



**OSCE**  
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## **Joint Launching Conference**

**Best Practices for Roma Integration – EU/ OSCE-ODIHR**  
**Promoting Human Rights and Minority Protection in South East Europe – EU/**  
**CoE**  
**Regional Initiative for Inclusive Education – EU/ CoE**

**27-29 June 2012**  
**Hotel Avala, Budva, Montenegro**

**PRESENTATION OF THE THREE REGIONAL PROJECTS**

## BEST PRACTICES FOR ROMA INTEGRATION EU / OSCE-ODIHR

### SHORT PROJECT DESCRIPTION

<b>Contractor:</b>	<i>Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe/Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR)</i>
<b>Contract:</b>	<i>Contribution Agreement with an International Organisation, awarded as a result of a restricted Call for proposals procedure, with 90% financing from IPA Multi-Beneficiary 2010</i>
<b>Beneficiaries:</b>	<i>Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Kosovo<sup>1</sup></i>
<b>Implementation start date:</b>	<i>01/01/2012</i>
<b>Duration:</b>	<i>23 months</i>
<b>EU contribution to budget:</b>	<i>3 M EUR</i>

The **overall objective** of the programme is to contribute to the integration of minorities in the Western Balkans in accordance with the Beneficiaries' commitments in the perspective of EU accession. The **specific objective** is: to improve the quality of life and access to rights of the Roma communities in the Western Balkans.

The project's **primary target groups** include: (1) *governments at national and local levels*, in particular, Ministries/state agencies and associations of municipalities/municipal structures directly responsible for Roma issues. (2) *Mainstream and Roma public servants*: those in national state structures and employees of municipalities targeted by the project (including Roma civil servants, Coordinators/ Mediators employed in the public sector, etc). **Secondary target groups** include: (1) *mainstream and Roma municipal employees in municipalities not directly targeted by the project, benefiting from strengthened resources of the associations of municipalities*; (2) *civil society (Roma and mainstream NGOs, incl. Roma women NGOs and networks, associations and civil society groups)*. The project's **final beneficiaries** are: (1) *Roma and mainstream staff of service providers (education, health, welfare and other) benefiting from capacity building activities on non-discrimination, inclusion and mainstreaming*, and (2) *Roma people in the Western Balkans (incl. displaced groups) who will participate in and benefit from national and local governments' actions to protect their rights and ensure equal access to and benefit from public services*.

The project will address the needs of target groups and beneficiaries through producing these **five expected results**: (1) *The region's good practices in multi-sector municipal collaboration, Roma involvement in decision-making and participation of Roma in political life have been strengthened and applied in practice*; (2) *Roma people's interest in and possibilities to access civil registration*

<sup>1</sup> *This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.*

and legal aid services have increased throughout the region; (3) Roma people are more empowered to advocate and have greater opportunities to benefit from mechanisms and initiatives for legalisation and improvements of their settlements; (4) Possibilities for Roma participation in public life have been enhanced through anti-discriminatory policies and practice and increased public awareness about Roma rights to be included and not to be discriminated against, and; (5) Possibilities for Roma participation in Government-led national and regional co-ordination and other compatible cross-border initiatives in and outside of the Western Balkans have been enhanced.

**Current state of implementation:** Inception period recently ended; programme to be jointly kicked off with the two others on 27-29 June.

# PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND MINORITY PROTECTION IN SOUTH EAST EUROPE EU / CoE

## SHORT PROJECT DESCRIPTION

<b>Contractor:</b>	<i>Council of Europe (Contribution Agreement in Joint Management, with 100% financing from IPA Multi-Beneficiary 2011)</i>
<b>Beneficiaries:</b>	<i>Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Kosovo<sup>2</sup></i>
<b>Implementation start date:</b>	<i>29/11/2011</i>
<b>Duration:</b>	<i>36 months</i>
<b>EU contribution to budget:</b>	<i>3.6 M EUR</i>

The **overall objective** of the programme is to improve respect for human rights, particularly minority protection in the Beneficiaries in practice, by enhancing the capacities of the relevant national bodies and the regional coherence of their activities. The **specific objectives** are to (i) strengthen the proper implementation of relevant national legislation and promoting best practices and to (ii) develop a functioning regional network of the relevant national bodies and exchange of best practices in the field of minority protection at regional level.

### Expected results:

- The capacity of national specialised bodies dealing with minority protection, according their mandate and in line with national legislation, international and European standards, is strengthened.
- Co-operation and co-ordination between minority protection bodies present within each Beneficiary at central and local level are reinforced
- Relations and co-operation between minority protection bodies and the legislative, executive and judicial authorities in each Beneficiary is enhanced
- A regional "Network" of all specialised minority protection bodies from each Beneficiary is established and operational
- Documentary resources of common interest are produced by the Network
- The best practices of NGOs in the field of the minority protection are identified and promoted through selected projects

**Current state of implementation:** inception period recently ended; programme to be jointly kicked off with the two others on 27-29 June.

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<sup>2</sup> "All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999) and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo."

# REGIONAL INITIATIVE FOR INCLUSIVE EDUCATION EU / CoE

## SHORT PROJECT DESCRIPTION

<b>Contractor:</b>	<i>Council of Europe (Contribution Agreement in Joint Management, with 95% financing from IPA Multi-Beneficiary 2012)</i>
<b>Beneficiaries:</b>	<i>Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, the "former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" and Kosovo<sup>3</sup></i>
<b>Implementation start date:</b>	<i>autumn 2012</i>
<b>Duration:</b>	<i>36 months</i>
<b>EU contribution to budget:</b>	<i>5,115 M EUR</i>

This programme to be adopted under IPA Multi-beneficiary 2012 is the result of an **intensive consultation and drafting process** with the Beneficiaries, with international organisations and other donors coordinated by the European Training Foundation (ETF).

The **Council of Europe (CoE)** was chosen to be the implementer of the programme with as a result of an internal assessment process centred around the aim of ensuring that the project is implemented in strict respect of the original principles, components and mechanisms as described in the project fiche.

**Functioning partnerships** are seen as indispensable for the sustainability of results. CoE will therefore implement this project in close cooperation with Beneficiaries, EC Delegations, EU Member State Agencies and other donors in order to avoid overlaps and duplication.

**Social inclusion is a key challenge** for the enlargement region. This programme proposes to enhance social cohesion in the region by promoting inclusive education and training. Specifically, it aims to promote the concept of inclusive education, as well as relevant policies and practices in the formal education system at pre-university level in the Western Balkans through awareness-raising, mutual learning and capacity building measures.

As a main result, **pilot projects for inclusive schools will be implemented throughout the region.**

Pilots are at the centre of the project, forming the basis for awareness campaigns and networking activities. The key issue is **how to move from the pilots to overall reforms** and the programme will propose efficient mechanisms in place to ensure this.

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<sup>3</sup> "All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999) and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo."

The **active involvement of all stakeholders** has to be ensured in order to permanently reflect on needs assessment for the best implementation of original project ideas. Specifically, civil society involvement is crucial; NGOs or their networks should be seen as facilitators, embedded in real structures and efficiently channelled into the decision-making systems. Governments, local authorities, specialised bodies from the Beneficiaries shall be held accountable for the realisation of their commitments (e.g. advancing the reform agenda, policy changes introduced and practical measures taken).