups in disadvantaged situation
Name of operation	Improving the access to education in small populated regions
Short description of the operation	The operation is corresponding to the urgent educational need related to the necessity of improving the access to education and increasing the quality of education in schools in small settlements after the endorsement of the system of delegated budgets and optimization of the school network. This operation is aiming at stopping the process of drop out from schools and assists the establishment of favorable foster environment in the so called “focal schools”, and furthermore to assist the integration of students in living settlements without schools in focal schools and to increase the quality of education in schools in small living settlements. A specific accent of this operation is the support of the process of educational integration of children and students belonging to ethnic minorities since they represent a larger percentage of children and students from the so called “rural regions”.
Duration	2011-2013
Justification for the implementation of the operation	<p>The endorsement of delegated budgets led to faster optimization of the school network: only in 2008 were closed more than 300 schools. Larger part of them is situated in small settlements; in mean time transportation was provided for the students to focal schools. Within the focal schools was provided free lunch and daytime organization of the schooling process for the traveling students. Although the integration of the traveling students faces few problems the process of optimization has brought to increase of the percentage of non attending school students in the obligatory school age: according data provided by NSI the net rate of registration in school for 2008 in primary stage has been decreasing to 94.6% (while the same rate three years ago was showing almost 100% registration), and in elementary stage it has decreased reaching 81%.</p> <p>The endorsement of delegated budget defined on the basis of unified cost standards has led to decreasing funding of these schools in small settlements, that were preserved however do not possess the statute of focal or protected schools. Because of the small number of students within these schools the delegated budget is almost minimal; this however has reflected to the quality of the schooling process: in many of these schools there is no semi boarding groups, free elective classes or extracurricular activities, and etc.</p> <p>Thus the situation that occurred additionally hinders the educational integration of children and students belonging to ethnic minorities, a larger percentage of whom are liable to education in small settlements.</p>
Geographic scope	The activities will be implemented on the territory of Republic of Bulgaria
Approach for realization	Opened competition for call for proposals pursuant to CoM Decree No 121/31/05/2007
Budget (in BGN)	6 000 000 BGN
Specific eligibility criteria	
Eligible beneficiaries	Center for educational integration of children and students from ethnic minorities (CEICSEM)

Eligible activities	<p>Component 1: Support to focal schools for guaranteeing access to quality education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - improving schooling environment - qualification of teachers for working in multicultural environment - support to the endorsement and development of daytime forms of training - endorsement of intercultural education forms: culture presentation, folklore and language of different ethnic groups and transforming the cultural diversity in source of mutual knowledge and tolerance - endorsement of the position of assistant to the teacher (educational mediator), facilitating children's and students from ethnic minorities adaptation - work with parents of traveling students and local students as well - including all children in preparatory classes/group - reintegration of dropped out students <p>Component 2: Support to the access to education and quality education in schools in small settlements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - improving school environment - qualification of teachers for working in multicultural environment - endorsement and development of daytime forms of training, including semi boarding groups and canteens - endorsement of intercultural forms of education: culture presentation, folklore and language of different ethnic groups and transforming the cultural diversity in source of mutual knowledge and tolerance - work with parents - including all children in preparatory classes/group - reintegration of dropped out students in school
Eligible target groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Representative of vulnerable ethnic groups – Roma and etc. - Children in early age - Dropped out from school - Teachers
Indicators	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of persons, participating in measures for prevention of the early drop out from school: 6000 - Number of drop out students, reintegrated in the educational system: 1000

Operational programme “Human Resources Development”	
Priority axis № 4	Improving the access to education and training
Area of intervention	<p>4.1. Access to education and training of groups in disadvantaged situation</p> <p>4.2. Children and youth in education and society</p> <p>4.3. Development of lifelong learning system</p>
Name of operation	Improvement of access to higher education of youth belonging to vulnerable ethnic minorities with focus on Roma
Short description of the operation	The operation corresponds to the most acute educational imbalance in Bulgaria nowadays: disproportionately low number and percentage of Roma with higher education. It is aiming at facilitating the access of youth belonging to vulnerable ethnic minorities to higher education through establishment of preconditions for better conditions for their creative performance and development of potential for future successful realization. A complex of complementary activities is envisaged, including motivational training, professional orientations, mentorship, and provision of supplementary scholarship.
Duration	2011-2013
Justification for the implementation of the operation	OPRHD points out that “Educational disproportions have clear ethnic characteristic...the data for higher education is indicative. About 23.5% of ethnic Bulgarians have graduated higher education in comparison to 2.7% ethnic Turks and

