



## BRIEFING: FUNDING FOR ROMA INCLUSION PROJECTS

September 2014

### About this briefing

This briefing is aimed at members of Eurodiaconia who are working with or for Roma communities and who are looking for funding for their projects or services. Some of the funding sources mentioned are specifically for Roma actions, others are more generic but could be applicable for Roma specific projects. The first part of the briefing covers funding sourced from the European Union whilst the second part lists funding sources from non-EU sources. We have also included in this briefing some examples of projects funded by some of the sources listed in the briefing, including from members of Eurodiaconia.

We are aware that some of the deadlines for some of the calls for proposals have already passed, but we encourage members to regularly check the websites to look for new calls. Eurodiaconia regularly announces calls for EU and non EU funding in its weekly e-news as well as in the monthly Roma Network news. If you are not signed up to receive either of these news mailings, you can do so [here](#).

### Sources of funding from the EU

The European Union finances projects that contribute to fostering Roma integration across Europe. It supports the work of EU countries to improve the lives of all vulnerable people, including the Roma, for example through the European Structural and Investment Funds, principally the **European Social Fund (ESF)**, the **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)** and the **European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)**.

European Structural Funds provide funding in the areas education, employment, housing, health and cross-cutting initiatives for Roma.

The **European Social Fund (ESF)** is one of the EU's Structural Funds, set up to reduce social inequalities in several sectors across EU Member States and regions and, in this way, to promote economic and social cohesion. It supports employment and the improvement of living standards, and helps people enhance their education and skills. It works to improve the situation of disadvantaged Roma people through funding various projects that help Roma communities, for example, access healthcare and counselling, benefit from education and training, or receive guidance on becoming self-employed. ESF funding is available through national or regional authorities. National or regional ESF websites where calls for proposals can be found are listed on the contact page of the Commission website for the ESF [here](#). To learn about this programme in more detail, please read the Eurodiaconia briefing [here](#).

Another Structural Fund, the **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)** supports regional development, economic change, enhanced competitiveness and territorial cooperation throughout the EU. In 2010 a new regulation was adopted that allows ERDF funding to be extended to housing projects aimed at extremely poor and marginalised communities, which includes many Roma communities. ERDF funding is

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available through regional authorities. ERDF is implemented at a national level by a managing authority. Calls for proposals and tenders are published in the national language and potential applicants should contact the managing authority in his/her country for more information. To find your managing authority, click [here](#).

The **European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)** aims to improve the competitiveness of the EU's agriculture and forestry, develop the EU's environment and countryside, boost the quality of life in rural areas, and encourage the diversification of economic activities. The EAFRD can be used to help Roma communities through its funding of the socio-economic development of rural areas with the objective of preventing poverty and eliminating social exclusion. EAFRD funding is available through national authorities. Interested members should contact their responsible ministry. Contact details and information on National Rural Development Programmes for your respective country can be found [here](#).

The **Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme** aims to help protect children's rights and combat racism. The Programme supports actions that can benefit Roma people, such as projects that increase mutual understanding between Roma and non-Roma people in order to breakdown stereotypes. The Programme is managed directly by the European Commission, who publishes annual work plans with specific information on funding activities, amounts to be allocated, measures to be financed and indicative implementation timetables. Calls for proposals for action grants or operating grants will be published on the website of the Directorate General for Justice of the European Commission [here](#).

The EU programme for education, training, youth and sport, **Erasmus+**, also supports projects, which develop lifelong learning measures for Roma integration through education and other social approaches. In Erasmus+ applications can be made centrally/regionally (EC) and decentrally/nationally. For central calls for proposals go [here](#). To find your national agency, click [here](#). To learn about this programme in more detail, please read the Eurodiaconia briefing [here](#).

The **Employment and Social Innovation (EaSi)** programme is an EU-level financing instrument that promotes quality and sustainable employment, guarantees adequate and decent social protection, combats poverty and social exclusion, and fights to improve working conditions. The support to the specific issue of Roma integration will be addressed under the social inclusion thematic section. PROGRESS is managed by the European Commission's Directorate General for Employment and Social affairs, which allocates the funds directly to beneficiaries in the form of call for proposals and call for tenders. Calls for proposals are available [here](#). For a more detailed overview of the EaSi programme you can consult the Eurodiaconia briefing [here](#).

## Other Roma funding sources

### **Open Society Foundations**

**Website:** <http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/grants>

The Open Society Foundation *Roma Initiatives Office* provides grants, fellowships, and training to stimulate Roma community participation and active citizenship, empower Roma women and youth, and combat anti-Roma discrimination. They fund internships for Roma graduates in the European Commission, the European Parliament, and the Council of Europe, and support intensive English language training. In partnership with the Roma Education Fund, they provide opportunities for postgraduate study in the Roma Access Program run by Central European University in Budapest. There are a number of grants which are not necessarily ongoing, so we encourage you to regularly check the deadlines. Below are a couple of examples of grants that may be interesting to members of Eurodiaconia.



**Advancing the Rights and Integration of Roma:** This grant focuses on organized advocacy for changing the policies, regulations and practices that perpetuate the exclusion of Roma. To realize such change, projects should generate strategic capacity among Roma NGOs, organizations from the broader civil society and grassroots constituencies. This may mean changing or advancing a new policy, or ensuring enforcement of an existing one.

**The Paruvipe Grants Program**—paruvipe means “change” in the Romani language—supports advocacy campaigns in Bulgaria, Macedonia, and Romania aimed at influencing public decision-making, service delivery, and state responses to acts of hate.

