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Implemented by  
Roma Active  
Albania



2023  
EU award for

# ROMA INTEGRATION

in the Western  
Balkans  
and Türkiye



## Rules of contest and award criteria.

### EU Award for Roma\* Integration in the Western Balkans and Türkiye, 2023

#### 1. Background

With an estimated 12 million living in Europe, the Roma is one of the largest ethnic minorities in Europe. About 1 million Roma live in the Western Balkans and 2.8 million in Türkiye. They share a rich culture and history that is inextricably linked to Europe, but have also faced a long history of exclusion. Many Roma still face severe forms of racism, discrimination, social exclusion and poverty. Improving their equality, inclusion and participation continues to be a key priority for the European Commission and a criteria for progressing on the enlargement path.

The EU is working to improve the social integration of Roma into society and to provide tangible results on the ground. The European Union is also providing substantial funds for social integration measures through the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance.

The IPA beneficiaries have adopted Strategies and related action plans on Roma integration that are being renewed to adapt to the new EU 2020-2030 Roma Strategic Framework. Important work is done through public authorities, national and local CSOs and individuals/activists.

Honouring these efforts, since 2014, the DG NEAR Award on Roma Integration in the Western Balkans and Türkiye has been raising the visibility both of challenges facing Roma in the Western Balkans and Türkiye, and of the important work of some dedicated players in support of Roma integration. The Award offers recognition, publicity and support to positive models showing tangible results in the area of Roma Integration.

This action will enable the **fifth edition of the EU Roma Inclusion Award** in the Western Balkans and Türkiye. The focus of the 2023 award will be the Roma inclusion dimension in the digital agenda and the green economy, which represent new opportunities for improving the position of vulnerable Roma women and men in the region in the future. Roma inclusion dynamics is affected by the society progress, including the field of digital agenda and green economy. Therefore, in order to be ahead in improving the living conditions of Roma people and their participation, it is important to build strong measures that respond to these challenges, by providing opportunities to facilitate the access in education and employment, health and social services and as well community mobilisation, Roma inclusion

There will be indicatively **two awards** per IPA beneficiary, promoting in total 14 valuable experiences. Not-for profit civil society winners and individuals will receive a monetary prize; whilst public entities and private enterprises will receive a non-monetary award and certificate of the recognition by the European Commission.

All awardees will receive international recognition through an **Award ceremony** in Brussels. They will also attend the other events organised there during the European Parliament *Romani Week 2023*.

All awardees will also be invited to attend a **study visit** in Brussels, to meet with key actors active in green economy and digital areas that present opportunities for further Roma inclusion.

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\*As it is most commonly used in EU policy documents and discussions, the term "Roma" refers to a variety of groups of people who describe themselves as Roma, Gypsies, Travellers, Manouches, Ashkali, Egyptian, Sinti and other without denying the specificities of these groups.

The award is funded by the European Union (IPA Funds) and implemented by Roma Active Albania (RAA).

## **2. Aim of the award**

The award will help draw attention to concrete efforts by various relevant Roma and non-Roma players - public institutions, private companies and businesses, employers, teachers, civil society organizations - to enhance the role of Roma in both implementing and benefitting from the **green economy and digital agenda**, in the fields of, but not limited to, housing, employment, innovation etc., and digital policy priorities. Gender equality and the empowerment of Roma women will be an important dimension. The award will additionally help to recognise approaches and initiatives that have helped and scored significant progress and changes in the lives of Roma people, through the implementation of green economy and digital smart solutions, and that could be replicated in other context and places.

Specifically, the award is intended:

1. To further draw attention to the role and contribution of green economy and digitalisation for improving the position of vulnerable Roma women and men in the region
2. To promote successful models of green economy and digital solutions that have brought positive changes to the Roma communities.
3. To make visible the support and work of the European Union for the Roma inclusion in the enlargement countries.
4. To foster cooperation among the actors involved in the process of Roma inclusion
5. To ensure recognition and sustainability of identified actions implemented at grassroots level.
6. To identify and share positive examples of work of individuals, public institution, private companies, business and CSOs and at local level in the field of Roma inclusion in relation to the green economic development and digital agenda.

An independent evaluation panel will review the applications and select the winners of the award.

Non for profit Civil Society and individual awardees, may furthermore receive a financial support to continue their initiatives in the field of green economy and digitalisation for Roma inclusion. These award winners eligible for financial support will receive a monetary award

Each winner will receive a statue as a symbol of the recognition given by the EC DG NEAR and the event itself.

## **3. Rules of contest**

The award is open to Civil Society (organisations and individuals), public and private institutions (including but not limited to SME, social businesses, entrepreneurship initiatives and other employment initiatives); established and residing in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, The Republic of North Macedonia, Kosovo\* and Türkiye.