	<p>about 0.2-0.4% of Roma.” The reasons for this are complex, as one of it is the low financial status, the lack of established tradition for participation in higher education, poor professional orientation and etc.</p> <p>The labor market as well as the national policy on social inclusion of Roma requires higher number of Roma with higher education. Particularly acute is the demand in specialties like medicine, pedagogic, social activities and etc.</p> <p>Currently in Bulgaria there is accumulated successful, however relatively poor experience based on complex programs for improving the access to higher education of youth from Roma community. An example in this regard is the programme for assisting Roma trained in medical universities and colleges, implemented by Open Society Institute with the financial support of the Roma Education Fund.</p> <p>The implemented to this end within the framework of OPRHD interventions for support of the access to higher education and professional orientation do not exclude youth belonging to vulnerable minorities, however their number and percentage remain relatively low. All this necessitates an overall complex programme for assistance to the access to higher education, professional orientation and carrier development of youth from vulnerable ethnic minorities.</p>
Geographic scope	The activities will be implemented on the territory of Republic of Bulgaria
Approach for realization	Opened competition for call for proposals pursuant to CoM Decree No 121/31/05/2007
Budget (in BGN)	10 000 000 BGN
Specific eligibility criteria	
Eligible beneficiaries	Higher education schools, NGOs, educational and training institutions
Eligible activities	<p>Component 1: Activities for motivation of graduating or secondary education graduates for continuation of their education in university degree: an emphasis will be put on motivation for continuing their education in specialties as medicine, pedagogy, social activities.</p> <p>Component 2: Motivation training and education for professional orientation of students from vulnerable ethnic minorities</p> <p>Component 3: Mentorship for achieving higher academic accomplishments and better carrier development for students from ethnic minorities</p> <p>Component 4: Provision of supplementary scholarship</p>
Eligible target groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students - Representatives of vulnerable ethnic groups – Roma and others
Indicators	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of students, participating in mechanisms for students support: 2000 - Number of students, participating in programs for carrier development and professional orientation: 2000

Operational programme “Human Resources Development”	
Priority axis № 5	Social inclusion and encouragement of social economy
Area of intervention	5.3. Work efficiency through better health
Name of operation	Improving the access to health care in regions with predominant population of socially excluded groups with focus on Roma
Short description of the operation	<p>The operation aims at improving the work efficiency and increase of labor life length and establishment of conditions for inclusion and reintegration on the labor market as well as maintenance of healthy work force amongst people from vulnerable groups in order to achieve the outlined goals in the Strategy from Lisbon. The operation elaborates on the existing successful experience in provision of health services in the community, prevention and early diagnostic of socially important diseases amongst the most vulnerable groups from the population (Roma in</p>

	particular). It envisages also further development of the network of health centers in marginalized communities, optimization of the system of health services in the community and work with medical cadres for developing skills for working in multicultural environment.
Duration	2010-2013
Justification for the implementation of the operation	<p>The access to sufficient in capacity and quality health services of population, living in remote and inaccessible areas, as well as population from the socially excluded groups and communities are hampered. It is especially grave for the Roma population, where the average life expectancy is low, high rates of child mortality is registered, high vulnerability to socially significant, severe and chronic diseases, high share of people with a degree of disability. The Roma community problems are deepen because a large part of them are inhabiting areas and regions that are not accessible, as well as the high shares of health uninsured persons and high shares of persons without assigned general practitioner. Thus, the possibility for realization of prophylactic control on the risk factors, early diagnostic and disease treatment and rehabilitation of vulnerable groups is bound. The deteriorated health status leads to decrease of the intensity and length of participation on the labor market, aggravates the quality of labor force and increases the health and social expenditures. Although the vulnerable population (especially Roma) is with great share of people in active age and youth, its worse health status constraints the equal integration on the labor market and additionally exacerbates the social and economic status of these households and communities.</p> <p>In the past years in Bulgaria successful experience on conducting activities related to prevention and early diagnostic of socially significant diseases of the Roma community was gained particularly through the implementation of the Programme for prevention and control on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. This programme, coordinated by the Ministry of health has a specific component for working in Roma community, whose activities are implemented on site by community based NGOs. The success of the terrain activities in prevention and early diagnostic of HIV/AIDS in the Roma community was admitted by the World Health Organization. The programme has led to the capacity building of those community based organizations as well.</p> <p>A successful screening of socially significant diseases and cancer screening was gained within the framework of three projects implemented by PHARE programme "Improvement of the condition and integration of minority groups in disadvantaged situation with a focus on Roma minority". The present operation further elaborates the significant experience in prevention and early diagnostic of socially significant diseases amongst vulnerable groups. It will contribute towards the achievement of goals, outlined in the National action plan for social inclusion, Health strategy for persons in disadvantaged situation, belonging to ethnic minorities, National health strategy and National demographic strategy of Republic of Bulgaria 2006-2020.</p>
Geographic scope	Activities will be implemented on the territory of Republic of Bulgaria in remote regions and areas and living regions with predominant population of socially excluded groups with focus on Roma
Approach for realization	Opened competition for call for proposals pursuant to CoM Decree No 121/31/05/2007
Budget (in BGN)	16 000 000 BGN
Specific eligibility criteria	
Eligible beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diagnostic and consultation center and practices of general practitioners; - Organizations, registered by the Law for nonprofit organizations (NGOs) or consortium of NGOs
Beneficiaries and partners eligibility	In case the beneficiary is not leading one, it is obligatory to provide evidence for partnership with organization, registered by the Law for nonprofit organizations, working with the target communities.

