

Name: Donald Gregory	Course Title/Module Title: Appropriate courses include 1) Global Social Problems and 2) Race & Ethnic Relations among others. “The EU and Discrimination with a focus on the ROMA” Discipline: Sociology
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Course/Module Narrative:

Course Objectives:

1. To understand how social problems are created, addressed, and change. We will discuss social problems in both their objective and subjective components and how they differ from individual problems.
2. To have a realistic understanding of the magnitude of social problems. We will be examining data to gauge the nature and extend of social problems.
3. To think critically. We will examine the subjective component of social problems and how these symbols can be manipulated to contort perceptions of social problems. We will also examine research and critique its methodology.
4. To assess policy implications. We will be examining public policy as it relates to various social problems and assessing the motives and thoughts behind the policy as well as outcomes of the policy.
5. To address multicultural dimensions of social problems. We will examine social problems not only in the U.S.A. but also in different parts of the world and from various perspectives in the U.S.A.

Module Objectives/Learning Objectives:

- Provide students with recent data regarding discrimination in the EU.
- Focus on the ROMA as a unique ethnic group that faces discrimination in the EU.
- Present ideas about discrimination and how it may vary between societies.
- Present a focus of the ROMA in the Eastern European countries that had been communist during the existence of the Soviet Union.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Students will demonstrate a knowledge of discrimination.
- Students will identify some of the unique discriminatory challenges facing the ROMA.
- Students will demonstrate a familiarity with the degree of discrimination faced by ROMA from various studies.
- Students will demonstrate a knowledge of the actions and programs initiated by the European Union to combat discrimination against the ROMA.

Content & Delivery

Course Content → Textbook Chapter → Potentially a PowerPoint or video	Instruction & Delivery (lecture, discussion, group work, etc.) → Lecture/ discussion
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Assessment

- Questions on exam
- Portion of final project

Resources and Materials

- EU studies on discrimination such as the [eurobarometer](#) ; an official site of the EU with recent data about discrimination within the EU.
- [Combatting discrimination](#) Webpage maintained and updated by the EU dealing with many forms of discrimination.
- Textbook chapter
- From [Human Rights Watch](#), a website with updated issues regarding migration, refugees, and discrimination in the European Union.
- [Explainer: who are the Roma?](#) Article introducing readers to the ROMA
- [Council of Europe Strategic Action Plan for Roma and Traveller Inclusion \(2020-2025\) \(2020\)](#)
- [ROMACT](#) This effort has been focuses on Romania and Bulgaria recently.

- [STRATEGY OF THE ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT ON INCLUSION OF ROMANIAN CITIZENS BELONGING TO THE ROMA MINORITY FOR THE PERIOD 2022 TO 2027](#)
- For more details and information, [this EU site](#) is a good beginning. [Note: they do NOT use the word institution 'correctly'; or how sociology uses it.]

Note: There are many useful pdf infographics available at the above links.

Suggested flow of presentation.

1. Quick overview of the what the EU is and its member countries.
2. Brief introduction to Who the ROMA are and their geographic dispersion and concentrations.
 - a. Take special note of the concentration in Romania and Bulgaria.
3. The Eurobarometer has data from each member country. In the report, linked above, you can highlight a specific country like Romania or Bulgaria. This shows that the population's belief that ROMANI discrimination is a problem in their country or if it should be addressed, varies widely within the EU with countries in North more likely to say it is a problem.
4. Choose from the resources above according to the specific interests of the course.
5. ROMACT is of particular interest and focuses on the Romanian and Bulgarian focus the EU is currently using as it focuses on battling ROMANI discrimination.

I have provided a beginning presentation as well in another file.

Below you will find, not well formatted, infographics from some of the sources linked above. You might be able to pull some of the images for your presentation if needed. Much of the information below is from ROMACT – which has been focused on Romania and Bulgaria recently.

ROMACT Overview

 Snapshot July 2022

The ROMACT Methodology consists of 4 steps, implemented over 18 - 22 months, as described in the [ROMACT Handbook](#)

148* in Bulgaria & Romania

ROMACT Municipalities (October 2013 - July 2022)

In addition to Bulgaria and Romania, ROMACT was implemented in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy and in the Slovak Republic between 2013 and 2017



**STEP 1 -
Becoming
Committed**

143 /143

Municipalities committed to implement the ROMACT Programme



**STEP 2-
Agreeing on
Needs and
Plans**

143 /143

Local Capacity Assessment done



**STEP 3 - Translating the
Community Priorities List
into concrete measures
and projects**

117 /143

have Joint Action Plans elaborated by the Community in cooperation with the Local Authorities



**STEP 4 - Funding,
implementing and
monitoring of the
process**

143 /143

Municipalities where Local Authorities were involved in ROMACT capacity building activities

138 /143

Municipalities appointed a Coordinator for the ROMACT Programme

143 /143

Municipalities where Community needs were assessed

85 /143

Joint Action Plans adopted by Local Councils

143 /143

Municipalities where screening of funding was conducted with the help of ROMACT experts

93 /143

Municipalities created a Municipal Taskforce for Roma inclusion

125 /143

Municipalities where community priorities were listed in preparation for the Joint Action Plans

39 /143

Joint Action Plans included in the mainstream Local Development Strategies

95 /143

Municipalities where project proposals were submitted for funding

138 /143

Community Action Groups (CAG) established

110 /143

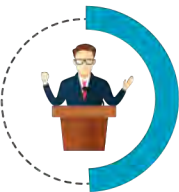
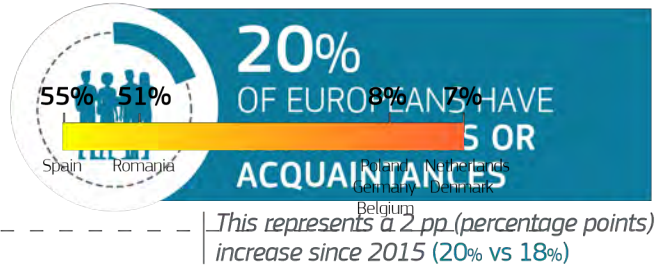
Municipalities are implementing measures as a result of ROMACT

* Total figures comprise ongoing, closed and (5) excluded municipalities.

**OF EUROPEANS BELIEVE THAT
DISCRIMINATION
AGAINST ROMA PEOPLE**

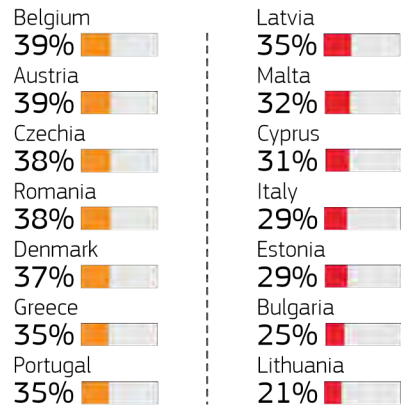
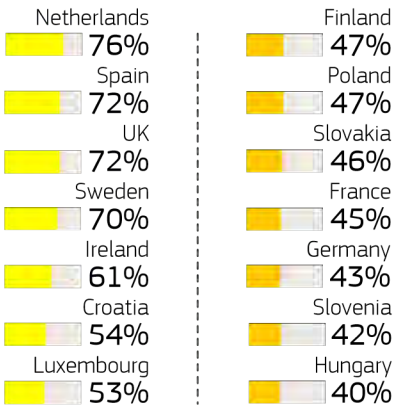


Perception of minorities in the EU: Roma people



49% IS WIDESPREAD IN THEIR COUNTRY OF EUROPEANS WOULD FEEL COMFORTABLE¹ HAVING A ROMA IN THE HIGHEST ELECTED POLITICAL POSITION

Variation between Member States (in % Yes, have Roma friends):



64% OF EUROPEANS WOULD FEEL COMFORTABLE¹ HAVING DAILY CONTACT WITH A ROMA COLLEAGUE...

