

Case name: SIPRU - Technical Assistance for Roma Inclusion (TARI) -Local level, June 2013/June 2016

1. Subject/issue	Social inclusion of Roma on local level through improvement of their access to basic rights, outreach support of Join Mobile Units and active engagement of Civil Society Organizations.
2. Sector, Country	Social Development; Human Resources Development; Rule of Law – Republic of Serbia
3. Background, antecedent	<p>Although efforts to improve the status of Roma have been made and basic policies and legal reforms for their inclusion put into place, the Roma community remains one of the most vulnerable in Serbia. In the face of social and economic discrimination, this vulnerability is manifested by extreme poverty and limited access to employment, education, healthcare and social services and adequate housing. In coordination with the Office for Human and Minority Rights, the TARI project addresses these most persistent aspects of Roma exclusion.¹</p> <p>EC Analytical Report 2011², related to employment, education and social inclusion, recommends additional efforts to ensure the social inclusion of vulnerable groups, such as Roma, disabled persons, young people, elderly persons and other socially and economically disadvantaged. The report emphasizes that further efforts are necessary in order to improve the status and socio-economic conditions of the Roma, who continue to be the most vulnerable and marginalized minority. In this context, the report deplores the lack of community-based social services (CBSS) across the country. It advocates further funds for the implementation of the Strategy for Improvement of the Status of Roma and a more systematic approach to the relocation of illegal Roma settlements. Finally, the report recommends increasing the impact of social dialogue on the economy, notably by developing the almost inexistent dialogue at local level.</p>
4. Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support the implementation of the Strategy for Improvement of the Status of Roma in the Republic of Serbia in the areas of access to basic rights and civic participation, labor market, education, health, social welfare, adequate housing and job creation, following the recommendations of the on-going

¹ http://europa.rs/images/publikacije/01-TARI_Factsheet.pdf

² The EC Analytical Report 2011 accompanying Commission Opinion on Serbia's application for membership of EU

	<p>pilot actions of the City of Belgrade and EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support social inclusion policies and development of the range and quality of community-based social services for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, including Roma, through cross-sectoral approaches and local partnership-based initiatives.
5. Current Status	<p><u>Access of Roma to Basic Rights Improved</u> - Specialized teams on legal issues, from partner NGO Praxis from Belgrade, provided free legal assistance in 20 designated municipalities. Through field work, they interviewed members of the community, as well as representatives of local authorities and institutions. A total of 969 administrative and court procedures were initiated and 469 solved.</p> <p><u>Join Mobile Units for Roma Inclusion effective and efficient in outreach support</u> – In 20 designated municipalities, Join Mobile Units are created, equipped, trained and included in a mentoring program with more than 115 participants. Members of Join Mobile Units on local level are: Coordinator for Roma issues, Pedagogical Assistant, Health Mediator, representative of Centre for social work and representative of National employment agency. All 20 Join Mobile Units prepared operative action plans addressing priorities in the area of education, health and employment, housing and active participation. Data base on social inclusion of Roma through local services (RIMS) has been created and is being implemented at this moment. Mobile teams have helped around 1,300 children enroll in preschool. Some 2,822 participants took part in training in non-discrimination for local service providers (social and health).</p> <p><u>Roma Civil Society Organizations' Capacity Strengthened to Actively Engage in Civic Initiatives</u> – Partner organization, NGO Women's space from Nis, with long term experience in Roma inclusion through civil sector was selected to conduct training and mentorship program. Following the mapping of Roma CSOs, as well as organizations focused on Roma integration, 31 CSOs and 4 networks participated in three rounds of training. CSOs received mentorship assistance, as well as support for their active participation in the development and implementation of local policies for Roma. Annual Conference, "Role and importance of cooperation of CSOs and local self-governments in implementation of Roma policies at the local level" was organized in order to encourage inter-sectoral exchange and cooperation.</p>
6. Key-Stakeholders and their Roles / Responsibilities	<p>Project is funded by EU and implemented by OSCE Mission to Serbia in cooperation with Office for human and minority rights, as the main state institution in charge of the National Strategy for Roma inclusion. During project realization, Serbian European Integration Office (SEIO) was monitoring its correlation with IPA programming. Individual components of the program are implemented by relevant Ministries and governmental bodies: Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Policy, National Employment Service, Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, Ministry of</p>

	<p>Health, Office for Human and Minority Rights. Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit (SIPRU) has an advisory and consultative role and is contributing in straitening of multi-sectoral coordination with state institutions.</p> <p>The Project Steering Committee (PSC) was established for the control and supervision of the project activities/outputs. The PSC was composed of the representatives of following beneficiaries and stakeholders: The Serbian European Integration Office (SEIO), the Office for Human and Minority Rights, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Policy, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Construction and Urbanism, the National Employment Service.</p> <p>Civil Society Organizations and other stakeholders (such as National Council of Roma Minority and the League for Roma Decade) have been engaged in the different consultative processes organized by the SEIO in designing the measures. The active involvement of civil society is encouraged through the opportunity for social partners and NGOs to participate as individual grant applicants in delivery of the community-based social services but also as providers of the training and re-training programs. Civil society actors will also benefit from improved cooperation between the Government and socio-economic partners and civil society organizations, to support strategic planning and future programming including partner consultation.</p>
7. Capacity building and Sustainability	<p>By pursuing the objectives of the Law on Social Welfare, this project is supporting the development and mainstreaming of community-based social services. Measures under this project provided capacity-building to local self-governments (LSGs) in managing social inclusion policies, and both LSGs and social providers to design community-based social inclusion initiatives in line with identified local needs through building local partnerships and stronger cross-sectoral networking. The greater availability of community-based services and the greater capacity of local municipalities to coordinate effectively local responses to social exclusion will create the pre-conditions for a wider participation of disadvantaged groups in the labour market, their economic self-reliance and social inclusion. Sustainability under specific results:</p> <p><u>Access of Roma to Basic Rights Improved</u> – key factor of sustainability is in the fact that legally visible and recognized people have improved possibilities for qualitative life as they have access to basic rights fulfillment: legal employment, legal housing, social protection, health insurance, education and other assistance provided by the state.</p> <p><u>Join Mobile Units for Roma Inclusion effective and efficient in outreach support</u> – all Join Mobile Units in 20 local municipalities have support of the LSG mayor and their engagement is regulated by MoU. There for, with already achieved positive results and above mentioned preconditions, this mechanism</p>

