

Call for proposals

for civil society capacity building and monitoring of the implementation of national Roma integration strategies

For Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia
(Cluster 1 countries)

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Introduction

The current call for proposals aims to involve 90 diverse NGOs from 27 EU member states¹ for active participation in **capacity building activities** and in **monitoring the implementation of the national Roma integration strategies** (NRIS)² in the next two to three years.

The call is part of the pilot project 'Capacity building for Roma civil society and strengthening its involvement in the monitoring of national Roma integration strategies'.³ The pilot project is managed by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (DG Justice). It is coordinated by the Central European University (CEU), in partnership with the European Roma Grassroots Organisations Network (ERGO), the European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC), the Fundación Secretariado Gitano (FSG) and the Roma Education Fund (REF). The pilot project will be implemented with the active participation of the **NGOs involved through this open call**.

Civil society monitoring shall be a **collective activity performed together by selected NGOs**. Therefore, after the initial capacity building activities, selected NGOs in each country are expected to **form a coalition**, and prepare one annual monitoring report each year collectively. The CEU will sign a service contract with the coordinating NGO of each coalition, on behalf of the coalition.

Objectives

The objective of the pilot project is to contribute to strengthening the monitoring mechanisms of the implementation of the national Roma integration strategies through **systematic civil society monitoring**. The additional value of civil society monitoring comes from the independent status and the field experience of participating NGOs. The pilot project aims to enhance civil society monitoring in two key ways: by **developing the policy monitoring capacities** of civil society actors, and by supporting the **preparation of high-quality, comprehensive annual civil society monitoring reports**.

The monitoring shall focus on how the **national Roma integration strategies of EU member states are implemented**. It shall cover **9 thematic fields and horizontal issues**: governance, education, employment, health care, housing, anti-discrimination, addressing antigypsyism, participation of Roma and gender equality.

Participating NGOs

The foreseen number of selected NGOs ranges from 1 to 8-9 per country, depending on the characteristics of the country (see section on Clustering member states). The aim is to involve around **8-9 NGOs** from each of the 5 countries under this call (Cluster 1).

To pursue capacity building and high-quality policy monitoring objectives simultaneously, the project will embrace both:

- **NGOs with significant policy monitoring experience** (especially in countries where there were previous efforts for civil society monitoring in Roma inclusion), and
- **NGOs with strong field experience but limited policy monitoring experience**.⁴

¹ In one member state, Malta, there is no Roma community, therefore Malta is not part of the pilot project.

² In line with the EU framework for national Roma integration strategies, member states developed either national Roma integration strategies or integrated sets of policy measures within their broader social inclusion policies. In the call, reference to national Roma integration strategies shall be understood to include also integrated sets of measures.

³ JUST/2014/RPPI/PR/EQUA/0150.

⁴ Involvement of NGOs with significant policy monitoring experience is necessary for the preparation of high-quality monitoring reports, and working together with them shall be a major source of capacity building for NGOs with limited experience in policy monitoring. Involvement of NGOs with strong field experience but limited policy monitoring

There should be diversity among selected NGOs along various further dimensions, including:

- Selected NGOs taken together should have experience in **various thematic fields and horizontal issues**, and **various types of localities**.
- They should include NGOs with **Roma and women in their leadership**.
- They should include an NGO that can **coordinate** the foreseen coalition of NGOs.

Civil society monitoring shall be a **collective activity performed together by selected NGOs**. Therefore, selected NGOs in each country are expected to **form a coalition**, and to prepare one annual monitoring report each year collectively.⁵

Clustering member states

There are **large differences among member states** regarding the challenges of Roma inclusion. For example, Roma communities range from more than 10% to less than 0.1% of the population: this means that the size of the communities varies from close to 2 million people to around 300 depending on the member state (in one member state, Malta, there is no Roma community, therefore Malta is not part of the pilot project). Country-specific recommendations formulated by the European Commission and the Council calling for specific actions for Roma inclusion in five member states show that some countries face more acute challenges related to Roma inclusion. According to these differences, and for the purpose of the pilot project, member states are grouped in **four clusters**.⁶

- Cluster 1: member states with the largest Roma communities and facing the most acute challenges, including 5 countries: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia.
- Cluster 2: member states with significant Roma communities, including 6 countries: France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Spain and the UK.
- Cluster 3: member states with mid-size Roma communities, including 8 countries: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Ireland, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal and Sweden.
- Cluster 4: member states with smaller Roma communities, including 8 countries: Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg and Slovenia.

