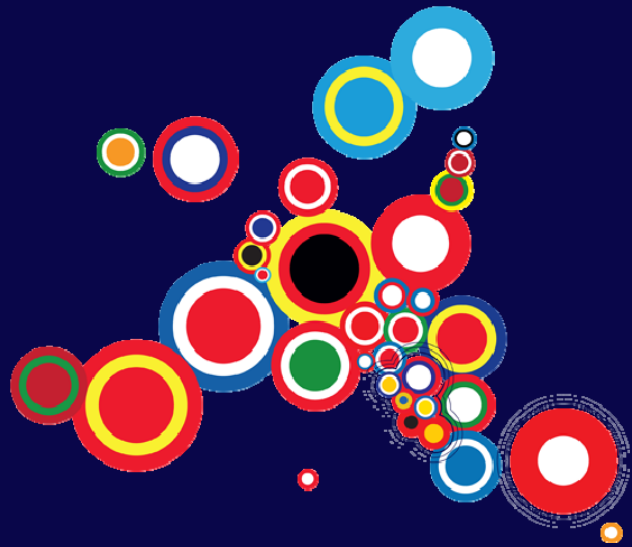




INSTRUMENT FOR PRE-ACCESSION ASSISTANCE (IPA II) 2014-2020

MULTI-COUNTRY

EU support to Roma Integration 2020 Phase II



Action summary

The Roma Integration 2020 project works with the governments, the civil society and international organisations in the Western Balkans and Turkey at central, regional and EU level to enhance their efforts to implement the existing commitments and allocate necessary resources for the integration of Roma as part of the overall EU integration process.

At the IPA II beneficiary level, the action enhances the capacities and practices of the governments and civil society in formulating, budgeting and monitoring Roma integration policies. The action supports regional cooperation and exchange on Roma integration and ensures mainstreaming of this issue within the overall regional cooperation agenda, including through donor coordination. The action supports implementation in the enlargement region of relevant policy tools used for Roma integration in the EU Member States. It also contributes to the EU and international processes relevant to Roma integration.

Action Identification			
Action Programme Title	IPA II Multi-country Action Programme 2018		
Action Title	EU support to Roma Integration 2020, Phase II		
Action ID	IPA 2018/040-113.07/MC/RomaIntegration		
Sector Information			
IPA II Sector	9. Regional and territorial cooperation		
DAC Sector	15160 Human Rights		
Budget			
Total cost	EUR 2.8 million		
EU contribution	EUR 2 million		
Budget line(s)	22.020401-Multi-country programmes, regional integration and territorial cooperation		
Management and Implementation			
Management mode	Direct management		
<i>Direct management:</i> European Commission	Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, Unit D5		
Implementation responsibilities	Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, Unit D5		
Location			
Zone benefiting from the action	Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Kosovo*, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey		
Specific implementation area(s)	N/A		
Timeline			
Final date for contracting including the conclusion of delegation agreements	At the latest by 31 December 2019		
Final date for operational implementation	At the latest by 31 December 2022		
Policy objectives / Markers (DAC form)			
General policy objective	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aid to environment	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender equality (including Women In Development)	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trade Development	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

* 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.

RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
Biological diversity	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Combat desertification	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate change mitigation	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate change adaptation	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

1. RATIONALE

PROBLEM AND STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS

The European Union recognizes the situation of Roma¹ across Europe as a particular issue to be addressed. As stated in the Communication from the European Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions of 5 April 2011, “Many of the estimated 10-12 million Roma in Europe face prejudice, intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion in their daily lives. They are marginalised and live in very poor socio-economic conditions.” Almost 4 million Roma live in the enlargement region encompassing the Western Balkans and Turkey, and they “face similar or even more serious problems than in many EU Member States: social exclusion, segregation and marginalisation leading to lack of education, chronic unemployment, limited access to healthcare, housing and essential services as well as widespread poverty.”²

To address the exclusion of Roma, the European Union has adopted an "EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020" (Framework), recognizing the need and committing to support the enlargement region to tackle this issue as well. The Framework makes a reference to the European Commission's Enlargement Strategy of 2010-11, where the precarious situation of many Roma in the Western Balkans and in Turkey is noted. The most recent Western Balkans Strategy 2018 stresses that "Decisive efforts are needed to protect minorities and fight discrimination, notably against the Roma - for whom social inclusion should be more robustly promoted"³. European Commission Enlargement Strategy of 2016⁴ provides an overview of the situation regarding this issue throughout the enlargement region, noting that “The difficult situation of Roma remains broadly unchanged and Roma, particularly in the Western Balkans, continue to be the victims of discrimination and social exclusion. The policy framework for Roma integration is in place in all Instrument on Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA II) beneficiaries, but *governments need to enhance their efforts to implement the existing commitments and allocate the necessary resources* at central and local level.” This particular statement is the central issue that the EU-funded Roma Integration 2020 action of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) addresses.

In order to enhance their efforts to implement the existing commitments and allocate the necessary resources for Roma integration, the governments from the Western Balkans and Turkey need support at three levels: central, regional and EU.