Eligible activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establishment/development of already existing health centers in marginalized communities 2. Increasing the quality of community based health services; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - conduct of specialized health education campaigns in the Roma community - provision of health consultations, related to family planning, prevention of early child mortality and malformations, course of pregnancy and preservation of newborns health and children in early age - provision of psychological support 3. Organization and implementation of information campaigns for health prophylactic of persons with no access to health insurance system
Eligible target groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vulnerable ethnic groups – Roma and etc. - population, living in remote and inaccessible areas
3. Indicators	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Population, reached by the public information and prevention campaigns - Number of conducted prophylactic examinations

Operation programme “Regional development”	
Priority axis № 1	Sustainable and integrated development
Area of intervention	<i>Area of intervention 1.2</i>
Name of the operation	Provision of contemporary social housing for accommodation of vulnerable, minority and socially disadvantaged groups from the population.
Short description of the operation	The operation corresponds to one of the most acute problems in Bulgaria, namely provision of contemporary social housing for accommodation of vulnerable minority and socially disadvantaged groups. Potential solution of this problem is reflected in number strategic and operational documents adopted by the Council of Ministers as Action Plan 2005-2015 for implementation of the Decade of Roma Inclusion, Programme for improving the living conditions of Roma in Republic of Bulgaria 2005-2015. This operation also applies the changes set by Regulation 1080/2006 of the European Fund for Regional Development from 2010.
Duration	2011-2013
Justification for implementation of the operation	<p>Although there is not clear definition on “social housing” in Bulgaria, municipal housing is offered to people according the Law and based on requirements for their social status. Typically tenants are people with low income or vulnerable socially disadvantaged groups who do not own any property. Bulgaria has a great number of vacant dwellings therefore the real availability of housing in some urban areas (mainly large cities) is lower than the European standards.</p> <p>The condition of the housing fund is also getting worst, and the residential neighborhoods is becoming into urban ghettos because of bad management and lack of maintenance.</p> <p>The present situation and the negative tendencies in the housing sector show that main problems in the sphere are related with insufficient maintenance of the housing fund; increase of the number and the relative share of the empty houses in some regions; increase of the share of owners who cannot cover the expenses for their houses because of low incomes; extremely low relative share of the existing and newly constructed public housing, for renting them to young families and the other vulnerable groups of the population; missing housing subsidy.</p> <p>Housing conditions of Roma are still significantly worse than for the other part of the population. There are insufficient objects – without bathroom, electricity, water and canalization. The not regulated or missing infrastructure in the Roma neighborhoods is a serious problem. The share of illegal buildings is high. In many cases the illegal</p>