This represents a 10 pp increase since 2015 (64% vs 54%)

Variation between Member States (in % 'Comfortable'):



...WHILE 48% WOULD FEEL COMFORTABLE¹ IF ONE OF THEIR CHILDREN WAS IN A LOVE RELATIONSHIP WITH A ROMA

This represents a 9 pp increase since 2015 (48% vs 39%)

Variation between Member States (in % 'Comfortable'):





Scale : Uncomfortable (1 to 4), Moderately comfortable (5 and 6), Comfortable (7 to 10)

Source : Special Eurobarometer 493 - "Discrimination in the European Union". Fieldwork: May 2019

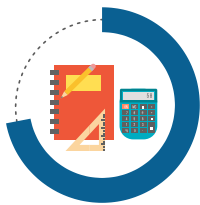
(in % 'Comfortable'):

59% 56%

27% 25%

Finland Latvia

Portugal France



...WHILE **72%**

OF EUROPEANS AGREE THAT **SCHOOL**
44%
LESSONS AND MATERIAL SHOULD

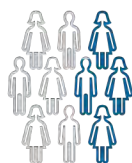
Variation between Member States

(in % 'Agree'):



89% 88% 49%

Perception of minorities in the EU: Roma people



39%
OF EUROPEANS THINK CITIZENS OF THEIR COUNTRY WOULD **FEEL COMFORTABLE**¹ ABOUT THEIR CHILDREN **HAVING ROMA SCHOOLMATES...**

This represents an 8 pp increase since 2012 (39% vs 31%)

Variation between Member States



INCLUDE INFORMATION ABOUT ROMA Sweden Finland Czechia Bulgaria CULTURE AND HISTORY



OVER 6 IN 10 AGREE THAT SOCIETY COULD BENEFIT FROM **A BETTER INTEGRATION** OF THE ROMA

This represents an 8 pp increase since 2012 (61% vs 53%)



HOWEVER ONLY 19%
OF EUROPEANS THINK THEIR COUNTRY'S EFFORTS TO INTEGRATE ITS ROMA POPULATION ARE **EFFECTIVE**²

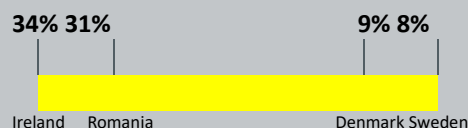
This represents a 7 pp increase since 2012

(Total 'Effective') 19% vs 12%

From those who identify themselves as Roma, this percentage is higher: (in % 'Effective'): 29%

Those who have Roma friends are more likely to consider the efforts made for their integration as being effective (25%) than those who don't have Roma friends (17%).

Variation between Member States (in % 'Effective'):



28%

THINK THE EFFORTS ARE MODERATELY EFFECTIVE

¹Scale : Uncomfortable (1 to 4), Moderately comfortable (5 and 6), Comfortable (7 to 10) ²Scale : Not effective (1 to 4), Moderately effective (5 and 6), Effective (7 to 10)

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148

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STEP 1 Becoming Committed



STEP 2 Agreeing on Needs and Plans



STEP 3 - Translating the Community Priorities List into concrete measures and projects



STEP 4 - Funding, implementing and monitoring of the process

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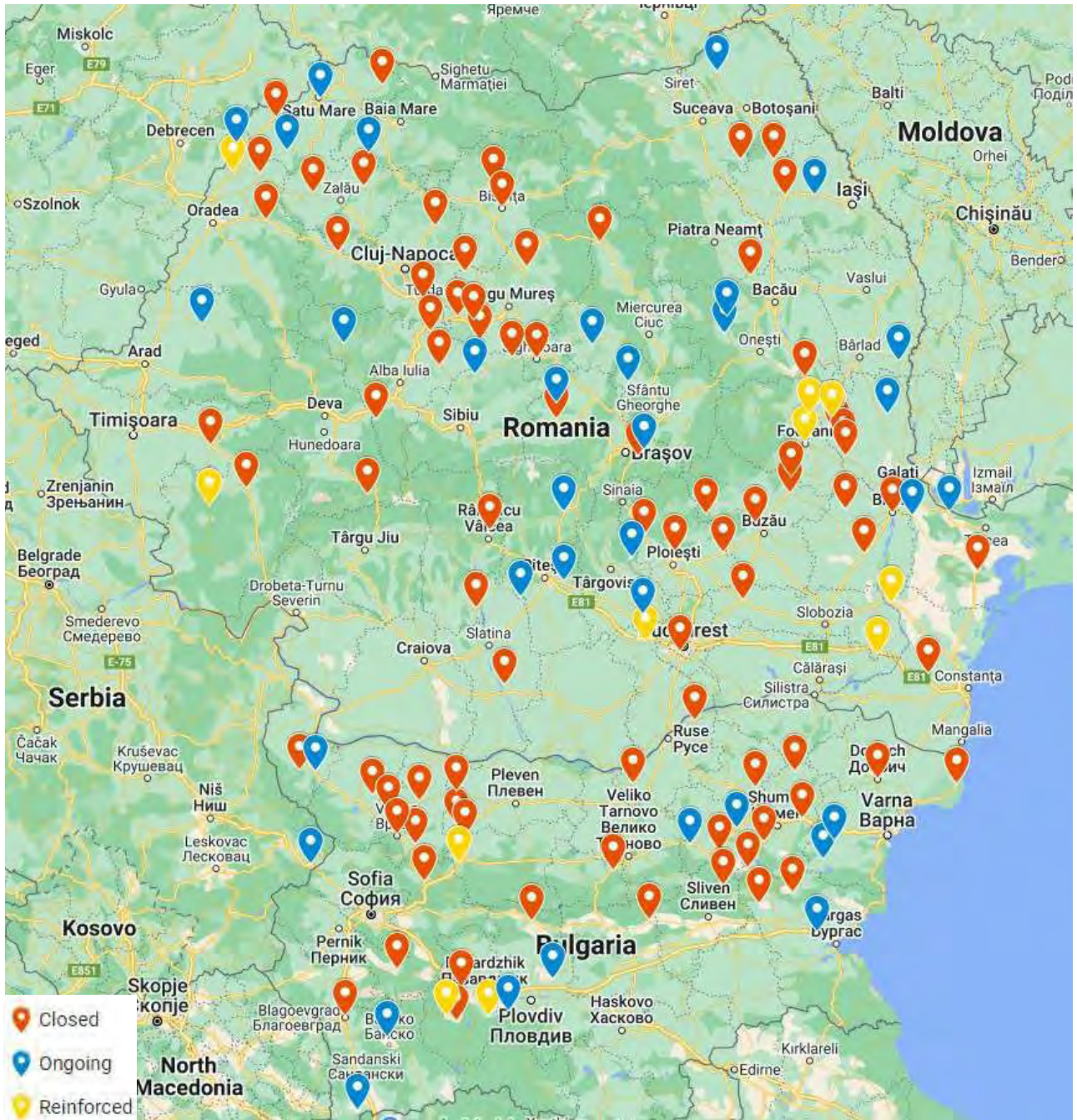
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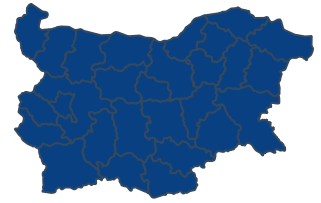
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ROMACT in



