



**January 2020**

# ROMACTED at a glance: BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

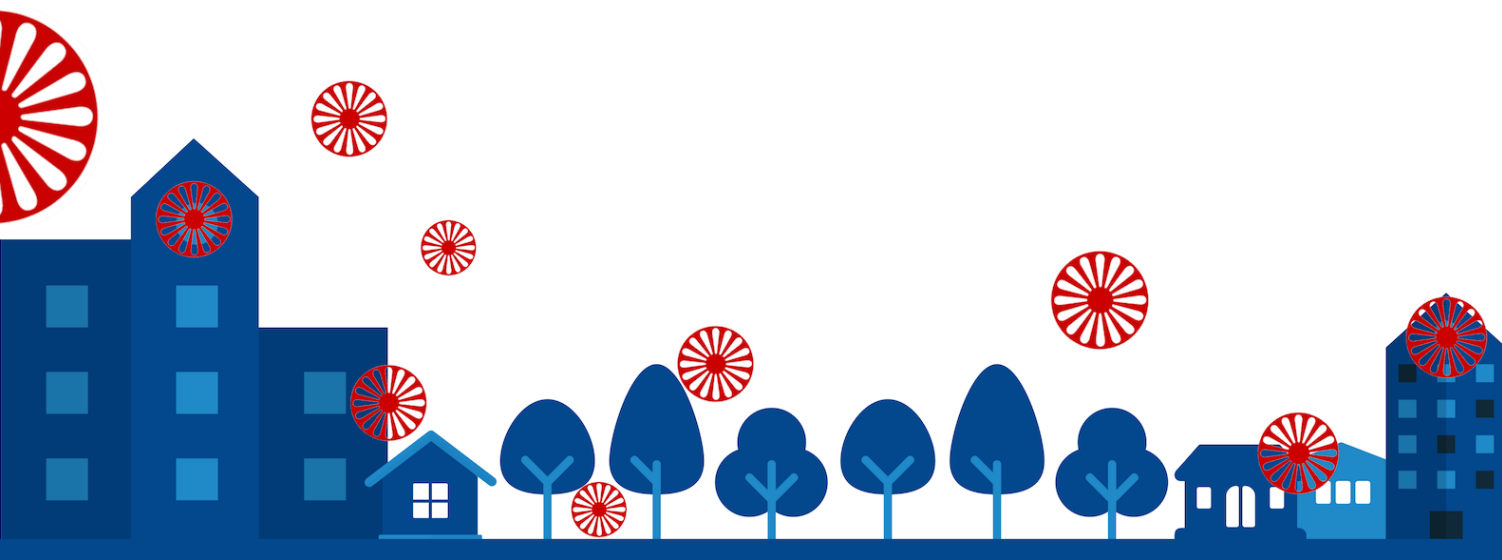
The ROMACTED Programme was official launched in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) on 20 March 2018. Mayors and municipal representatives from the ten selected municipalities (Bijeljina, Brčko, Donji Vakuf, Gradiška, Kakanj, Prnjavor, Tuzla, Visoko, Vukosavlje and Travnik) and the Head of the Council of Europe Office in Sarajevo signed the Memorandum of Understanding in the presence of the European Union Delegation and the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees. The launch itself served as a platform for confirmation of the commitment towards Roma inclusion by the Council of Europe, as well as by the local authorities in BiH.

The programme is implemented by the Council of Europe, with the full active support of the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees (as national contact point and umbrella ministry for Roma inclusion at state level), and the partner Roma NGO "Romalen" from Kakanj. An additional asset of the programme in BiH is the existence of a team of ten facilitators and experts, who are carrying out local interventions, both with municipal officials as well as with Roma communities.

The launch conference preceded the national training on Participatory Local Strategic Planning, organised on 21 March 2018 in Sarajevo for representatives of the ten target municipalities and the Roma community. The focus was put on the ROMACTED methodological steps as well as on joint participatory planning for the programme's implementation.