The contest is open to applications directly from the individuals, and nominations from a relevant group of individuals, international organisations, CSOs and public authorities, established/active in one of the enlargement countries.

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\*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

### *Applications*

- Applications can be directly submitted by interested parties.
- Applications must be in the respective form, readable, accessible and printable.
- Incomplete applications may be considered inadmissible if essential elements are missing.
- An application is considered valid, when is duly filled-in together with the Declaration of Honour.
- Applications must be submitted together with the relevant documentation, such as photographs, short video clips (max. 5min), or similar.
- Only one application can be submitted. In case of multiple applications, the applicant will be disqualified.

### *Nominations*

- Nominations can be submitted by private individuals, a relevant group of individuals, international organisations, civil society organisations and public authorities, established or active in the enlargement region: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, The Republic of North Macedonia, Kosovo and Türkiye; with the consent of the nominee.
- Nominations must be in the respective form, readable, accessible and printable.
- Incomplete applications may be considered inadmissible if essential elements are missing.
- A nomination is considered valid, when is duly filled-in together with the Declaration of Honour.
- Nominations must be submitted together with the relevant documentation, such as photographs, short video clips (max. 5min), or similar.
- Only one nomination can be submitted by each private individual/CSO/international organisation/public authority. In the case of international organisations they can only submit one nomination per country. In case of multiple nominations by the person/CSOs/IO/public authorities, they will be disqualified.

### *Supporting documents*

Applicants and nominators, are invited to provide additional supporting information as available, and encouraged to send documents in electronic version whenever possible. Supporting information may include:

- Video clips, photographs;
- publications (leaflets, brochures etc. promoting the initiative/project);
- links to websites related to the initiative/project (to be mentioned in the application form)
- media coverage (if any);
- any other material and proof of the impact of the initiative implemented by the applicant/nominee for the prize

### *Multiple submissions*

Only one application can be submitted by each individual.

Each person/CSO/IO and/or public authorities can nominate only one person.

Multiple applications and nominations will result in disqualification.

An individual, who is applying as applicant, cannot be nominated, and as well, a nominee cannot directly apply for the award.

### *Consent on use of information for publication.*

Some information provided from the applicants, nominators and nominees, can be used for further publications. Thus a consent form signed by all parties shall be submitted together with the other documents.

### *Language*

The language used for both applications and nominations, is English.

The supporting documents can be in different languages, however English versions will be appreciated.

### *Deadlines*

Deadline for submitting the applications and nominations, together with other relevant documentations, is 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2023, 23:59 Brussels Time.

### *Submission*

Submission of applications shall be via e-mail in the address: [Application\\_EU\\_Award\\_2023@raa.al](mailto:Application_EU_Award_2023@raa.al).

The title of the email must contain the initials of the applicant and the country of origin.

Submission of nominations shall be via email in the address: [Nomination\\_EU\\_Award\\_2023@raa.al](mailto:Nomination_EU_Award_2023@raa.al).

The title of the email must contain the acronym of the nominator, initials of the nominee and the country of origin.

Applications and nominations, along with the supporting documents, can also be sent by post at the address:

**Roma Active Albania - Rr. “YlbereBylykbashi”; P. 25; Shk. 2; Ap. 4; Tirana, Albania**

In this case, only the applications/nominations received by us within the deadline will be considered. Applications reaching by post later than the set deadline, shall not be considered for evaluation.

## **4. Eligibility criteria**

The award welcomes applications and nominations from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia, The Republic of North Macedonia, and Türkiye.

### *a) Candidates*

The award of the winners falls under PRAG rules, 6.9.2. Financial support to third parties; to support their work in general.

The eligible competitors should:

- Be Roma and non-Roma individuals or entities from public institutions; private sector and Civil Society Organisation (including teachers and healthcare actors, small businesses and social enterprises); and
- Be registered in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, The Republic of North Macedonia, Kosovo and Türkiye; and
- Having through their work made a significant contribution to capitalising on green and digital developments for the purpose of enhanced social inclusion of Roma in the Western Balkans and Türkiye; and
- The individual and entity has been implementing initiatives related to Roma employment/entrepreneurship of Roma men and women, in the context of green and digital agendas for a minimum of 1 year that for their approach or result constitute an important contribution to Roma access to development of the digital agenda and could be reproduced as model in other areas of the enlargement region.
- The entity must prove that the initiative for which the application is made has been carried out for a minimum of 6 months prior to applying for the award, and has already given results

## 5. Award criteria

The winners of the Award for Roma Inclusion will be selected by an independent panel of evaluators, according to the following award criteria whereby transparency of the procedure and equal treatment of the participants will be ensured:

The results that we do expect from the support to the third parties-award are:

Good examples of efforts having contributed to employment of Roma men and Women are recognised

Sustainability of the recognised activities is enhanced (through recognition of their importance and through information sharing and exchange)

Increased impact of the initiatives of CSO and grassroots activists in the field of employment for Roma.