	<p>should be sustainable and continue its impact.</p> <p><i>Roma Civil Society Organizations' Capacity Strengthened to Actively Engage in Civic Initiatives</i> – Civil Society Organizations participated in creation of operative local action plans. This contributed to their visibility as an important resource on local level and possibility to be financially and in other ways supported by LSG. Activities under this project provided CSO with opportunities for networking, exchange of information and practices with other institutions and/or organizations dealing with Roma inclusion. This can lead to new partnerships and fundraising possibilities.</p>
8. Institutionalization (if any)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memorandum of understanding between local municipalities and OSCE Mission in Serbia has been signed. • Parliaments of 20 local municipalities made a formal decision to form Joint Mobile Units for inclusion of Roma as standing operative bodies and they will continue to work after the end of the project. • Inter-sectoral working group (ISWG) for development and support to Joint Mobile Units for inclusion of Roma has been formed, but the ISWG needs to be formalized by the Government decision during 2016. • Together with the OHMR, SIPRU and Serbian Republic Statistics Office (SORS), TARI project developed and overall Data base for Roma inclusion measures on local level (RIMS) that will be managed by SORS. The Database will be the main source of data and information for the Government agencies. Also, RIMS will be a tool to monitor the work of joint mobile teams. • Operative action plans for Roma inclusion prepared and adopted in all involved 20 local municipalities. These plans will be updated regularly through RIMS Data base. • Proposal for necessary legal preconditions for systematization of scope of work for Health mediators was created for the Ministry of Health. Continuous capacity building is taking place.
9. Interfaces / Need for coordination with other key issues	<p>Active participation of Roma as individuals, as well as Roma CSO in Roma inclusion was one of the key components that demanded coordination with activities in all other priority area (legal assistance, health care, education assistance, social protection, housing and employment). This provided additional importance, quality and effectiveness in project implementation.</p> <p>Influence on the environment is the second important issue connected to all components of the project. In component related to improvement of housing conditions, positive influence on environment in local municipality was one of the conditions for proposals for housing solutions for Roma settlements.</p>

<p>10. Recommendations</p>	<p>In supporting Roma inclusion it is important to design interventions, adjust criteria of implementation and allocation of funds based on situation analysis of particular regions (to have in mind socio-economic conditions, as well as priority needs of target group in each region). Also, legal preconditions for design and implementation of each intervention are crucial.</p> <p>Efforts, basic policies and legal reforms have been made to improve position of Roma. Therefore it is highly recommended to build up on already achieved and further develop positive practices towards contribution to strategic aims.</p> <p>Wide network of partners on different levels highly contributes to quality and effectiveness of planned interventions. Also, strengthening of inter-sectoral cooperation through working groups that are functional is very important for sustainable solutions.</p> <p>As the issues in matter are complex and the context rapidly changes, it is highly recommended to design interventions that are flexible for adjustments and changes during project implementation.</p>
<p>11. Why is this a good practice? Reflection and learning</p>	<p>This is a good practice because it is a comprehensive approach on local level. It puts the target group, in this case Roma, in the center and builds a supportive network around the target group. In this way, interventions are covering all important aspects (legal assistance, health care, education, social care, housing and employment) at the same time and they are accessible to the target group. In addition to this, when implemented jointly and time bounded, these interventions are impacting the whole community and enabling improvement of socio-economic condition of the LSG in matter.</p> <p>The JMUs are the principal on-the-ground tool of the public services systems concerned with providing relevant social inclusion assistance to Roma living both in informal and formal settlements.</p> <p>The members of the JMUs are entering Roma settlements jointly on a regular basis, implementing the integrated approach on the ground and assisting each other by sharing information and experience from their own mandate and competences. The information collected on an individual basis from the Roma living in informal settlements is gathered in a joint database (RIMS) that will be further used for monitoring and evaluation purposes.</p> <p>This approach enables active participation of Roma in improvement of their own community position and perspective, influencing in this way positively the image that Roma are part of the solution and not part of the problem. Also, wide network of involved institutions and organization contribute to addressing social inclusion as a priority on local and national level.</p>
<p>12. Contact and website/link</p>	<p><u><i>Access of Roma to Basic Rights Improved</i></u></p> <p>http://europa.rs/eng/integration-of-roma-community-an-important-condition-for-eu-negotiations/</p>

Joint Mobile Units for Roma Inclusion effective and efficient in outreach support

<http://socijalnoukljucivanje.gov.rs/en/mobile-teams-successful-in-resolving-roma-issues/>

Roma Civil Society Organizations' Capacity Strengthened to Actively Engage in Civic Initiatives

<http://europa.rs/eng/osceeu-support-improving-co-operation-between-local-self-governments-and-csos-in-implementing-roma-policies/>

Regulatory Preparations in Place for Infrastructural Improvement of Housing Conditions

<http://socijalnoukljucivanje.gov.rs/en/conference-geographic-information-system-gis-for-substandard-roma-settlements-in-serbia/>