The aim is to involve around 8-9 NGOs from each Cluster 1 country, around 4-5 NGOs from a Cluster 2 country, around 2-3 NGOs from a Cluster 3 country, and around 1 NGO from a Cluster 4 country.

Several stages of the pilot project, including selection of NGOs and some of the foreseen activities with selected NGOs (especially the preparation of monitoring reports), will be **differentiated** according to these clusters.

Foreseen activities with selected NGOs

Selected NGOs will be invited for active participation in the following activities:

1. **Capacity building,**
2. **Forming coalitions, contracting,**
3. **Preparation of monitoring reports,**
4. **Dissemination of monitoring reports,**
5. **Networking with other NGOs.**

experience enriches the field experience analysed in the monitoring reports. These NGOs shall be the prime beneficiaries of the capacity building activities.

⁵ The aim is that all selected NGOs take part actively in the coalitions. However, in case an NGO cannot agree with others in cooperation principles and division of tasks, it may withdraw from participation in further activities. It will still be invited to consult the draft monitoring report.

⁶ Cluster 1 countries were defined by the European Commission. These are countries that have large Roma communities and that received country specific recommendations regarding Roma inclusion. Data for the size of Roma communities were taken from the average estimates included in the annex of the EU framework.

Capacity building will start first.

After the initial capacity building activities, selected NGOs will be expected to **form a coalition**, which requires agreeing on cooperation principles, allocating tasks and deciding on budget allocation. Then the CEU will sign a service contract with the **coordinating NGO** of each coalition, on behalf of the coalition. The coordinating NGO shall ensure participation of other selected NGOs within the coalition.

Preparation of monitoring reports, dissemination of monitoring reports and networking with other NGOs will be done by the coalition.

Scope and depth of monitoring shall be as follows:

Scope of monitoring reports	Depth of monitoring reports
Implementation of the NRIS, focusing on governance, antidiscrimination and addressing antigypsyism, plus impact of relevant mainstream policies on Roma in 2017, and on education, employment, health care and housing in 2018	Around 25-40 pages per year
Comprehensive assessment of measures in 1-2 most relevant municipalities each year	Around 6-8 pages per year
Ad-hoc analysis of new developments	Flexible

Monitoring reports will be prepared and disseminated in annual cycles, for **at least two annual cycles** (2017, 2018).

In the first annual cycle, draft monitoring reports shall be prepared by October 31, 2017; final monitoring reports shall be prepared by Dec 20, 2017.

Preparation of monitoring reports for a third annual cycle (2019) may be possible, but this is conditional on the quality of monitoring reports as well as other considerations.

A detailed description of foreseen activities features in the **separate document titled Description of the EU pilot project for civil society capacity building and monitoring of the implementation of national Roma integration strategies**.

Financial support

The cost of participation in initial capacity building activities will be reimbursed.

The cost of participation in follow-up capacity building activities, preparation of monitoring reports, dissemination of monitoring reports and networking with other NGOs can be supported from a **budget allocated** to each country. Any cost related to these activities, including salary or fee of staff members for the time spent on relevant activities, fee of external experts where necessary, travel and related cost of staff members and external experts within the country and for participation in follow-up capacity building activities outside the country, translation, and so on, can be supported from this budget. Selected NGOs will have access to the allocated budget after participating in initial capacity building activities, and forming a coalition.

The maximum amount of budget allocated to each country shall be EUR 21.500 for the first annual cycle (2017) and EUR 20.000 for the second annual cycle (2018). The amounts are net amounts (do not include VAT).

Each year 20% of the allocated budget is foreseen to be paid as advance payment, 40% after preparing the draft monitoring report, and 40% after preparing the final monitoring report.

In case the preparation of monitoring reports for a third annual cycle (2019) will be possible, the budget allocated for the third year can be around 90% of the budget allocated for the second year.

Selection of NGOs

As described in the section on Participating NGOs, the call aims to select various types of NGOs. The selection process, eligibility criteria and selection criteria are designed accordingly.

Selection process

NGOs with significant experience in policy monitoring and NGOs with strong field experience but limited experience in policy monitoring are invited to submit applications for participating in the pilot project in different ways:

- **NGOs with significant experience in policy monitoring** are invited to form an **open group**, and submit one proposal together. The group can include 3-4 NGOs. The group shall name a possible coordinator of the foreseen coalition, which shall be formed from the selected group and from NGOs selected individually.
- **NGOs with strong field experience but limited experience in policy monitoring** are invited to submit proposals **individually**.