Two Advisory Board meetings were organised in the framework of the programme, and both were actively supported by the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees. The First Advisory Board meeting was preceded by the second national training, which was organised for the representatives of ten municipalities. Two parallel training sessions have been convened for municipal officials and young Roma mediators in order to further build capacities for more effective and sustainable results.

In the spring of 2020, the ROMACTED Programme will assist and co-finance with the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees consultation meetings with local authorities and local Roma communities for the development of the new Action Plan for Roma Inclusion.



## Step

# 01

### PREPARING THE PROCESS

Initial visits by the ROMACTED Project Officer and Focal Point were conducted in all ten municipalities in the first three months of 2018. The mayors of the ten participating municipalities delegated municipal contact points for the programme's implementation.

ROMACTED was also approved and supported by the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees (MHRR). A joint implementation plan was made with MHRR on the topic of Roma-related projects and potential synergies. The MHRR sent a letter of support to all municipalities, underlining the importance of the programme and the fact that ROMACTED is in line with the BiH National Strategy for Roma.

The Community Action Groups (CAG) and the Municipal Taskforce Groups (MTG) were officially established in all ten localities within the first three months of 2018. The previous experience under the ROMED2 Programme and of the support organisation in using a similar methodological approach has substantially facilitated this process. The Institutional Working Groups (IWG) were not established as separate entities but rather as part of the Municipal Taskforce Groups (MTG). The average number of Roma community members participating in the CAG is 4 (2 women on average).

## Step

# 02

### ASSESSING NEEDS AND PRIORITISING

The initial assessment of the situation at local level was conducted during the inception phase through the collection of data for the baseline survey.

Municipal and community needs assessments were carried out and completed in 2018 and 2019 and will be included in the revised Local Action Plans (LAP). This process is on-going mainly due to the high prevalence of both national and international migration.

Even though the LAPs existed in 8 out of 10 programme municipalities, it was necessary to revise and tailor these according to the real needs of the community. During 2019, the revision of the LAPs was conducted in Bijeljina, Prnjavor, Travnik and Tuzla, and they are now waiting for official adoption. Development of LAPs in Gradiška and Vukosavlje was initiated through ROMACTED Programme and will be finalised in 2020.

## Step

# 03

### ADOPTING A JOINT ACTION PLAN

Municipal Taskforce Group meetings took place on average three times per trimester. On average, 2 CAG members are actively taking part in the meetings (one woman on average).

Joint Action Plans have been developed in 10 ROMACTED municipalities, for both 2018 and 2019. The plans have been developed based on the needs identified through the municipal and community needs assessment and other data available at municipal level.

As a result of the Joint Action Plans, nine small initiatives were prepared and implemented with the support of the local authorities and CAG members, prioritising the most vulnerable Roma families.

## Step

# 04

### FINANCING AND PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Over the course of the implementation of ROMACTED, the municipality of Prnjavor agreed to have 1,000 EUR allocated to activities for Roma, Tuzla allocated 22,000 EUR for the implementation of the LAP, the City of Bijeljina for 2019 dedicated 25,000 EUR and agreed for 2020 to have 45,000 EUR allocated to Roma integration.

All of the participating municipalities have applied to the ROMACTED Small Grants Scheme and ten projects are currently being implemented.

Funded  
by the European Union  
and the Council of Europe



Implemented  
by the Council of Europe

# Synergies and Cooperation

■ The Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees (MHRR) actively supports the implementation of the Programme at central level. ROMACTED is a valuable instrument because it provides support to the current efforts made by the state towards Roma inclusion and empowerment at local level. In 2018, the MHRR allocated 1 million EUR towards the implementation of Action Plans for Housing, Employment and Health. Additionally, 30,000 EUR were allocated to Roma NGOs and with a further 30,000 EUR for Roma education expected by the end of 2019;

