

Roma inclusion and empowerment

Iceland
Liechtenstein
Norway grants

Norway grants



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EEA and Norway Grants 2014-2021



Roma frequently face discrimination, intolerance and exclusion. Improving their situation through empowerment and inclusiveness is a priority under the EEA and Norway Grants.

The programme will be implemented through:



Beneficiary States



EEA and Norway Grants



Open calls for proposals



Pre-defined projects

Why support Roma inclusion in Europe?

Roma are Europe's largest ethnic minority, with an estimated population of 10-12 million. Many are denied access to adequate healthcare, housing and education. Across the EU on average one third are unemployed and 90% live below the poverty line. The EU has long stressed the need for better Roma integration. Since 2011, an EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies has been in place. Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein support initiatives to improve the situation of Roma communities through the EEA and Norway Grants.

What is supported?

The EEA and Norway Grants help support countries achieve their targets on Roma inclusion and implement their national Roma integration strategies. The Grants support activities in the areas of education, employment, housing, healthcare, and efforts combatting discrimination. Issues are addressed with a broad and comprehensive approach, and Roma are targeted in an explicit but not exclusive way. Involving the Roma community in meaningful ways is essential in achieving this.

Special focus is placed on countries with large Roma populations – Romania, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Greece. Supported initiatives include:

- Implementation of national, regional and local strategies for Roma inclusion
- Innovative approaches to improving the inclusiveness of public institutions and policies
- Developing early childhood education and care systems
- Prevention of early school-leaving
- Empowering Roma, including Roma youth and women
- Combatting discrimination and antigypsyism
- Promoting Roma culture and history in schools
- Improving access to justice for Roma

Cooperation

Sharing knowledge and experiences is crucial for Roma inclusion and empowerment. Partnerships with entities from the Donor States are strongly encouraged. To support such bilateral cooperation, [the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities](#) is a Donor Programme Partner in this area. In addition [the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights \(FRA\)](#), and [the Council of Europe](#) are International Partner Organisations.



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Where we work

Country	Programme
Bulgaria	Active Citizens Fund (10% minimum allocation)
	Culture (10% minimum allocation)
	Home affairs (10% minimum allocation)
	Justice (10% minimum allocation)
	Local development, poverty reduction and Roma inclusion
Croatia	Active Citizens Fund
Czech Republic	Active Citizens Fund
	Culture
	Education
	Health
	Human Rights, Roma inclusion, domestic and gender-based violence
Greece	Active Citizens Fund
	Good governance, accountable institutions, transparency
	Roma inclusion and empowerment
Portugal	Active Citizens Fund
Romania	Active Citizens Fund
	Culture (10% minimum allocation)
	Education (10% minimum allocation)
	Health (10% minimum allocation)
	Home affairs (10% minimum allocation)
	Justice (10% minimum allocation)
	Local development, poverty reduction and Roma inclusion
	Research (10% minimum allocation)
Slovakia	Active Citizens Fund
	Culture
	Domestic and gender-based violence
	Local development, poverty reduction and Roma inclusion
Slovenia	Active Citizens Fund



Key achievements from the 2009-2014 funding period

More than **€80 million** was allocated to several projects addressing Roma inclusion.

50,000 Roma from more than **360** deprived areas/ neighbourhoods in Romania and Bulgaria have benefitted from the grants.

140 Roma NGOs and activists in Romania and Bulgaria have expanded their capacities through civil society projects.

23,067 Roma in Romania and Bulgaria benefitted from medical consultations and health services. The programmes in Romania contributed to enhancing access to school of **4,860** Roma children and youth. The new set of primary legal aid services introduced under the "Justice Capacity Building and Cooperation" programmes in both countries helped inform more than **1,640** Roma about their legal rights and practical access to justice.

Enhancing skills of the Bulgarian police to work in multi-ethnic environments: 2,459 police officers in Bulgaria were trained in human rights protection and the skills necessary to work in multi-ethnic environments with special focus on Roma. The project helped decrease the unlawful use of police force by 15% when working in multi-ethnic environments.



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About the EEA and Norway Grants

Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway provide funding to:

- Reducing disparities in Europe
- Strengthening bilateral relations

Areas of support

- Innovation, research, education and competitiveness
- Social inclusion, youth employment and poverty reduction
- Environment, energy, climate change and low carbon economy
- Culture, civil society, good governance and fundamental rights and freedoms
- Justice and home affairs

* EEA Grants are jointly financed by Iceland (3%), Liechtenstein (1%) and Norway (96%) **Norway Grants are solely financed by Norway