In 2022, upon municipalities' request, ROMACT reinforced process started to be implemented in former localities to strengthen capacities and support some of the structures previously established in the Programme



Municipalities

58 Municipalities
44 Process closed
11 Process ongoing
3 Reinforced process

Projects supported by ROMACT



25,000€

invested by ROMACT / municipality / year



16,792,026€

generated through 67 projects



3,769,739€

worth of projects currently under evaluation

115

applications for funding prepared and submitted with the assistance of ROMACT facilitators and experts

EXAMPLES

Sungulare

Early childhood development opportunities for Roma children



Beneficiaries

150 vulnerable families with children 0-6 years old

Addressing functional illiteracy among Roma children through early child development opportunities - in partnership with Centre of Expertise on Social Welfare in South-East Finland

98,273€

Funded under OPHRD Transnational Cooperation

Ispirich

Socio-economic integration of marginalized communities

Improvement of the access to employment, social and health services for socially excluded people living in difficult socio-economic conditions.

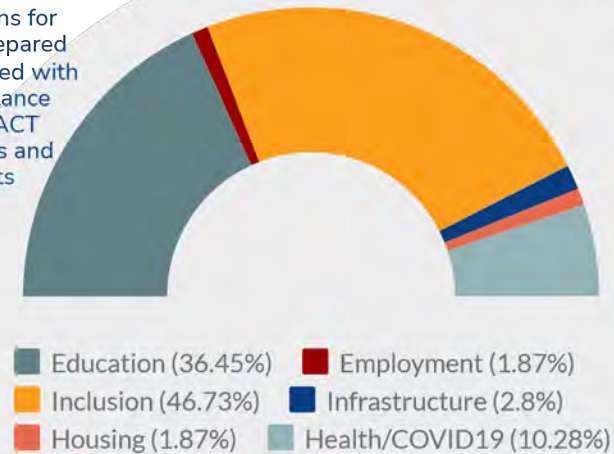


102,563€

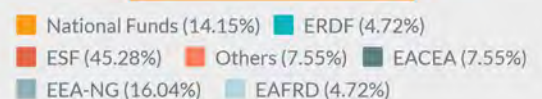
Funded under Local Development Strategy of Ispirich under CLLD of Rural Development Programme, OPHRD

Beneficiaries

80 people with illnesses and elderly at risk of poverty and social exclusion



Distribution by field



Funding sources

ROMACT in Bulgaria

BULGARIA



 Snapshot July 2022

Examples of activities from the Joint Action Plans / Strategies implemented

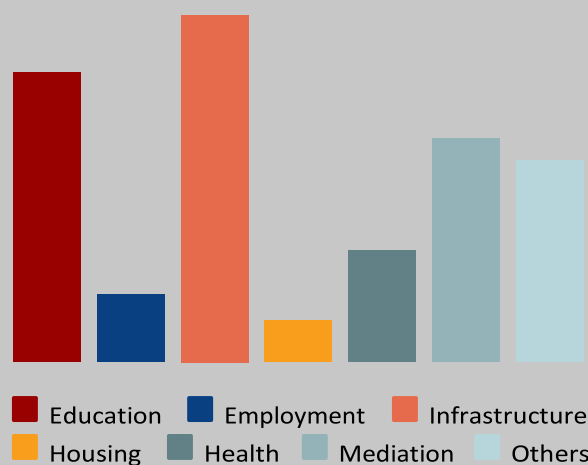


220

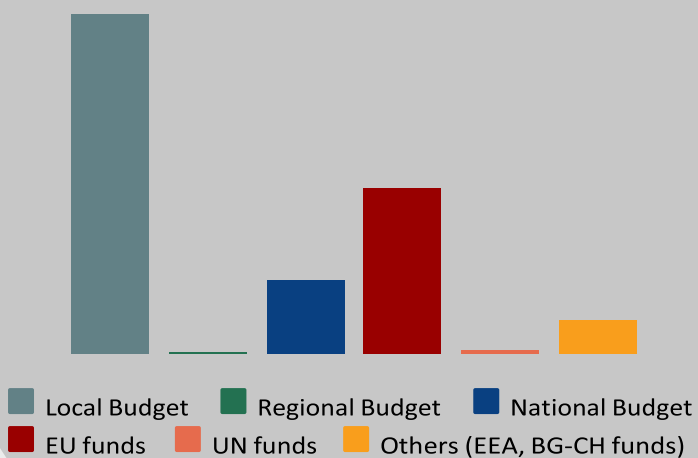
different interventions, measures and activities funded mainly through local, regional and national budgets