NGOs with significant policy monitoring experience include NGOs that

- had an active role in the preparation of comprehensive civil society monitoring reports coordinated by the Decade of Roma Inclusion Secretariat, or
- prepared at least one comprehensive, evidence-based, publicly available civil society monitoring report on Roma inclusion, social inclusion, equal opportunities or anti-discrimination.

The aim is to reach a balance between NGOs with significant policy monitoring experience, and NGOs with strong field experience but limited policy monitoring experience, and to ensure diversity among selected NGOs along various dimensions. Therefore, while eligibility criteria and some of the selection criteria can be assessed for each NGO, other selection criteria can be assessed for a pool of NGOs as stated in the section on Participating NGOs.

NGOs that are eligible but will not be selected will be invited to consult the draft monitoring report.

Eligibility criteria

All organisations submitting proposals should

- be non-profit, non-governmental organisations;
- feature Roma inclusion as part of their main activities, for at least 2 years;
- have demonstrated experience in at least one of the following thematic fields: governance, education, employment, health care, housing, anti-discrimination, addressing antigypsyism;
- have run activities for Roma inclusion at local level, for at least 2 years;⁷
- demonstrate openness to cooperate with other NGOs.

Eligible open groups of NGOs should fulfil the following criteria:

- have experience in several thematic fields and horizontal issues and various types of localities;
- have experience in policy monitoring, relevant research and analysis and advocacy;
- include NGO(s) that have Roma and women in their leadership;
- include an NGO with the capacity to coordinate the foreseen coalition.

⁷ It is not required that all or most of the activities of the NGO are at local level.

Selection criteria

All selected NGOs should be

- actively engaged in activities for Roma inclusion at local level;⁸
- recognised among the civil society actors most active in Roma inclusion.⁹

The ideal pool of selected NGOs will

- have strong experience in most thematic fields and horizontal issues;
- have experience in relevant types of localities;
- include NGO(s) with significant policy monitoring experience as well as NGOs with strong field experience but limited policy monitoring experience;
- include an NGO with experience and skills in research and analysis in Roma inclusion;
- include an NGO with experience in advocacy in Roma inclusion;
- include several Roma-led NGOs (around half of the NGOs);
- include NGOs with women in their leadership;
- include an NGO that can demonstrate a strong capacity to coordinate the foreseen coalition¹⁰, with a designated coordinator (person).

In order to have a balance between NGOs with significant policy monitoring experience and NGOs with strong field experience but limited policy monitoring experience, ideally around 1/3 of the selected NGOs shall have significant policy monitoring experience, and 2/3 of the NGOs shall have strong field experience but limited policy monitoring experience.¹¹

Submission of proposals

NGOs interested to submit proposals can send **questions** regarding the project. Questions can be submitted to the following email address: romacivilmonitor@ceu.edu. Questions will be answered by CEU as soon as possible.

Deadline for **submission of proposals** is **May 19, 2017**. Proposals can be submitted by filling the proposal form in English¹², and sending it to the following email address: romacivilmonitor@ceu.edu.

⁸ It is not required that all or most of the activities of the NGO are at local level.

⁹ Applicants shall demonstrate recognition on their own, e.g. as wide outreach among the Roma communities, partnerships with civil society actors, references by academic or international actors to their actions, visibility of actions and opinions in media, etc. Partisan political status (direct political party alliance) makes an applicant non-eligible for coordination.

¹⁰ The ability to coordinate the foreseen coalition includes that the NGO is able to enter into a service contract with the CEU on behalf of the coalition – including the ability to issue an invoice –, and ensure participation of other selected NGOs within the coalition.

¹¹ In countries where there were previous efforts for civil society monitoring in Roma inclusion (most cluster 1 and cluster 2 countries) the share of NGOs with significant policy monitoring experience may be higher. In other countries where there were no such efforts for civil society monitoring in Roma inclusion (most cluster 1 and cluster 2 countries) the share of NGOs with significant policy monitoring experience is expected to be lower.

¹² The working language of international activities with communication between the NGOs and the CEU and its partners or between NGOs in different countries will be English. The working language of national and local activities will be the national language. After the coalitions will be formed, most of the English language communication between the coalition and the CEU and its partners and between NGOs in different countries can be done by the coordinating NGO, so other NGOs shall be able to participate also with limited knowledge of English.