



SLIVEN

INTEGRATED PROJECT FOR THE PROMOTION OF SOCIAL INCLUSION OF ROMA AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

The integrated project for social inclusion of Roma and other vulnerable groups in Sliven is implemented in the Roma neighbourhood Nadezhda. The community is socially isolated and lacks a kindergarten and a school, hospital and a community centre. Nadezhda is among the poorest regions in the Sliven municipality and in Bulgaria. The project aims to fill in these basic gaps and provide the needed basic conditions for better living standards and access to good quality services in education and healthcare.



In September 2016, Sliven Municipality launched the construction of a childcare facility in the Roma neighbourhood Nadezhda. Apart from a nursery and kindergarten, the facility will host a Healthcare and a Culture Centres.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

- ❖ Building and furnishing of premises for setting a kindergarten and a nursery (0-6), a healthcare and a cultural center in *Nadezhda*;
- ❖ Selection and education of 32-member staff for the facility, which will be trained to work with bilingual children;
- ❖ Organizing three educational campaigns scheduled to involve 3800 neighbourhood residents;

- ❖ The *From Door to Door* campaign will identify 350 parents and 150 children aged 0-6 to be enrolled in the nursery and/or the kindergarten. Apart from the enrolment of children, the social and economic standing of the families will be assessed and their needs for aid will be registered;
- ❖ In the process of identification and registering of children, highly marginalized families will be identified: those who do not have the resources to prepare the set of enrollment documents for their children will be supported. The campaign's main target is 200 families who wish to enroll their children in nursery or kindergarten but need support to do this;
- ❖ 9 thematic meetings with the participation of experts and representatives from the institutions will be conducted, the objective being to provide consultancies and support to parents whose children do not visit regularly the kindergarten. 600 neighbourhood residents will be covered by this initiative;
- ❖ Creativity events for people from the neighbourhood will be organized under a special program with the participation of a dance teacher, musicians and training coaches. A youth dance group of 20 participants will be organized.

HEALTHCARE ACTIVITIES

- ❖ Building and furnishing a Healthcare Centre in Nadezhda, Sliven, to host three medical offices: GP, gynecologist and a pediatrician;
- ❖ Screenings for infectious and sexually-transmitted diseases will be carried out;
- ❖ Creating of database on the health status of neighborhood residents. The information will be collected through questionnaires, analyses, field work and interviews of identified families;
- ❖ Health prevention campaigns will be scheduled to involve 3800 neighborhood residents.

- ❖ Access to information on sexual and reproductive health. A team of three health mediators and a nurse will deliver 18 modules for better awareness on family planning. Round tables on the topics of risky behavior, family planning and unwanted pregnancy with the participation of religious and Roma community leaders will be held;
- ❖ Launching preventive examinations for uninsured residents of Nadezhda: 960 individuals are scheduled to be covered;
- ❖ 1000 HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis B and C tests for Roma at risk living will be conducted;
- ❖ Improving the quality of monitoring of pregnant women and young mothers: monitoring of 300 pregnant women and young mothers without health insurances will be carried out;
- ❖ Free contraceptive aids for Roma women at risk will be provided. 450 medical examinations for women without health insurances and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases will be provided. The access to free contraception (pills, coils, condoms) will help women avoid unwanted pregnancies and plan their families.



Information campaign on the benefits of education in Nadezhda in December 2016

CULTURAL INTEGRATION AND EMPOWERMENT

- ❖ Empowering young and adolescent Roma through a series of cultural and sports events.
- ❖ Participation of Roma in civil initiatives and advocacy, motivating them to be actively engaged in public life in Sliven.

- ❖ The free *Cultural Calendar* edition will present information on events related to the history of Roma, their holidays, rituals and traditions. It will present information on thematic evenings, a poetry contest, celebrating key Roma holidays;
- ❖ An ethnic exhibition will display artefacts, documents and works by Roma artists and craftsmen at the new kindergarten Cultural Centre. A research through Sliven District will be carried out to collect artefacts for the permanent exhibition.

KEY INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT

THEMATIC FOCUS

Integration, social inclusion and improving living conditions of Roma and other vulnerable groups in the Sliven region

BUDGET

CHF 1 642 344

AMOUNT OF THE SWISS GRANT

CHF 1 395 993

BULGARIAN CO-FINANCING BY

- ❖ Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (MLSP)
- ❖ Ministry of Education and Science (MES)
- ❖ Ministry of Health (MH)

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

- ❖ Programme Management Unit hosted at MLSP

EXECUTING AGENCY

Municipality of Sliven

PROJECT PARTNERS

- ❖ *Roma Academy for Culture and Education* (RACO) – Sliven
- ❖ *Medics of the World* Association – Sliven Branch
- ❖ *Roma Health* Foundation – Sliven

DURATION

June 2015 – April 2019

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