Distribution by field



Distribution by sources of funding %



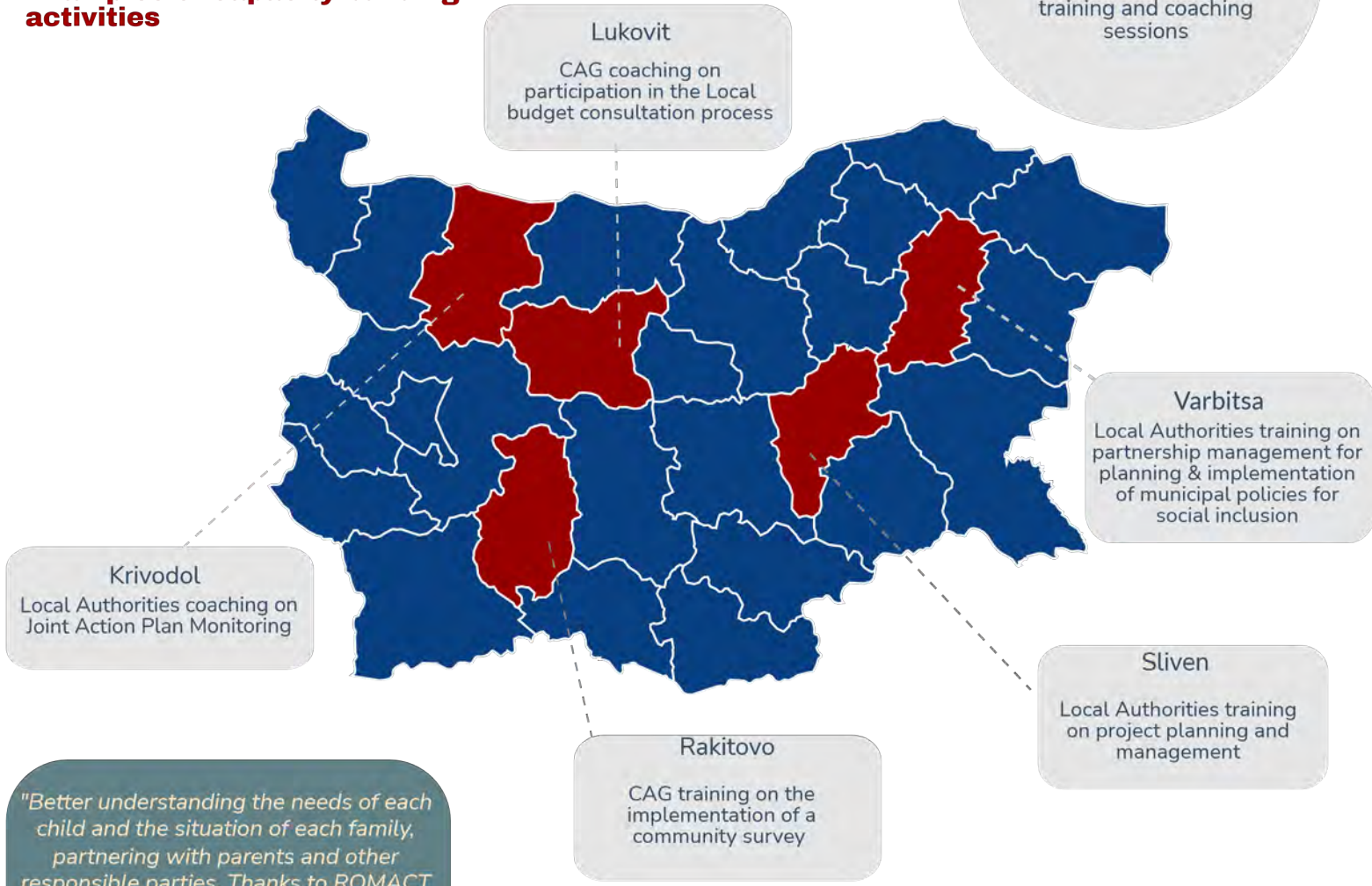
ROMACT in Bulgaria



Snapshot July 2022

Examples of capacity building activities

376
training and coaching sessions

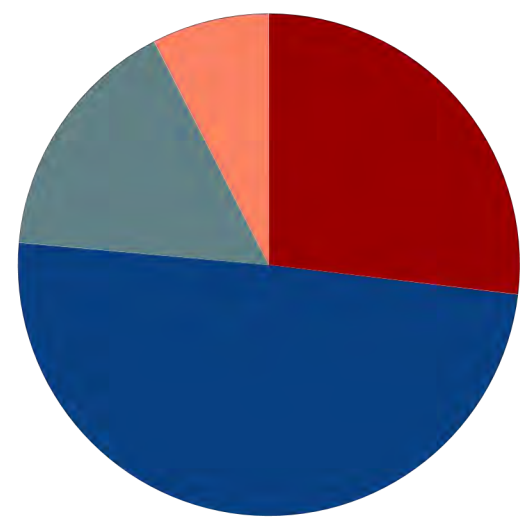


"Better understanding the needs of each child and the situation of each family, partnering with parents and other responsible parties. Thanks to ROMACT training, I understood that this is the basis for successful inclusion."

Municipal staff member, Borovan

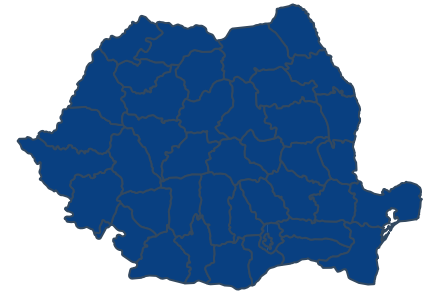
3320
participants in training & coaching sessions

Training target groups



Local Authorities (LA) (26.89%) CAG (49.53%)
LA & CAG (16.04%) Other (7.55%)





58

19 Municipalities
Process ongoing

8 Municipalities
Reinforced process



25,000€
invested by ROMACT /
municipality / year



126,679,491€

generated through 60 projects

5,482,843€

worth of projects currently
under evaluation

EXAMPLES

Iernut

“Building social blocks”

3 social blocks with 36 apartments will be built by the end of 2022 with funding from the Romanian Ministry of Regional Development

2,488,462€

Funded under the Romanian Programme for Building Social Houses in the framework of 114/1996/Law

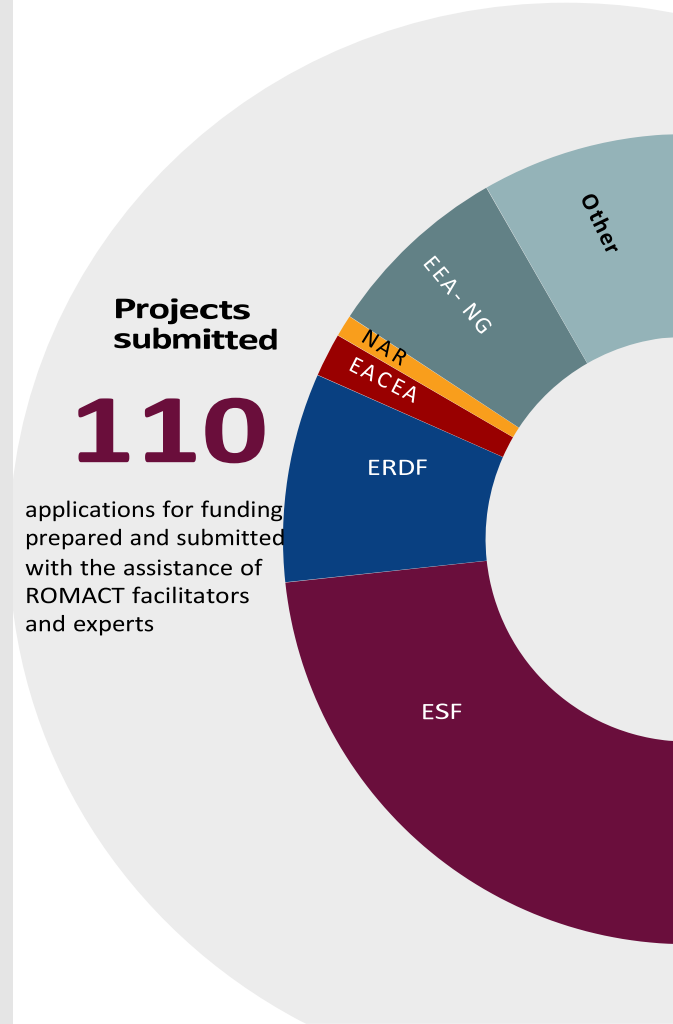


“Improving the quality of life of the Iernut population”

The integrated project includes the construction of social blocks of flats, the sewage and asphaltting of a road and the creation of a multi-functional centre that will include an after school care centre. Construction to be finalised by December 2022

5,017,405€

Funded under Regional Operational Programme 'Priority Axis 13.1'



110

applications for funding prepared and submitted with the assistance of ROMACT facilitators and experts

95

Municipalities

Municipalities Process closed

Projects supported by ROMACT

ROMACT in Romania

EXAMPLES

Vulcan

Integrated education programme to reduce school dropout :

- preventive measures for 800 children
- second chance education tools for 200 early school leavers
- capacity building for 260 education professionals

2,022,539€

Funded under Operational Program Human Capital Priority Axis 6



Boldesti Scaeni

Infrastructure development in marginalised area:

- elaboration of technical documentation for obtaining approvals for construction of self-locking pavement
- set up of a covered concrete gutter (1,600m) for rainwater drainage in the marginalised area of Poienilor Street and on Calea Unirii

7,110€

EEA and Norway Grants , "Local Development, Poverty Reduction and Enhanced Roma Inclusion"

Sighisoara

Integrated measures for social inclusion of people at risk of poverty in marginalised communities in which there is population belonging to the Roma minority :

- support in access to health care for 600 persons and legal assistance
- support in professional skills development for 301 persons
- support access to quality education for 132 preschool and school children

2,839,598€

Funded under Operational Program Human Capital Priority Axis 4.1



ROMACT in Romania



Snapshot July 2022

395

different interventions, measures and activities funded mainly through local, regional and national budgets

Examples of activities from the Joint Action Plans / Strategies implemented



110

Projects implemented
Infrastructure
(roads, bridges, sewage and electricity network construction)

44
municipalities



Projects implemented
36 **Small infrastructure**
(water & sewage systems repair, cleaning, speed bumpers, waste collection set up)

19
municipalities invested local budget



88

Projects implemented
Education
(Second Chance Schools, School after School Programmes, campaigns against drop-out, kindergarten construction)

37
municipalities invested local budget



50 **Activities implemented**
Health
(information/vaccination campaigns, support in registering for health insurance/ family GP, etc.)

