

**Project: BEYOND BARRIERS: ROMA RESILIENCE IN THE WESTERN BALKANS**  
**Funded by the European Union**

Time frame: 02 December – 01 October 2027

Lead:

Romalitico - RInstitute for Research and Policy Analysis

Partners:

- InSoC – Institute for social change – North Macedonia
- Kali Sara - Roma Information Center – Bosnia and Herzegovina
- YUROM Centar – Serbia
- IRCA - Institute of Romani Culture in Albania
- RVK - Roma Versitas Kosovo

**(Overall objective), Impact**

***Strengthening regional Roma inclusion in the Western Balkans through policies and initiatives addressing economic disparities, combating antigypsyism, and promoting social integration.***

**(Specific objective(s), Outcome(s))**

R1: Establish a cohesive and well - coordinated Regional Network of Roma CSOs

R2: Targeted economic empowerment initiatives in WB leading to measurable improvements in the economic conditions of Roma communities across the region

R3: Establish a collaborative regional network that boosts awareness and action against antigypsyism at regional and national levels through effective advocacy

**Outputs:**

O1.1 Regional Policy Network Hub for Roma inclusion policies established and promoted

O1.2 Robust monitoring of EU sectoral reforms related to Roma, central government policies, service delivery, and budgets for Roma inclusion, conducted in at least 5 countries; reports published and disseminated

O1.3 Specific priorities and needs of Roma communities identified by the active citizen networks, advocated, and included in the central government policies and donor priorities for the next period

O1.4 Established regional platform for donor cooperation (EU, USAID, World Bank, UNDP, SDC and other donors)

O1.5 Three trainings on advocacy and networking were organized, with at least 20 participants per training.

O1. 6 At least 120 meetings with the central government, representative ministries, Roma communities, business chambers, and other stakeholders were organized

O1.7 Network activity promoted on a web platform, social networks, and national media

O2.1. Development and implementation of vocational training programs tailored to the needs of Roma NEET in the Western Balkans

O2.2. Provision of hands - on training in industries with growth potential, enhancing employability and fostering inclusive hiring practices and job openings

O2.3 Piloting a model in different economies for the establishment of community cooperatives, social enterprises, and business start - ups to strengthen the economic resilience of Roma communities by provision of grants

O3.1 Recognition of the concept of antigypsyism in public policies and domestic legislation

O3.2 Regular publication of reports detailing the prevalence of antigypsyism, its impact on Roma communities, and recommendations for policy changes and interventions

O3.3 Organization of stakeholder engagement conferences at both regional and national levels, bringing together government officials, NGOs, community leaders, and other key stakeholders

### **Activities:**

A1.1.1 Creation and dissemination of a communication plan to introduce the network to key stakeholders and the public.

1.1.2 Formulation of a robust advocacy framework outlining key objectives, target areas, and strategies for effective social inclusion advocacy.

A1.1.3 Official launch event

A1.2.1 Review of existing sectoral reforms policies, laws, and budgets (secondary official data)

A1.2.2 Meetings with central governments and other stakeholders

A1.2.3 Writing and publishing a report.

A.1.2.4 Production of advocacy materials, including policy briefs, position papers, and communication tools to support the network's advocacy initiatives

A1.3.1 Mapping of needs and priorities and developing of policy and law proposals.

A1.3.2 Advocating and including identified priorities in the central and local government policies for the next period (2024 onward).

A1.3.3 Three trainings on advocacy and networking were organized, with at least 20 participants per training.

A1.3.4 At least 120 meetings with the central government, representative ministries, Roma communities, business chambers, and other stakeholders were organized.

A1.3.5 Organization of regional issue - based conference

A1.3.6 Network activity promoted on a web platform, social networks, and national media

A1.4.1 Mapping donors in Western Balkan

A1.4.2 Create a platform for donor coordination of Roma policies

A1.4.3 Develop rules and procedures for the regional platform.

A1.4.4 Organized at least six meeting with donors, Roma NGOs, and institutions

A1.4.5 Priority needs of Roma are advocated and incorporated into policies and donor priorities.

A2.1.1 Conduct a needs assessment to identify the specific vocational skills and training needs of Roma NEET individuals.

A.2.1.2 Develop vocational training programs with a curriculum that aligns with the identified needs and skills gaps of Roma NEET.

A2.1.3 Recruit qualified trainers with expertise in the specific vocational areas addressed by the training programs.

A2.1.4 Delivery of vocational training

A.2.2.1 Conduct research and analysis to identify industries with growth potential in the Western Balkans, considering current trends and employment opportunities.

A.2.2.2 Initiate discussions and establish partnerships with businesses to understand their workforce needs and explore collaboration opportunities.

A2.2.3 Develop a comprehensive database of skills and competencies within the Roma community, aligning them with the job requirements identified by local businesses.

A2.2.4 Facilitate job matching and placement services, connecting qualified Roma individuals with suitable job openings and providing support throughout the application and hiring process.

A2.2.5 Collaborate with government agencies to advocate for inclusive hiring policies by providing incentives to companies to hire Roma.

A2.3.1. Assess the feasibility of different piloting models, considering the skills, resources, and preferences of Roma communities in each targeted economy.

A2.3.2 Engage with local communities, fostering a participatory approach to the establishment of community cooperatives, social enterprises, and business start-ups.

A2.3.3 Advocate for supportive policies at the local and national levels, working with governmental and non-governmental stakeholders to create an enabling environment for Roma economic empowerment.

A2.3.4 Provision of grants to set up pilot initiatives in national economies within the Western Balkans, tailoring the economic models to the specific needs and opportunities of each community.

A2.3.5 Facilitate networking opportunities by connecting entrepreneurs with experienced mentors, industry experts, and potential collaborators.

A3.1.1 Conduct a comprehensive review of existing legislation to identify gaps and areas where antigypsyism is not adequately addressed.

A3.1.2 Formulate reform proposals to integrate explicit references to antigypsyism in relevant legal frameworks, ensuring legal provisions that safeguard the rights of the Roma community.

A3.1.3 Facilitate policy dialogues and consultations with relevant government agencies, legislators, and advocacy groups to discuss the incorporation of antigypsyism recognition into policies.

A3.1.4 Training sessions for policymakers, legal experts, and government officials to deepen their understanding of antigypsyism.

A3.1.5 Provide resources, such as informational materials and case studies, to enhance their capacity to recognize and address antigypsyism in the formulation of policies and legislation

A3.2.1 Conduct ongoing research to gather data on instances of antigypsyism, discrimination, and challenges faced by Roma communities.

A3.1.2 Compile the collected data into comprehensive reports that analyze the prevalence of antigypsyism, its manifestations, and its impact on the social, economic, and cultural aspects of Roma communities. A3.1.3. Dissemination of the report using various communication channels

A3.1.4 Collaborate with advocacy groups and civil society organizations to build support for policy changes addressing antigypsyism and promoting the rights and inclusion of Roma communities.

A3.3.1 Develop a comprehensive plan outlining the objectives, agenda, and logistics for stakeholder engagement conference at regional and national levels.

A3.1.2 Identify and compile a list of key stakeholders, including government officials, representatives from NGOs, community leaders, and relevant experts.

A3.1.3 Design an interactive and inclusive agenda that encourages open dialogue, collaboration, and information exchange among participants.

A3.1.4 Implement mechanisms for capturing and documenting key insights, recommendations, and action points discussed during the conference.