	<p>buildings reflex also in illegal connection to electrical, water supply and canalization installations which is a risk for the life and the health of the people. In a pre-project survey, conducted under BG 0204.01 “Urbanization and houses for the Roma in Bulgaria” the syndrome of the “illegal existence” of the Roma neighborhoods has been identified as a deepening. The research on the housing conditions of Roma, conducted in 88 towns and a field research in selected Roma areas of 14 towns have shown the presence of serious problems in regard with the urban planning.</p> <p>Urbanization plans are not applicable in more than 70% of the Roma neighborhoods. The existing buildings do not respond to the requirements for construction, sanitary and hygiene norms¹.</p>
Geographic scope	The activities will be implemented within the Republic of Bulgaria
Approach for realization	Open competitive call for proposals
Budget (BGN)	79 618 000
Specific eligibility criteria	
Eligible beneficiaries	Public authorities or non-profit associations, associations of owners of houses I multifamily residential buildings
Eligible activities	<p>Each project should contain the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Construction of social houses through renovation and change of purpose of existing buildings, property of public authorities or non-profit associations. - Provision of housing for vulnerable, minority and socially disadvantaged groups of the population in the constructed social houses. - Campaign for increase of the public awareness among minority groups and the majority for the need of provision of housing to families from different ethnoses in the constructed social houses (anti-segregation campaigns)
Eligible target groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Representatives of vulnerable ethnic groups – Roma and etc. - Socially vulnerable groups in disadvantaged situation
Indicators	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of provided social houses - Number of renovated existing buildings - Number of people, participated in the envisaged measures

Operational programme “Regional Development”	
Priority axis	Sustainable and integrated development and Local development and cooperation
Area of intervention	<i>Area of intervention 1.1 and 4.1</i>
Name of operation	Providing appropriate and cost-effective educational, health, social and cultural infrastructure in neighborhoods with marginalized populations
Short description of the operation	The operation envisages reconstruction, repair and equipment of educational, health and hospitals, of institutions that provide social services, and of cultural centers in neighborhoods with socially excluded and marginalized groups of population. Encouragement will be given to initiatives oriented towards social, educational and health problems of the Roma community, as well as to measures for preservation of the cultural identity of Roma (Roma cultural centers). The activities under this operation will be an addition to the measures of OP Human Resources Development and will be realized within the frames of complete municipal programmes for overcoming of the social exclusion of the targeted neighborhoods and groups of the population.
Duration	2011-2013
Justification for the	The provision of sustainable urban development can not be reached only by

¹ Съвместен меморандум за социално включване, 03 февруари 2005г.

implementation of the operation	<p>investments in the main infrastructure. This is a much wider process which involves sustainable social development – from the point of view of educational, cultural, social and health infrastructure.</p> <p>The common between all Bulgarian planning regions is that the social infrastructure is not enough adjusted to the current situation and the arising needs or it is in a bad condition. Particularly serious is the situation in many of the Roma neighborhoods and in the neighborhoods with other socially excluded groups. The lack of appropriate social, educational and health infrastructure there, leads to their transformation into ghettos: extremely disturbing process which must be stopped.</p> <p>Those problems are addressed in the National programme for improvement of housing conditions of Roma in Bulgaria and other national documents, but to this moment there are not enough investments for their resolution.</p> <p>During previous years the OPHRD funded projects for educational, cultural, social and health infrastructure under measures 1.1 and 4.1, but they have barely reached neighborhoods with compact groups of marginalized and socially excluded population, because of the specific accumulation of problems there. This operation is focused in the targeted neighborhoods so the goal of the OPHRD could be reached there too.</p> <p>The optimization and modernization of the social infrastructure in the targeted neighborhoods will lead to increase of the quality of life and will collaborate for improvement of the human capital and the labor market in the regions, and will contribute to the implementation of the Lisbon’ goals. The interventions under this operation are important for the increase of the economic, social and cultural integration in the urban areas.</p>
Geographic scope	The activities will be implemented within the territory of republic of Bulgaria in neighborhoods that are preliminary approved.
Approach for realization of the operation	Open competition of call for proposals.
Budget (BGN)	
Specific criteria for eligibility	
Eligible beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Municipalities for objects of municipal property: schools, kindergartens, health, cultural, social institutions, etc. - Ministry of Education, Youth and Science for the State education institutions; - Ministry of Health for the state health institutions and hospitals; - Ministry of culture for State cultural institutions - Ministry of labor and social policy/Agency for social assistance – for the objects in the area of social services. - Ministry of labor and social policy/Agency of employment – for the labor bureaus - Non-governmental organizations and universities, in the cases they act as associations for provision of health, social, educational and cultural services
Specific requirements for the beneficiaries	- In cases where reconstruction and equipment is envisaged, the respective Municipality should have adopted Municipal plan/ Strategy for educational integration
Eligible activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reconstruction, repair and equipment of educational institutions – kindergartens, primary and high schools Reconstruction, renovation and equipment of health institutions for emergency cases and hospitals (including ambulances), primary, specialized hospital and out of hospital care. - Reconstruction, renovation, widening and equipment of medical x-ray institutions, related with socially significant cancer diseases; - Reconstruction, renovation and equipment of institutions that provide social