■ Care International is implementing the 'Young Roma for Rights and Inclusion' project, funded by the EUD in five ROMACTED beneficiary municipalities. The project is jointly coordinated by all municipalities to ensure synergies, and through this, four Roma mediators have been employed in the municipalities of the ROMACTED Programme and Centers for Social Welfare;

■ Within the framework of an OSCE programme related to Roma youth empowerment, four mediators participated in the training organised by the OSCE on Roma youth and social rights. In addition, the OSCE participates at the MTG meetings and provides help with regard to Roma education issues;

■ Caritas Switzerland is currently implementing 'Pre-school Education for All Children' – PEACH, aiming to include children in a half-day and compulsory pre-school programme. It was agreed that the emphasis would be put on Roma children, as they are often the children not attending pre-school education. Additionally, Caritas will also work on Roma housing issues in some ROMACTED municipalities (Kakanj, Bijeljina and Donji Vakuf);

■ UNDP's ReLOaD Programme is being implemented in three ROMACTED municipalities. It was agreed that cooperation with ROMACTED will be developed with a focus on capacity-building for municipal officials and providing support to local Roma NGOs in their applications for the small grants scheme. Through the synergy with this programme, Roma NGOs from joint municipalities were encouraged and helped with their applications for the small grants scheme as a part of the ReLOaD Programme;

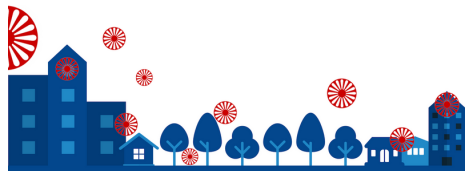
■ KALI SARA is currently implementing 'Advocacy for Socio-Economic Inclusion of Roma' in BiH, in three ROMACTED municipalities (Visoko, Brcko and Prnjavor) with a focus on programme budgeting and Roma sensitive budgeting. Joint MTG meetings are conducted;

■ The Roma Education Fund (REF) project is also being implemented in three of the ROMACTED municipalities (Tuzla, Kakanj and Visoko), focusing on the provision of scholarships for Roma high school students;

■ The Federal Employment Bureau, ROMACTED partner NGO Romalen, Caritas and the Council of Europe are currently supporting the employment of 20 mediators in schools and pre-schools and as community mediators in Kakanj, Visoko, Donji Vakuf and Tuzla;

■ The mayors of Bijeljina (2018) and Kakanj (2019) received the 'Most Roma-friendly mayor' prize for Roma Integration in the framework of the project 'Joint initiative to empower Roma civil society in the Western Balkans and Turkey', implemented by ERGO Network and Roma Active Albania. The ROMACTED support team has been actively involved in encouraging the local actors to apply for the prize.

## Small grants for municipalities



### DONJI VAKUF

Increasing the level of quality of life and inclusion of the Roma population in Donji Vakuf through **construction of municipal networks** for 21 families in the settlement Kamenjača

### PRNJAVOR

Support for the Roma housing project - **establishment of sewage infrastructure** in Roma settlement

### TRAVNIK

**Reconstruction of residential units** for Roma families

### VISOKO

Establishing **electrical network system** in Roma settlements Kriz and Klisa

### KAKANJ

Providing **school snacks for 113 Roma pupils** in primary schools

### GRADIŠKA

Support to Roma inclusion through schooling **empowerment of Roma parents' competencies** which will help 30 Roma families, the parents themselves, and increase the inclusion of children by providing additional necessary **school equipment, clothing and footwear for 46 children** attending primary and secondary schools.

### VUKOSAVLJE

Increasing level of inclusion of Roma children in school system through establishing transport/travel line/ communication by **purchasing bus for transporting children to and from school**

### BRČKO

Encourage the social inclusion of all children working or living on the streets or at-risk, with a focus on children outside of the education system, through supporting the work of the existing, and establishing a new, **day care centre**

### BIJELJINA

Support for Roma housing project through establishing of **an electrical network system** to help increase the quality of life for 24 Roma families

### TUZLA

Improving **communal infrastructure** in Roma settlement Musinac in the local community Mosnik