28
municipalities invested local budget



20

Projects (building or rehabilitation, support to access)
Housing

17
municipalities invested local budget



1123 **IDs**
provided by

9
municipalities

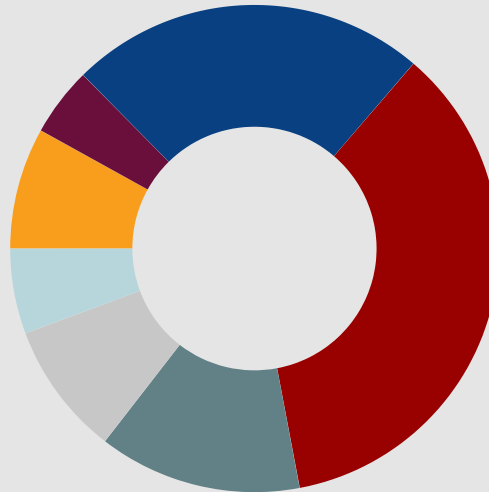
ROMACT in Romania



ROMACT in Romania

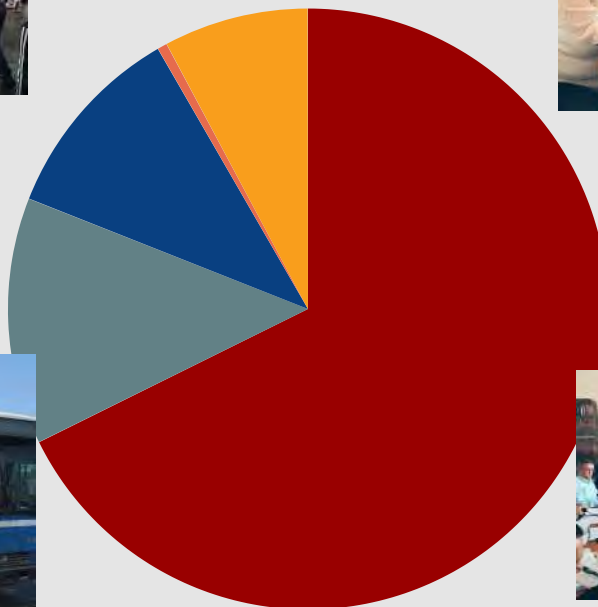
 Snapshot July 2022

Distribution by field

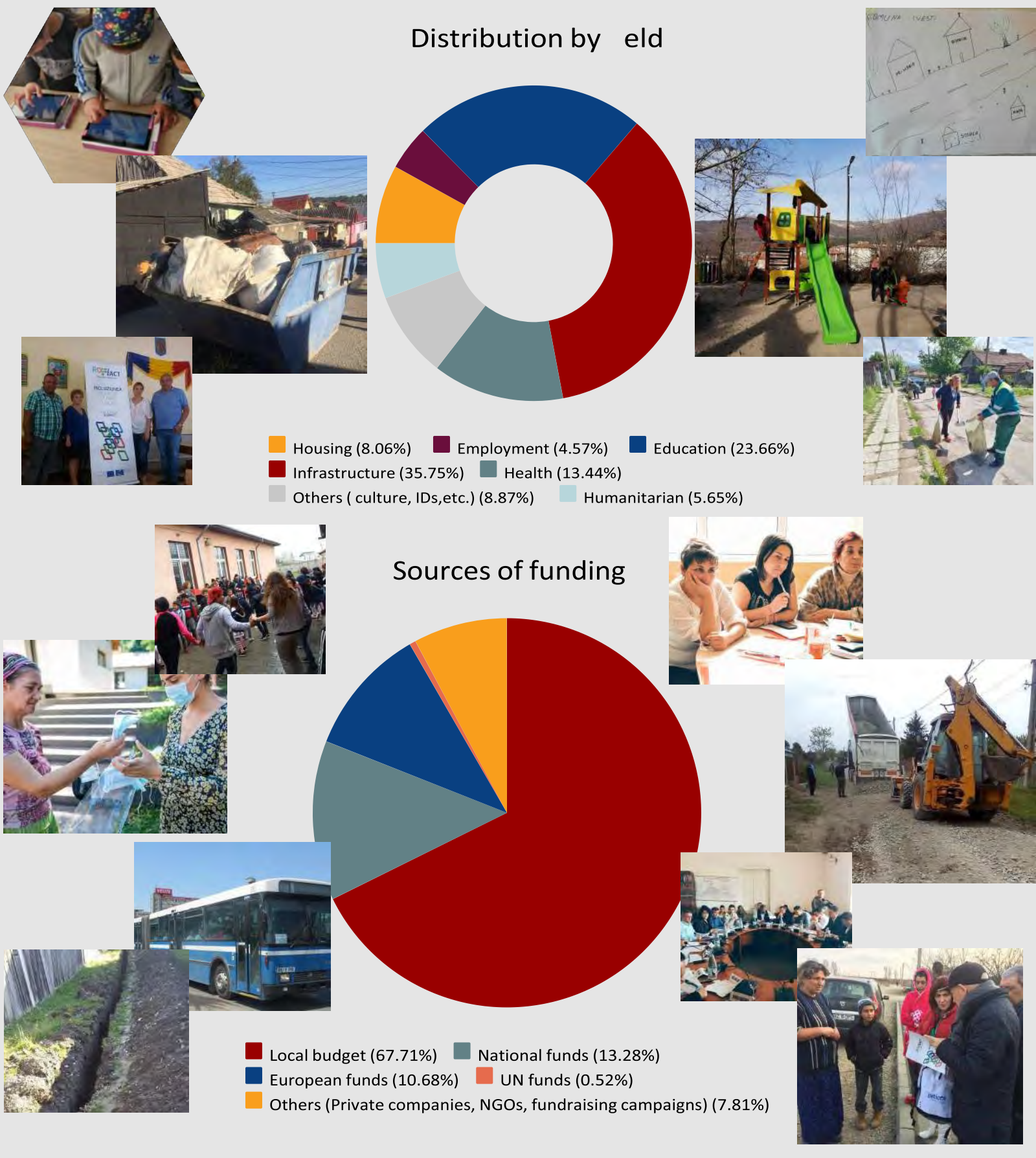


■ Housing (8.06%)
 ■ Employment (4.57%)
 ■ Education (23.66%)
■ Infrastructure (35.75%)
 ■ Health (13.44%)
■ Others (culture, IDs, etc.) (8.87%)
 ■ Humanitarian (5.65%)

Sources of funding



■ Local budget (67.71%)
 ■ National funds (13.28%)
■ European funds (10.68%)
 ■ UN funds (0.52%)
■ Others (Private companies, NGOs, fundraising campaigns) (7.81%)