	<p>services, and to labor bureaus;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of infrastructure in the area of culture through reconstruction, renovation and equipment of cultural centers, theaters, chitalishte, libraries and other objects, related with the cultural life. - Development of Roma cultural centers
Eligible target groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Representatives of vulnerable ethnic groups – Roma and etc. - Socially vulnerable groups in disadvantaged situation
Indicators	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of reconstructed educational, social and cultural institutions - Number of renovated educational, health, social and cultural institutions - Number of equipped educational, health, social and cultural institutions - Number of established Roma cultural centers - Number of reconstructed cultural centers

Intersectoral intervention	
Programmes	OPHRD and OPRD
Priority axis	Priority axis 4 of OPHRD, Priority axis 4 of OPRD
Name of operation	Desegregation of the Roma education
Short description of operation	<p>The operation responds to one of the sharpest problems for the educational integration of the Roma children and their follow up realization on the labor market: the presence of separate (practically segregated) Roma schools in the large towns and the low level of education which they provide. Overcoming of those problems is one of the main accents in the Strategy for educational integration of children and students from ethnic minorities, and there is a lot of experience in this field. The operation envisages a combination of “soft” and “hard” measures for support of the process of bringing Roma children to ethnically mixed schools and establishing of favorable acceptive environment in them, as well as for improvement the quality of education in those neighborhood schools, that are decided not to be closed down. The implementation of the operation will be accompanied by activities for large information and increase of the activeness of the local Roma communities.</p>
Duration	2011-2013
Justification for implementation of the operation	<p>According to data of the MEYS there are currently 64 schools, situated in Roma neighborhoods of large towns, where preliminary Roma students are enrolled – the so called “primarily segregated schools”. The number of the schools that are out of the Roma neighborhoods where primarily Roma children go to study is increasing – the so called – “secondary segregated schools”. Usually the quality of education in them is low and the students rarely continue their education after 8th grade.</p> <p>The Strategy for educational integration of children and students from ethnic minorities sets as one of its priorities the “Complete integration of Roma children and students through desegregation of kindergartens and schools in separate Roma neighborhoods and provision of conditions for equal access out of them”. It is envisaged to implement it with the active participation of the Roma community and the relative municipalities which should adopt their plans for the future of the segregated schools – which of them will be closed, where the students will be integrated, which schools will be preserved. For support of this process, the CoM established a Centre for educational integration of children and students from ethnic minorities. The Centre uses funds from the state budget. In this regard was the operation “Establishment of favorable multicultural environment...” realized within the frames of the OPHRD. Many efforts were done by NGOs too, funded by external donors.</p> <p>The activities, which are implemented to this date, show that the desegregation could</p>

	be done with a massive intervention, which combines measures for improvement of the quality of education with measures for improvement of the technical equipment. Partnership with the Roma community and NGOs is necessary. The engagement of the Municipalities that are responsible for the future of the segregated schools is of great importance.
Geographic scope	The activities will be implemented within the Republic of Bulgaria.
Approach for realization of the operation	Open competitive procedure for proposals, in accordance with decree of the CoM № 121 from 31/05/2007
Budget (BGN)	40 000 000
Specific criteria for eligibility	
Eligible beneficiaries	Municipalities, schools, NGOs In case the Municipality is not a leading beneficiary, it should be a partner. Municipalities should have adopted (by the Municipal council) a plan for the future of the segregated schools/Plan for educational integration
Eligible activities	Each project should contain the following eligible criteria: - renovation, reconstruction and equipment of schools and kindergartens that implement a process of desegregation; - activities for incorporation of intercultural education and establishment of favorable acceptable environment in the schools that implement desegregation process (e.g. additional activities for catching up of knowledge deficit, incorporation of free elective subjects in culture and folklore of ethnoses, out of class and out of school activities and etc.); - Training of teachers for work in multicultural environment; - Activities for motivation and involvement of parents; - Communication campaign
Eligible target groups	- Representatives of vulnerable ethnic groups – Roma and etc. - Dropped out of the education system - Teachers
Indicators	
	- Number of people participating in measures for prevention of early drop out - Number of dropped out students, reintegrated again in the educational system - Improved educational infrastructure - Students, benefited with the improved educational infrastructure