At the **central level**, the governments are challenged to formulate and implement ambitious but realistic policies corresponding to Roma integration needs on the ground. Regionally agreed standards should be applied: for the role of National Roma Contact Points (NRCPs); for monitoring and reporting; and for efficient budgeting of the Roma integration policies, particularly in terms of capacity building and technical support. Meaningful and effective participation of Roma in the policy cycle needs to be ensured. Finally, governments need to relate their internal processes for Roma integration more effectively with the EU integration process: The efforts to improve Roma integration contributes to the fulfilment of the first “Copenhagen Criterion” for stable institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, fundamental rights and respect for and protection of minorities⁵.

In the case of the Western Balkans, additional conditions for EU membership were set out in the so-called 'Stabilisation and Association process', mostly relating to regional cooperation and good neighbourly relations. At **regional level**, cooperation is encouraged: The situation of Roma is very similar across the

¹ The term "Roma" is used as an umbrella term which also includes other groups of people who have more or less similar cultural characteristics, such as Sinti, Travellers, Kalé, Gens du voyage, etc., whether sedentary or not.)

² COM(2011) 173 final

³ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions [A credible enlargement perspective for and enhanced EU engagement with the Western Balkans](#) February 2018, Brussels

⁴ COM(2016) 715 final

⁵ Roma people are not considered minorities under Turkish legislation. According to the Turkish legal system the word minorities encompasses only group of people defined and recognized as such on the basis of multilateral and bilateral instruments to which Turkey is a party.

region and improving it requires joint efforts in designing effective policies and exchanging good practices. Cooperation is also needed to resolve certain specific issues, relating for example to civil registration. Integration of Roma is also an integral issue in a number of other areas of regional cooperation, including economic growth, judicial reform, infrastructure, etc.

At the **EU and international level**, the governments of the Western Balkans and Turkey need proper reporting on the situation of Roma within the EU enlargement process, as well as participation in EU and international processes regarding Roma integration.

The key **stakeholders** for this action are the governments of the Western Balkans and Turkey, and in particular the key bodies responsible for Roma integration, namely the NRCPs and the Inter-Disciplinary Bodies (IDBs) on Roma integration coordination in each government. The IDBs include relevant public officials and public servants responsible for the priority areas of: education, employment, health, housing and civil registration, as well as those responsible for other important aspects of the Roma integration policy, including public finances, statistics, equality bodies, etc. The Roma and pro-Roma civil society is also a key stakeholder in the policy cycle on Roma integration. International donors are another stakeholder group. The ultimate beneficiaries are the Roma communities throughout the region benefiting from proper implementation of the Roma integration commitments, as well as the IPA II beneficiaries benefiting from the implementation of the enlargement criteria.

The action also contributes to the implementation of the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020 in the enlargement region. The European Commission is committed to help, at regional and bilateral level, the efforts of the IPA II beneficiaries to improve the social and economic inclusion of Roma through:

- improving the delivery of support under the IPA II towards a strategic and results oriented bilateral and multi-beneficiary programming with a focus on a sector-wide approach for social development. The European Commission is currently implementing or planning actions with a total value of more than EUR 50 million which could also exclusively or partly benefit the Roma communities.
- strengthening the involvement of civil society by encouraging institutionalised dialogues with Roma representatives to become involved and take responsibility for policy formulation, implementation and monitoring on regional, central and local level.
- close monitoring of the progress made by each IPA II beneficiary regarding the economic and social situation of Roma and annual presentation of its conclusions in the enlargement Progress Reports.

OUTLINE OF IPA II ASSISTANCE

The second phase of the Roma Integration 2020 action will enhance the efforts of governments in the region to implement existing Roma integration commitments as part of the EU integration.

At **central level**, the action will improve the capacities and practices of the governments in formulating, implementing, budgeting, monitoring and reporting on their Roma integration policies. Tailor-made policy, technical and expert support based on regional and EU standards and international best practice shall be provided to the governments, in particular in the form of trainings and hands-on work coaching. The action shall also assist the governments to conduct an institutionalised dialogue with the Roma civil society through the "National Platforms"⁶, and will support meaningful and effective contribution by Roma and pro-Roma civil society to this process. Donor coordination will also be supported.

The action shall also enhance the **regional cooperation** on Roma integration and ensure mainstreaming of this issue within the overall regional cooperation agenda. The action will contribute to setting regional and central level policy standards; designing strategic and result-oriented programmes tackling specific issues of Roma integration; and facilitating exchange of practices and peer review among the stakeholders through

⁶ The National Platforms are established at the EU Member States through the European Commission's support described in the [NRCP-AG-2017](#). The Roma Integration 2020 project mirrors these platforms across the enlargement region.

regional workshops, thematic working groups, and technical support. Civil society will be supported to consolidate its policy input at regional level through networking meetings.

Finally, at **EU level**, the action will ensure proper annual reporting on Roma integration within the EU integration process, as well as input to EU and international processes relevant to Roma integration. Activities will encompass support to annual reporting by the IPA II beneficiary governments, further alignment of the reporting procedures to EU standards, participation at key events etc..