ROMACT in Romania

Examples of activities from the Joint Action Plans /
Strategies implemented

ROMACT in Romania



Snapshot July 2022

451

training and coaching sessions

Examples of capacity building activities

Dolhasca
CAG training on community development

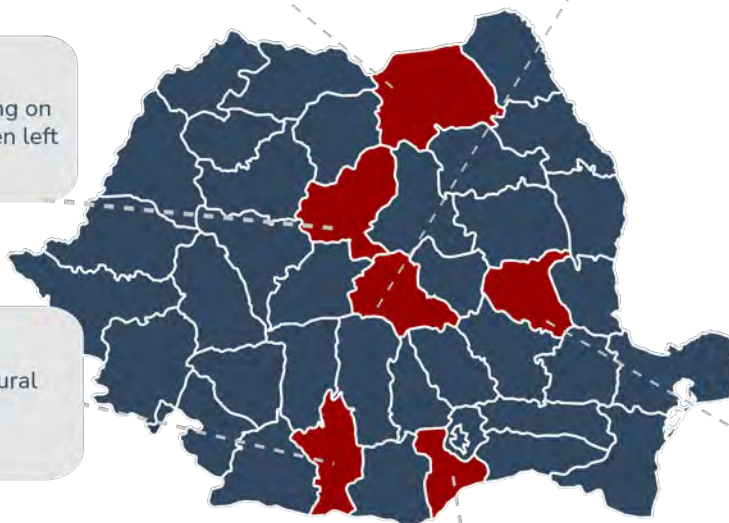
Predeal
Public procurement expert certified Training
6 municipalities represented

Sarmasu
Local authorities training on the protection of children left behind

Draganesti Olt
Expert in accessing structural and cohesion funds
Certified training

"An opportunity provided at an adequate moment. Thank you for the chance to attend this training course – I have been waiting for it for 10 years!"

A municipal civil servant after a certified EU funds expert training



Bolintin Vale
Local Authorities and CAG joint training on Local Strategy development

Focsani
Local Authorities Training on Challenges in using MySMIS platform

3685

participants to training and coaching sessions

Training target groups



ROMACT

Small grants scheme

- Health (32.42%)
- Aid (18.13%)
- Education (19.78%)
- Infrastructure (18.13%)
- Awareness raising (11.54%)



Distribution by field

124 grants to Municipalities, CAGs or schools

max. 5,000€ each

for a total of **514,933€**

* 17 grants were provided through financial resources of the Council of Europe Roma and Travellers Team using ROMACT expertise and field teams' support



Support to educational activities to help fighting school dropout



Improvement of street furniture



Health prevention



Provision of information and hygiene kits to help keeping the COVID-19 pandemic under control

A basis for further development

Brussels-Lux Study Tour 2023

Since 2020, the scheme has been supporting the implementation of immediate priorities of Roma communities, benefiting to 100,000 persons

ROMACT

Botevgrad, Bulgaria



Organisation of a free mobilehealth examination for 100 members of the Roma community.

4980€ ROMACT 1550€ CAG

Belogradchik, Bulgaria



Renovation of a playground for a pleasant and safe public place for a community of 1500 people and children. Organization of public discussions and workshops on “socially responsible and tolerant behaviour in society” for families and children.

5007€ ROMACT

Isaccea, Romania



Provision of hygiene & food packages and information campaign for 300 vulnerable families during COVID-19 pandemic. Telephone consultancy and specialized assistance for people in the high-risk group.

Small grants scheme

Examples

Podu Iloaiei, Romania



Procurement and installation of 300 m of pipes enabled access to **clean drinking water supply** in the area and improved living conditions of around **200 inhabitants** drastically.

5000€ ROMACT **1500€ Municipality**

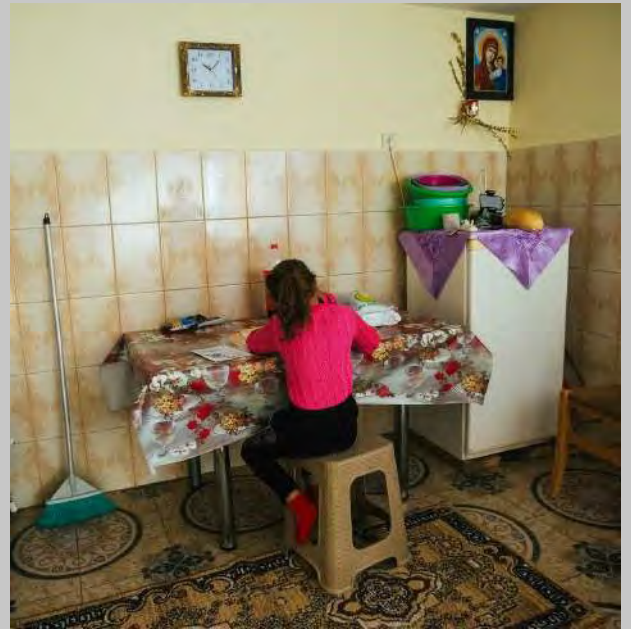
Brussels-Lux Study Tour 2023

ROMACT

Evidence-based support to

ROMACT reports and guides are shared and debated with local, national and European stakeholders, including mayors, associations of municipalities, ministries and European Commission representatives

In the period November 2020 - January 2021, ROMACT Programme experts conducted a study in order to outline the problems of children left behind in the municipalities it covers in Bulgaria.



Guide on Social Housing Allocation Criteria



This Guide is based on continuous needs assessments in ROMACT municipalities in Romania.

The report also contains a number of specific recommendations to various stakeholders - parents, guardians and relevant institutions – aiming at minimizing the negative consequences on the left-behind children.

It supports Romanian local authorities in better understanding the social housing allocation methodology promoting the prevention of discriminatory allocation practices.

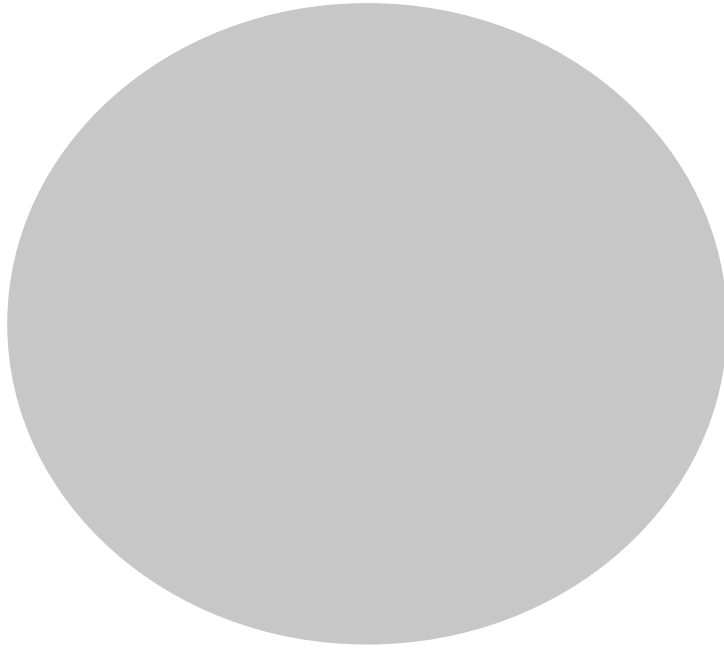


Report on Children left behind: between labour migration, institutional standards, and extended family

It combines both legal and social approaches and

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local & national authorities



ROMACT

Evidence-based support to the local & national authorities

Toolkit: Possible solutions for informal settlements

This Toolkit is dedicated to local public authorities in Romania who decide to enter in the process of legalizing these types of settlements and to design development projects together with the community.

The toolkit addresses issues such as the steps to be taken, the analysis of informal settlements, the demarche for legalization and the local development planning. The local team can easily identify the tools it needs from the toolkit, as appropriate.