Intersectoral intervention	
Programmes	OPHRD and OPRD
Priority axis	Priority axis 4 of OPHRD, Priority axis 1, 4 and 5 of OPRD
Name of operation	Social inclusion of Roma from segregated Roma neighborhoods
Short description of operation	The operation aims at establishing models for social inclusion of Roma from segregated Roma neighborhoods in different living areas – large town, small town and rural village. It offers multisectoral intervention for improvement of the infrastructure, employment, education, social and health services in the involved neighborhoods. The intervention will be accompanied with activities for wide information and increase of the activeness of the local Roma communities, as well as with communication activities, targeted at the majority. The model that is established in the frames of this operation will be widely used for complete resolution of the problems with social inclusion of Roma from segregated neighborhoods in the whole country – through means from the state budget and from the operational programmes during the next planning period.

Duration	2011-2013
Justification for implementation of the operation	<p>One of the main barriers in front of the effective integration of Roma is the accumulation of additional problems in the segregated Roma neighborhoods: bad infrastructure, high level of unemployment, low level of education and low level of education services, worsen health status and etc. This gradually leads to transformation of the Roma neighborhoods into ghettos and seriously stands in front of the complete process of integration.</p> <p>Since 1999 strategic and planning documents for the integration of Roma were approved: the Framework programme for equal integration of Roma into Bulgarian society, National action plan for the Decade of Roma inclusion, Strategy for educational integration, Health strategy for people in disadvantaged situation, National programme for improvement of the housing conditions of Roma. However, to this moment there is a no implementation of those documents because of financial resources limits.</p> <p>OPHRD and OPRD contain measures targeted at different aspects of the social inclusion of Roma: Employment (measure 1.1. of OPHRD), access to education (measure 4.1. of OPHRD), social services (measure 5.2. of OPHRD), health services (measure 5.3. of OPHRD), infrastructure (measures 1.1. and 4.1. of OPRD). Despite this, to this moment there is no application of multisectoral approach of intervention in the Roma neighborhoods, including improvement of the level of employment, education, social and health services, infrastructure, involving the Roma community in those neighborhoods.</p> <p>The proposed operation offers the needed multisectoral approach for improvement of the social inclusion and integration of Roma. The measure will be piloted in three different Roma neighborhoods: in large town, small town and rural village.</p>
Geographic scope	The activities will be implemented within the Republic of Bulgaria
Approach for realization of the operation	Open competitive procedure of call for proposals
Budget (BGN)	80 000 000
Specific eligibility criteria	
Eligible beneficiaries	<p>Leading beneficiary: Municipalities Partners: NGOs, Schools The partnership of NGO, working in the respective Roma neighborhood is compulsory. The application Municipality should have adopted Municipal strategy for integration of Roma</p>
Eligible activities	<p>Each project has to contain the following eligible activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Renovation, reconstruction and equipment of the buildings of the educational, health, social and cultural infrastructure in the Roma neighborhood; - Development of Roma cultural centre; - Activities for increase of the level of employment; - Activities for improvement of the access to quality education and professional qualification; - Development of appropriate social services in the community; - Activities for improvement of the access to health services; - Activities for motivation and involvement of the local Roma communities; - Communication campaign with the majority
Eligible target groups	- Representatives of vulnerable ethnic groups – Roma and etc.

Rural areas development programme:

From the point of view that currently the RADP does not contain measures targeted at the improvement of the social inclusion and integration of Roma, an emergent initiating of the following actions is needed:

1. Through change of the RADP to set additional specific indicators and quantatives goals, monitoring the impact of the project on the Roma community- number of Roma population that make use of the constructed objects and equipment, or related with services - cultural, sport, related with the use of information and communication technologies and etc.;
2. To incorporate minimal guaranteed budgets for implementation of activities under measures 321 and 322 in the Roma neighborhoods;
3. To stimulate and strictly observe for involvement of Roma people in the local initiative groups, as well as for incorporation of measures, targeted at vulnerable groups in the rural areas in the Strategies for local development under axis 4, measure 4.3.1-1.