



European
Commission

EU SUPPORT TO ROMA INTEGRATION IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

April 2024

#EU4Roma

#EURoma2030

#EIP



In July 2019, at the Poznan Summit, the Western Balkans Prime Ministers adopted the **Declaration on Roma integration in the EU enlargement process**. Even if Türkiye is not part of the Poznan process its content is fully relevant for the country.

At least

1 million



of Roma living in the
Western Balkans and
at least

3 million

living in Türkiye

All following Berlin Summits (Sofia 2020, Berlin 2021, Berlin 2022, Tirana 2023) adopted new **Roma Poznan follow-up conclusions**. Some previous commitments were fulfilled and new ones added. The Poznan commitments cover the fields of education, employment, health, housing, civil documentation, fight antigypsism, data collection and inclusion of the Roma dimension in the green and digital agendas.

In 2021 and 2022, all Western Balkan partners approved new Roma inclusion Strategies and Action Plans for the next 5 to 10 years. The documents cover the inclusion of Roma in specific areas such as employment, housing or education. .

The European Union is working with the Western Balkans and Türkiye to promote the socio-economic inclusion of Roma people. The EU is supporting the alignment with EU values and laws through the **Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance 2021-2027** and the human capital dimension of the new Growth Plan for the Western Balkans.

The **Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans**, improving **labour market participation, especially of young people and women, disadvantaged groups and minorities, in particular Roma**, will be a priority and can strongly contribute to economic growth.



Over €130 million

from EU budget allocated to support Roma integration in the Western Balkans and Türkiye between 2014 and 2023

Key areas of IPA support to Roma integration in the Western Balkans and Türkiye 2014-2023



Education

- ▶ Increasing participation on every level of education
- ▶ Reducing the gap in upper secondary completion rate



Employment

- ▶ Increasing support to Roma entrepreneurs and self employed
- ▶ Helping the transition from informal to formal economy



Social Inclusion

- ▶ Reducing poverty gap between Roma and non-Roma.
- ▶ Fighting discrimination and anti-gypsyism
- ▶ Empowering Roma to participate in political life and to report



Housing

- ▶ Improving access to housing through support to legalisation and access to property documents
- ▶ Renovation and construction of new houses
- ▶ Stopping current evictions until the legalisation process is over

Ongoing Regional Projects

Award for Roma Integration in the Western Balkans and Türkiye

The Award aims to promote Roma integration in the EU enlargement process. It distinguishes individuals, activists, CSOs, and public and private institutions that have achieved significant progress in the inclusion of Roma.

Since 2014, the Award is celebrated every two years focusing on a relevant subject for Roma inclusion. The Award Ceremony takes place in Brussels during the European Parliament Romani Week.

Roma Integration – phase III

The programme supports the implementations of governmental policies for Roma inclusion in the Western Balkans and Türkiye to reduce the socio-economic gap between the Roma and non-Roma population, and increase Roma integration in key sectors: employment, housing, education, healthcare, civil registration and non-discrimination.

EU Regional Action for Roma Education: Increased Education Support and Opportunities for Roma Students in the Western Balkans and Türkiye (RARE), phase II

This action enables the second phase of the Regional Action for Roma Education & Employment in the Western Balkans and Türkiye. The project supports Roma children and youth in accessing better quality and long-term education, reducing dropouts and supporting gender equality. It also contributes to increasing the potential and opportunities for employability of Roma youth, facilitating the transfer from education to employment.

Romani women – power of change

The project's aim is to empower Roma women and enhance Roma civil society capacities to increase their participation in local and national policy and decision making processes, through dialogue with the national and local governments to reach changes towards Roma inclusion and non-discrimination.



€3 million

5/2023
4/2026

Implemented by the Council of Europe

www



€4.5 million

1/2023
12/2026

Implemented by Roma Education Fund



€1.1 million

1/2020
6/2024

Implemented by Roma Active Albania

www



ROMACTED II

The project promotes good governance and Roma empowerment at local level. It aims at building up political will and sustained policy engagement of local authorities to enhance democratic local governance. The project stimulates the empowerment of local Roma communities to contribute to the design, implementation and monitoring of plans and projects concerning them.

Implemented
by Council of
Europe

€6.5
million

1/2021
12/2024

www

Strengthen national and local systems to support the effective reintegration of Returnees in the Western Balkans

The action aims at promoting holistic solutions to reintegration that provide immediate support to vulnerable returnees, but also address the root causes and negative drivers of migration. The project supports vulnerable returnees through a mainstream streamlined support of vulnerable returnees through the mainstream social protection policies and social services systems, in partnerships with the CSOs/NGOs. This project contributes to the broader social inclusion agenda that promotes the socio-economic wellbeing of Roma and vulnerable populations overall.

Implemented
by UNDP and
World Bank

€6.8
million

10/2020
4/2025

EU Support to REDI: Advancing Roma Entrepreneurs in the Western Balkans

The overall objective of the project is to improve employment and the economic situation of Roma in Serbia and North Macedonia. In order to do this, the project aims at better understanding the barriers faced by Roma female/male entrepreneurs and job seekers in accessing funding, understanding labour market measures as well as enhancing business capacities of male and female Roma entrepreneurs. The purpose of the project is also to increase the capacities of financial institutions and governments agencies to serve Roma entrepreneurs.

Implemented
by Roma
Entrepreneurship
Development
Initiative

€778.000

7/2021
7/2024