

ROMANIA ACT

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The ROMACT Programme

- ROMACT aims to improve the responsiveness and accountability of local authorities, particularly elected and senior civil servants, towards marginalised Roma communities. ROMACT focuses on generating long-term sustained political commitment which are designed compel member states to sustainable measures for Roma inclusion
- The ROMACT programme is a joint programme of the European Commission and the Council of Europe (who are also responsible for ROMACT management and implementation).

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The ROMACT principles and methodology

- The ROMACT programme aims to build the capacity of local authorities to develop and implement policies and public services that are inclusive of all, including Roma.
- Policy change and capacity building are long term processes which require a variety of inter-connected methods and interventions

The ROMACT methodology consists of four steps

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FIRST STEP: RAISING AWARENESS AND BUILDING THE COMMITMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO ROMA INCLUSION

- The ROMACT team starts by raising awareness among local authorities of the necessity to integrate the Roma population as well of the opportunities, particularly economic, offered by Roma inclusion.
- This leads to the signature by the Mayor, of a commitment letter and agreement to allocation of municipality resources to the ROMACT process.
- Once local authorities are convinced of the need to include Roma as full-fledged citizens within the municipality and are committed to work for that aim, the ROMACT team helps them cooperate with the local Roma community, represented by the Roma Community Action Group (CAG).

SECOND STEP: AGREEING ON WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE TO IMPROVE THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF THE ROMA COMMUNITY

- The ROMACT team helps local authorities identify the root-causes of the marginalisation of the local Roma community and what needs to be done. This process, which is carried out in partnership with the Community Action Group, contributes to mainstreaming Roma issues within the Local Development Action Plan of the municipality.

THIRD STEP: TRANSLATING THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT ACTION PLAN INTO CONCRETE MEASURES AND PROJECTS

- The ROMACT team assists local authorities in translating the Local Development Action Plan into concrete measures and projects which are inclusive of all, including Roma. Where necessary, the ROMACT team provides expertise and working tools in policy and project design. In addition, a specific programme of training sessions and other capacity building services, including coaching and mentoring, can be organised. The ROMACT team also helps local authorities identify available resources and capacities.

FOURTH STEP: FUNDING, IMPLEMENTING AND MONITORING MEASURES AND PROJECTS FOR MAKING OPERATIONAL THE JOINT DEVELOPMENT ACTION PLAN

- The ROMACT team assists local authorities in identifying available resources at local level and, where appropriate, in applying for and obtaining national and EU co-funding. Once measures and projects are funded and launched, the ROMACT team can provide management expertise to local authorities.
- The team also helps them to monitor the implementation of the measures and projects and to assess the impact thereof.
- The provision of training sessions and other capacity building services is a modular process.

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FOURTH STEP: FUNDING, IMPLEMENTING AND MONITORING MEASURES AND PROJECTS FOR MAKING OPERATIONAL THE JOINT DEVELOPMENT ACTION PLAN

- Throughout the ROMACT programme local authorities are part of a comprehensive process which helps them to assess needs, to develop and implement targeted policies, plans and projects as well as mainstream within local policies the priorities of Roma communities. The CAG is fully involved throughout the process

ROMACT small grants scheme during COVID19 pandemic

- During this period, ROMACT is adapting its small grants scheme to support the efforts of the municipalities and of the Community Action Groups to respond together to the needs of the most vulnerable and to multiply the good practices across ROMACT municipalities.
- As a result, 17 ROMACT municipalities in Romania and 29 municipalities in Bulgaria are receiving small grants (to which the local authorities contribute themselves with co-financing and in kind support, like provision of machines for streets / neighbourhood disinfection, water distribution, purchase and transportation of goods etc.)

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ROMACT small grants scheme during COVID19 pandemic

- Activities
 - conduct awareness campaigns on health (hygiene and spread of COVID19) and confinement / social distancing rules and regulations (posters, leaflets, prints of travel permit forms etc.);
 - provide punctual information on channels of emergency support and adaptation of municipal services, including the maintenance of support hotlines for citizens;
 - distribute protection masks and gloves to mediators, social workers etc.
 - provide family packages of hygiene / sanitary products (soap, different cleaning materials, disinfectants etc.)
 - provide basic food items to the most in need;

ROMACT small grants scheme during COVID19 pandemic

- The 46 small projects under ROMACT small grants are expected to reach around 30,000 people with supplies and more than 50,000 people with concrete information on how to cope better and stay safe during this time of unprecedented crisis.

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ROMACT Small Grants Scheme- COVID19 Bulgaria & Romania



ROMACT is supporting the efforts of the **municipalities** and of the **Community Action Groups (CAGs)** to respond **together** to the needs of the most vulnerable and to multiply the good practices across ROMACT municipalities

46 projects co-funded by ROMACT and local authorities



Awareness campaigns on health



Information on channels of emergency support



Protection masks and gloves for mediators, social workers



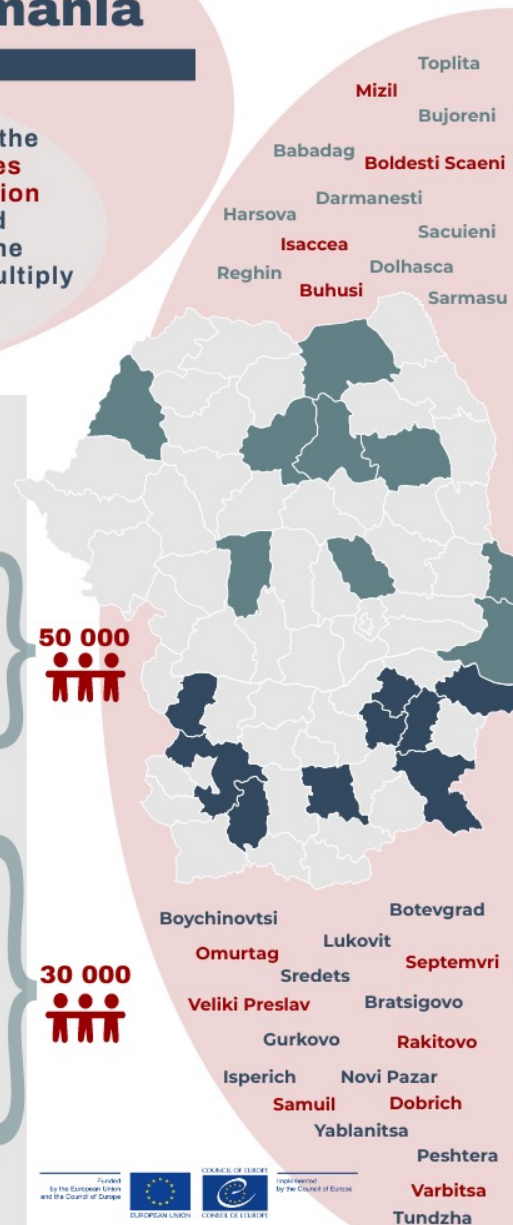
Family packages of hygiene / sanitary products



Basic food items for the most in need

50 000

30 000



Thank you!

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