## **(Roma) Decade Trust Fund (World Bank)**

**Website:** <http://www.romadecade.org/article/decade-trust-fund/9243>

The Decade Trust Fund supports two main types of activities: international technical support, training and workshops in the context of refining and implementing the national Decade Action Plans and in the cross-cutting areas of poverty, discrimination and gender; and monitoring and evaluation of Decade implementation across the Decade countries.

## **The Roma Education Fund**

**Website:** <http://www.romaeducationfund.hu/>

The REF supports ideas, projects and programs that improve educational access and outcomes for Roma in the context of the Decade of Roma Inclusion (2005-2015) with a particular emphasis on supporting systemic policy reforms, changes in education systems and increasing coverage of programs that have been successfully piloted.

## **Roma inclusion in the Norway and EEA grants**

**Website:** <http://eeagrants.org/News/2013/Roma-inclusion-in-the-EEA-and-Norway-Grants>

The Grants feature a twofold approach in support to the Roma, combining perspectives of fundamental rights and of socio-economic inclusion. In line with the EU's ten common basic principles on Roma inclusion, and specifically the principle on explicit, but not exclusive targeting, the Grants work with society at large to promote tolerance and fundamental rights, combat discrimination, foster the inclusiveness of institutions and raise awareness of the majority population. They also target the Roma explicitly, focusing on empowerment and public policy advocacy. Anyone can sign up to their newsletter to receive notifications about upcoming calls <http://eeagrants.org/opencalls/search>

## **Central European University Roma graduate preparation programme**

**Website:** <http://rap.ceu.hu/node/21457>

The Roma Graduate Preparation Program is part of the Central European University's (CEU's) Roma Access Programs unit. It is an intensive 9-month program that prepares Roma youth to compete for places of study in English-language Master's degree programs at CEU and other recognized universities. RGPP seeks to attract students with a special interest in the social sciences and humanities.



## Other sources of information

ERIO (European Roma Information Office) <http://www.erionet.eu/home.htm>

ENAR (European Network against Racism) <http://www.enar-eu.org/>

ERRC (European Roma Rights Centre) <http://www.errc.org>

Roma-Gadje Dialogue through Service <http://www.rgdts.net/>

ERGO Network <http://www.ergonetwork.org/ergo-network/>

### Publications

Guidelines on how to apply for European Commission Funds (2012) (ERIO) [http://www.erionet.eu/doc-guidelines-ec-funds\\_2012](http://www.erionet.eu/doc-guidelines-ec-funds_2012)

### Foundation listings

European Foundation Centre <http://www.efc.be>

The Grantsmanship centre <http://www.tgci.com/europe>

## Examples of non-EU funded projects

### **2. The Norway and EEA grants**

*'Wild Poppies – a chance for Romany talents from all of Slovakia'*

Grant amount: €628 898 Project promoter: PRO DONUM

**In brief:** Jarovnice in eastern Slovakia is one of the country's largest Roma settlements and battles high levels of poverty and social exclusion. Half of the people living there are children under 15.

Through the Wild Poppies project, 100 children aged 8 to 15 from Jarovnice, the majority of them Roma, were given the opportunity to develop their talents and academic abilities in cooperation with teachers, social workers and artists.

**Objective:** The project aimed at providing educational opportunities for Roma children to develop their skills and talents and improve integration.

#### **Main activities:**

- Training provided for six Roma tutors to work on a daily basis with 100 selected gifted children (and their families) to develop their artistic and sporting talents and academic potential in cooperation with teachers, social workers and artists.
- Two summer academies provided activities for 160 children
- Provision of equipment (e.g. schools books), public transport fare reimbursement to get to activities / schools etc.



## Examples of EU funded projects from Eurodiaconia members

### European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

#### 1. Roma people to school!

*Helsinki Deaconess Institute, Finland*

- Project develops services and structures in education that are suitable for Roma people.
- Estimation is difficult because the project does not educate or employ people but aims to change and develop methods and structures.
- Project has created new networks, especially in the City of Espoo, and new working methods which compile family work and school counseling.

The project is a joint effort by the City of Helsinki Social Services, Omnia - the Joint Authority of Education in Espoo Region, the Church Training College in Järvenpää and Helsinki Deaconess Institute.

#### **Funding**

Funding came from ERDF, Co-funding by Helsinki Deaconess Institute

Website: <https://www.hdl.fi/en/>

### Education and Culture Funding (EAC)

#### 2. Day centre for Roma and socially disadvantaged children (Education and Culture Fund/ EAC)

*Member Organisation: Episcopia Reformata Din Ardeal  
Fundatia Creștină Diakonia, (Christian Foundation Diakonia)*

*Cluj-Napoca, village Mera, Romania*

The Christian Foundation runs a day centre for Roma and socially disadvantaged children including a daily meal, social counselling, after-school for elementary school children, after-school for kindergarten and secondary school children. The project aims to develop parents' participation and mentoring for those who continue school in Cluj. The impact is improved school results, better behaviour, clean appearance, consciousness of the importance of hygiene and of living a spiritual life, awareness of rules, participation of the parents, acceptance by the school and the local community.

**Partnerships:** They work with local authorities includes the Municipality Baciu, General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection Cluj. They also work with national authorities including the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs. The program is accredited and thus the collaboration with the above is constant because of monitoring and reporting. Partners also include the Reformed Church Mera, GP office Mera, the faculty for Social Work in order to host students for their internship, as well as donors Dorcas Aid International.

#### **Funding and sustainability:**

The project is funded by foreign partners, local donors, grants, EU-funding (Education and culture), and state subvention. It is a constant activity of the administration of Diakonia to raise awareness and funds that make the project sustainable.

Website: [http://www.diakonia.ro/index\\_en.php](http://www.diakonia.ro/index_en.php)