The awarded, will be role model for the empowerment and active citizenship, towards the young women, as well new guiding standards in achieving a societal impact in this field.

By having together a variety of stakeholders from the region, in the main activities, it will create leverage to the collaboration among the different actors. Thus we can further foster the institutional dialogue on employment for Roma.

### **a) The different types of activities eligible for financial support, on the basis of a fixed list**

The activities to be awarded (whether through a monetary and non-monetary award) should have resulted in, or have good potential to contribute to, inclusion and support measures, through green economy and/or digital solutions, and may include

*Beyond the below comments please align with my track changes to the application*

- Advocacy and lobbying resulting on adoption and implementation of legal frameworks, strategies and action plans contributing to building and/or increasing to digital literacy, fighting online hate speech against Roma, access to digital education, employment, and services and empowerment through digital solutions for Roma.
- Efforts delivering concrete and sustainable results to assist Roma digitalisation of their companies, Initiatives improving the access of Roma to distant education
- Education, training, mentoring resulting in increasing use of digital skills and increased presence of Roma youth in the green economy and digital employment
- Digital literacy of Roma and building green economy sustainable future for all
- Support resulting in improved transfer of technologies, know-how and competencies.
- Combating antigypsyism in the new challenging digital era and
- Specific actions favouring Roma women empowerment
- Roma Entrepreneurship resulting in increased opportunities for Roma in the field of green economy and digital agenda
- Social – green economy entrepreneurship resulting in Roma empowerment

### **b) The types of persons or categories of persons which may receive financial support**

The awardees will belong to Civil Society – includes CSOs and individuals active in the field of Roma employment, and entities such as but not limited to public institutions and companies, employers, education teachers and healthcare actors Roma and non-Roma, small businesses and social enterprises. There will be in total 14 awardees who will attend the study visit in Spain, and additionally the Civil

Society actors may receive financial support to continue their initiatives in the field of employment of Roma.

Each competitor eligible for one application, has to fulfil the following eligibility criteria:

- Be individual and entities: institutions and companies, employers, education teachers and healthcare actors Roma and non-Roma, small businesses and social enterprises, CSOs providing services, established in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, The Republic of North Macedonia, Kosovo and Türkiye who through their work made a significant contribution to the employment of Roma in the Western Balkans and Türkiye
- The entity has been implementing relevant activities for a minimum of 1 year.
- The entity must prove that the initiative for which the application is made has been carried out for a minimum of 6 months prior to applying for the award and has already given results.
- Only Civil Society actors will be entitled to financial support

**c) The criteria for selecting these entities and giving the financial support**

The main selection criteria but not limited to, are:

*Please adapt to this year theme*

- Extent of impact of initiative on quantity and quality of Roma integration, green future and/or digital agenda
- Extent of addressing of gender dimension in integration of Roma
- Extent of impact of initiative in Roma communities and lives
- Extent of initiative's promotion of equal treatment for Roma
- Extent of sustainability
- Success in applying a gender equality approach.

**d) The criteria for determining the exact amount of financial support for each third entity**

The amount of the financial award for the entitled entities (CSOs) will be a fixed amount for the first prize and also for the second prize. The above criteria will be evaluated and a scoring system will assess the applications/nominations from each category.

**e) The maximum amount which may be given**

The award winners eligible for financial support will receive a monetary award of 7500 Euro the first prize and 4500 the second prize. All awardees will win a study visit in Brussels, Belgium.

Each winner will receive a statue as a symbol of the recognition given by the EC DG NEAR and the event itself.

All awardees will have international recognition through the Award ceremony in Brussels and additionally will attend the activities implemented at the same time of the award event. The study visit will follow the award ceremony.

**6. Use of Data**

Submitted data and personal information will be treated confidentially, solely for the purpose of the award.

All personal data contained in the application shall be processed in accordance with regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 (*OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 39–98* )) on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data. Such data shall be processed by the Contracting Authority solely in connection with and European Union legislation.

Participants may, at any time, lodge a complaint against the processing of their personal data with the European Data Protection Supervisor.

The Commission shall only be authorized to publish, in whatever form and on or by whatever medium, the following information:

- The name of the winning applicant or nominee
- The name of the nominator
- The general purpose of the activities of the winning to the award of the prize;
- The amount of the prize awarded;
- The geographic location of the activities carried out.

The European Commission may produce videos or other promotional material about the winners. Photos and videos taken by the European Commission either in preparation of the award ceremony or during the award ceremony are the sole property of the European Commission.