Guide on local information & awareness raising campaigns on the protection of children with parents going to work abroad



Plan de implementare
Campanie informare și conștientizare la nivel local
2020-2021

Fundamental rights of children left at home, such as the right to family and protection, the right to education, leisure, play and the right to opinion and participation are likely to be at risk.

This guide is intended for local specialists in Romania, who identify the need to organise such a campaign, taking into account the steps to be followed when it comes to public sector action.



Other ROMACT Reports and Studies

ROMACT Review of the Operational Programmes proposed for Romania in the programming period 2021-2027

Urban CLLD Projects in Romania. Report on challenges encountered by Local Public Authorities in nine ROMACT municipalities in implementing the 2014-2020 Projects and Recommendations of the Programming period 2021-2027

Report on the analysis of the legal provisions regarding the social component of the public procurement

Report on the Situation of Social Economy Structures in the ROMACT municipalities in Romania

Guidelines for Conducting Public Procurement with Social Criteria in the ROMACT Municipalities in Romania

Other ROMACT Reports and Studies

Guidelines for Permanent Address Registration and Issuance of an Identity

Document in Bulgaria

Guidelines for Obtaining a Sustainable Status of Housing Constructions built without Construction Papers in Bulgaria

Analysis of Municipal Development Plans & Integrated Urban Reconstruction

& Development plans of municipalities participating in ROMACT in Bulgaria

Report on children left behind in Bulgaria: between labour migration, institutional standards and extended family

Analysis of the challenges concerning registration at a permanent address and possession of identity documents of persons living in homes without valid lawful basis in Bulgaria

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<http://coe-romact.org/resources>

Follow us



@ROMACT_EC_CoE



@romactbulgaria



@romactromania

The background of the image shows several European Union flags on tall silver poles. The flags are blue with twelve yellow stars arranged in a circle. They are positioned in front of a building with a grid of windows, each window having horizontal white blinds. The lighting suggests it's daytime. A white rectangular box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the text.

The EU: tackling Discrimination with a focus on the ROMA

EU commitment to fight discrimination

- **LEGAL BASIS:ARTICLE 3(3) OF THE TREATY ON EUROPEAN UNION, ARTICLES 19, 145-161 OF THE TREATY ON THE FUNCTIONING OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (TFEU) AND TITLE III OF THE CHARTER OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**
- **(EUCFR).OBJECTIVES: COMBATING POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION IS ONE OF THE SPECIFIC SOCIAL POLICY GOALS OF THE EU AND ITS MEMBER STATES. IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 153 TFEU, SOCIAL INCLUSION IS TO BE ACHIEVED SOLELY ON THE BASIS OF NON-LEGISLATIVE COOPERATION – THE OPEN METHOD OF COORDINATION (OMC) – WHILE ARTICLE 19 TFEU ALLOWS THE EU TO TAKE ACTION TO FIGHT DISCRIMINATION BOTH BY OFFERING LEGAL PROTECTION FOR POTENTIAL VICTIMS AND BY ESTABLISHING INCENTIVE MEASURES.**

Who are the Roma?

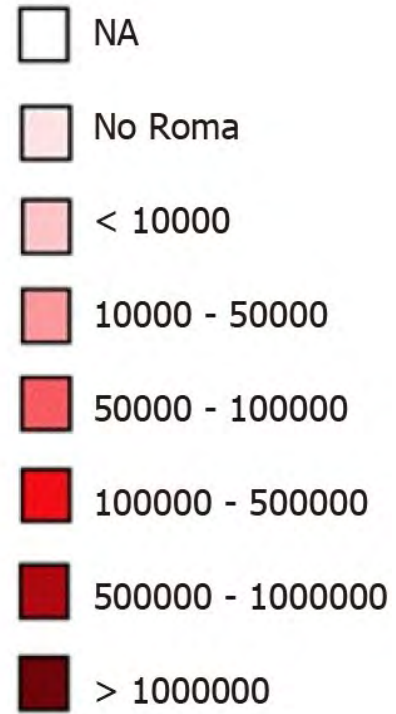
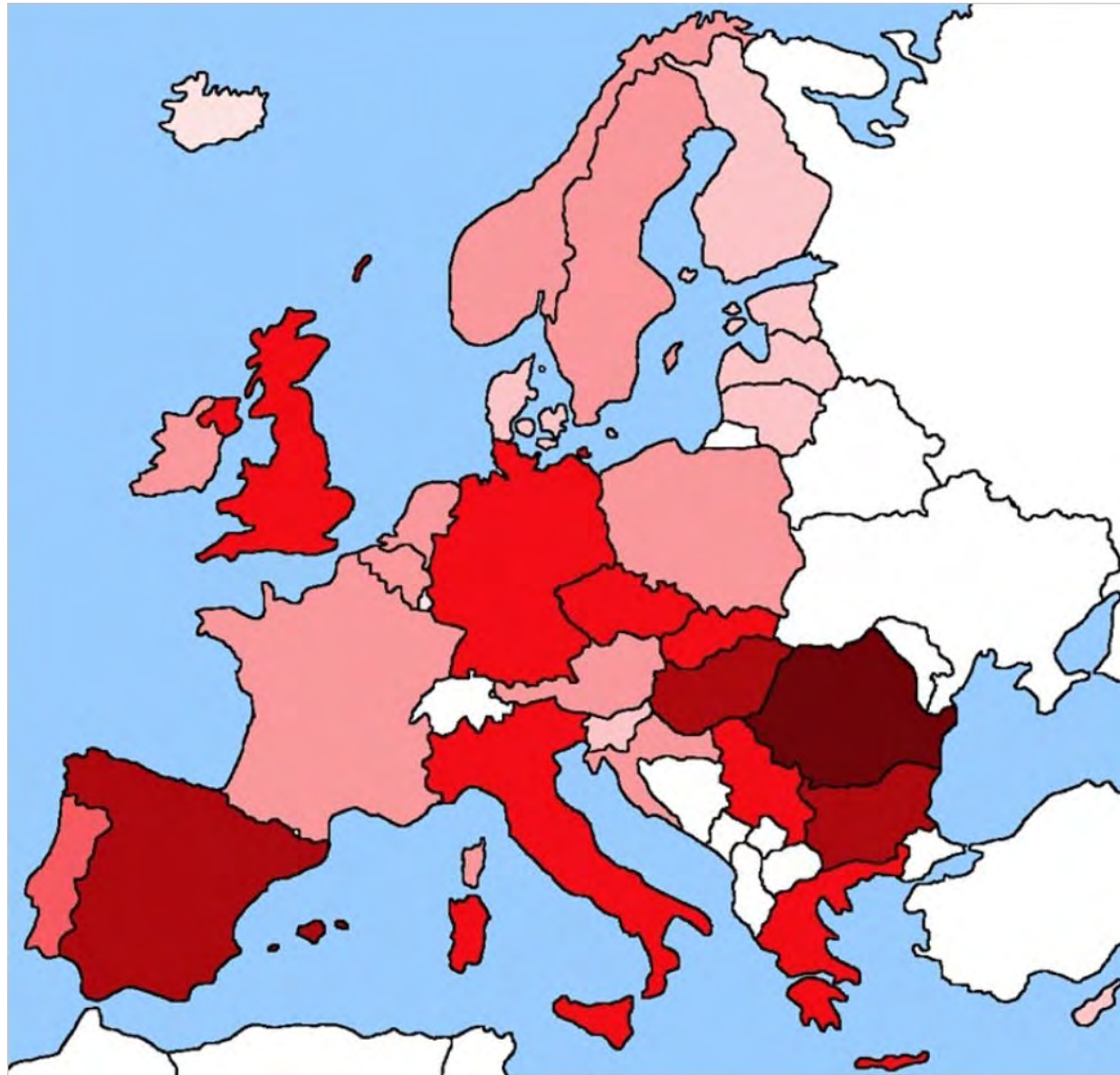
Roma people have a long history of living in Europe with presence recorded from the 13th Century. They are now widely recognized as one of the EU's largest minority groups with an estimate of more than 10m Roma living in Europe.

The term "Roma", first chosen at the inaugural World Romani Congress held in London in 1971, is now widely accepted across the European Union (EU) as a generic and pragmatic term to describe a diverse range of communities, tribes and clans.

<https://theconversation.com/explainer-who-are-the-roma-19402>



Distribution of Romani





TAKE NOTE
OF
EASTERN
EUROPE
AND THE
CONCENTR
ATION IN
THAT
PORTION
OF EUROPE.

ROMACT

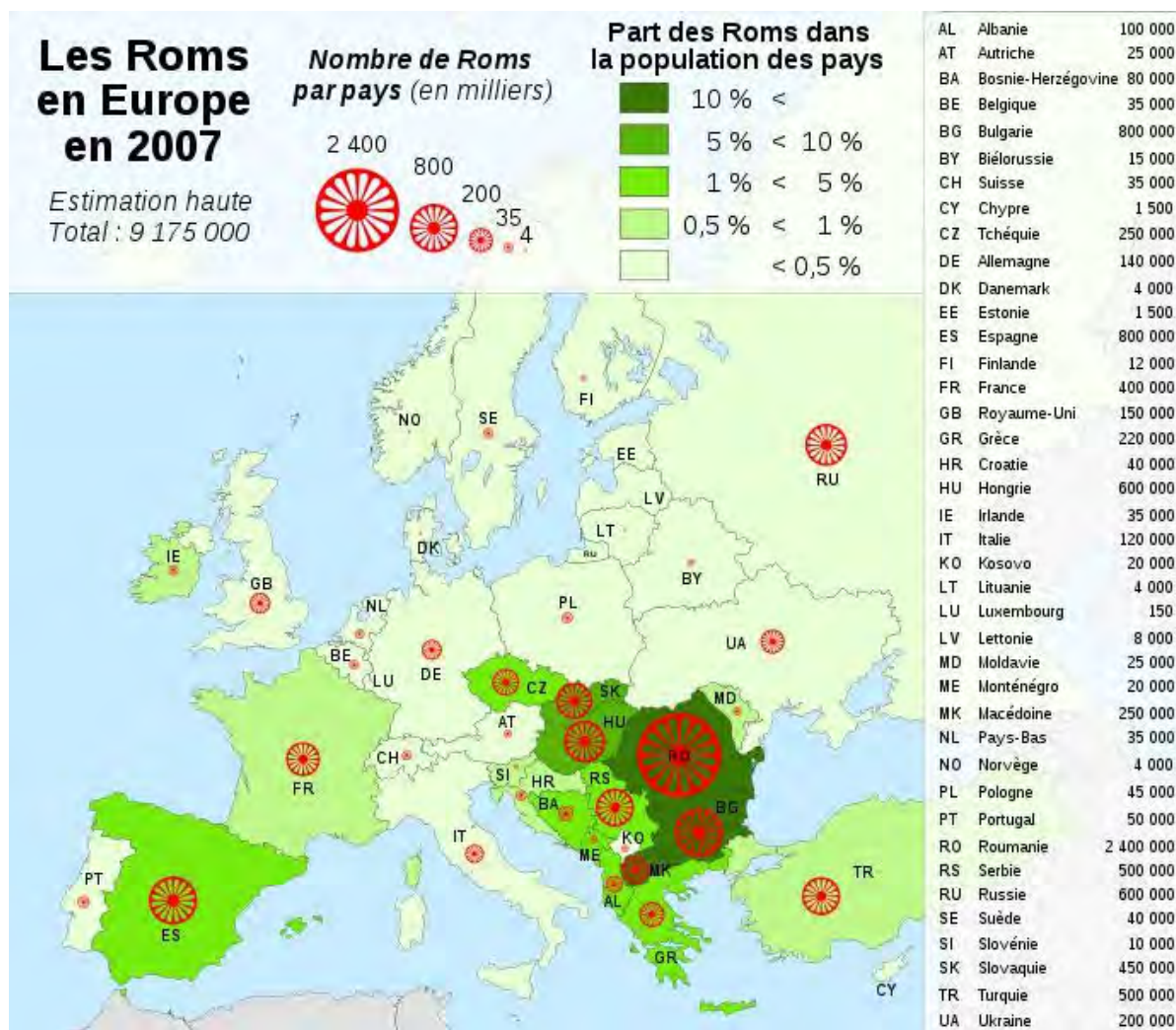


The ROMACT programme

Since 2013, **the Council of Europe and the European Commission** have been implementing a Joint Programme – ROMACT – “Building up political will and understanding of Roma inclusion at local and regional level”, **set on the existing European and national policy frameworks for Roma inclusion**, which acknowledges the fact that measures at local and regional level are decisive for generating improvement in the Roma communities, across key areas such as education, housing, employment and health.

[HTTPS://COE-ROMACT.ORG/ABOUT-ROMACT](https://coe-romact.org/about-romact)

BULGARIA AND ROMANIA FOCUSED



ROMACT Overview

Snapshot July 2022

The ROMACT Methodology consists of 4 steps, implemented over 18 - 22 months, as described in the [ROMACT Handbook](#)

148* in Bulgaria & Romania

ROMACT Municipalities (October 2013 - July 2022)
In addition to Bulgaria and Romania, ROMACT was implemented in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy and in the Slovak Republic between 2013 and 2017



STEP 1 - Becoming Committed

143 /143

Municipalities committed to implement the ROMACT Programme



STEP 2 - Agreeing on Needs and Plans

143 /143

Local Capacity Assessment done



STEP 3 - Translating the Community Priorities List into concrete measures and projects

117 /143

have Joint Action Plans elaborated by the Community in cooperation with the Local Authorities



STEP 4 - Funding, implementing and monitoring of the process

143 /143

Municipalities where Local Authorities were involved in ROMACT capacity building activities

138 /143

Municipalities appointed a Coordinator for the ROMACT Programme

143 /143

Municipalities where Community needs were assessed

85 /143

Joint Action Plans adopted by Local Councils

143 /143

Municipalities where screening of funding was conducted with the help of ROMACT experts

93 /143

Municipalities created a Municipal Taskforce for Roma inclusion

125 /143

Municipalities where community priorities were listed in preparation for the Joint Action Plans

39 /143

Joint Action Plans included in the mainstream Local Development Strategies

95 /143

Municipalities where project proposals were submitted for funding

138 /143

Community Action Groups (CAG) established

110 /143

Municipalities are implementing measures as a result of ROMACT

* Total figures comprise ongoing, closed and (5) excluded municipalities.



Perception of minorities in the EU: **Roma people**



61%

**IS WIDESPREAD
IN THEIR COUNTRY**



20%

**OF EUROPEANS HAVE
ROMA FRIENDS OR
ACQUAINTANCES**

*This represents a 2 pp (percentage points)
increase since 2015 (20% vs 18%)*

Variation between Member States
(in % Yes, have Roma friends):