RELEVANCE WITH THE IPA II MULTI-COUNTRY STRATEGY PAPER AND OTHER KEY REFERENCES

The second phase of the Roma Integration 2020 action relates directly to the key policies of the European Union on the issue of Roma integration in the enlargement region. The "EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020" recognises the enlargement region as area of support by the European Commission for Roma integration, and the Roma Integration 2020 action directly contributes to the fulfilment of the stipulated commitments.

Within the enlargement process, in the most general terms the action is designed on the basis of the Copenhagen Criteria that need to be met by the IPA II beneficiary governments, notably in the field of respect for and protection of minorities. The importance for Roma integration as a particular criterion for EU integration is highlighted in the key documents of the European Union regarding the enlargement process. The action takes a regional approach as stipulated by the additional criterion for regional cooperation defined for the Western Balkans.

The action is formulated around the European Commission's Enlargement Strategy of 2016 and its overview of the state of affairs regarding integration of Roma in the enlargement region. The assessment that the "governments need to enhance their efforts to implement the existing commitments and allocate the necessary resources" is the central theme of the action and the underlining need to be addressed. The existing commitments of the governments referred to in this assessment are the "National Roma integration strategies" and action plans, and the operational conclusions emanating from the Roma Seminars.

Similar assessment is provided within the revised Multi-Country Indicative Strategy Paper (2014-2020)⁷, which states that "*the challenges in the area of democracy and the rule of law include the functioning and independence of institutions guaranteeing ... rights of persons belonging to minorities as well as vulnerable groups, notably Roma. and LGBTI.*" The integration of Roma should be seen as part of relevant objectives primarily within the framework of democracy and rule of law, including strengthening democratic institutions and public financial management, support to civil society, and investing in employment, education and social policies. The Roma Integration 2020 action contributes to these objectives.

The South East Europe 2020 Strategy has been formulated by the governments of the enlargement region under the leadership of the RCC that implements the Roma Integration 2020 action. The RCC recognizes Roma as one of the most deprived vulnerable groups in the region and a relevant target group of the policies of employment, health and energy efficiency under the pillars of inclusive and sustainable growth of the SEE 2020 Strategy. Tackling the integration of Roma as a horizontal issue for a number of the policy areas of the strategy, the RCC provides assistance to the IPA II beneficiaries to be more efficient in formulating, implementing and monitoring their Roma integration commitments on their path of EU integration. Furthermore, the RCC raises the issue of integration of Roma in the framework of regional cooperation on the relevant policies.

LESSONS LEARNED AND LINK TO PREVIOUS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

⁷ C(2018) 3442, 31.05.2018.

The second phase of the Roma Integration 2020 action follows up on the first phase and builds on the assessment and requests provided by the participating governments and civil society.

The **first phase** provided substantial support to the IPA II beneficiaries in setting up regional standards for monitoring and budgeting of their Roma integration policies; building their institutional capacities and providing technical and expert support for practical implementation of these standards; ensuring inclusive dialogue on the Roma integration policy formulation, implementation, monitoring and reporting; and aligning the central and regional processes of Roma integration with the EU Framework and enlargement policy. As noted in the European Commission's Enlargement Strategy of 2016, the need for support to the IPA II beneficiaries in this regard has not diminished, and continuous effort is needed.

The second meeting of the Roma Integration 2020 Task Force, (which is co-chaired by the RCC RI2020 team and the European Commission, and consisted of the "National Roma Contact Points", two civil society representatives from the region and the Open Society Foundation (OSF)), assessed the progress of the action and discussed the needs for its improvement and additional elements for the **second phase**.

The Task Force participants assessed particularly useful the efforts within the action to set regional standards for policy formulation, budgeting, monitoring and reporting and considered as a factor of success. Task Force members were unanimous in the conclusion that the action should continue to implement similar activities at central, regional and EU level, including the technical and expert support for institutional and policy development, the "National Platforms" for dialogue at central level, the regional workshop and processes of setting regional standards, the Task Force meetings, the annual reporting coordination and assistance, as well as the contribution to the regional and EU/international mainstream agendas. Accordingly, the second phase of the action encompasses these activities.

Moreover, the Task Force members encouraged further work on regional standard-setting for budgeting Roma integration policy and on the integration and digitalization of the monitoring and reporting process. They also considered that more substantial support is needed in the formulation of policies for integration of Roma in the areas of employment and housing.

The discussion also encouraged the provision of more substantial support and coordination of the civil society to meaningfully contribute to the policy processes; and strengthening of the link of the action with the EU integration process by linking the activities more substantially to the operational conclusions of the Roma Seminars. The second phase of the Roma Integration 2020 action encompasses these proposals.

2. INTERVENTION LOGIC

LOGICAL FRAMEWORK MATRIX

OVERALL OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS (*)	SOURCES OF VERIFICATION	
To reduce the socio-economic gap between the Roma and non-Roma population in the Western Balkans and Turkey.	<p>A set of socio-economic indicators in the area of education, employment, housing, health and cross-cutting issues is used to assess the socio-economic gap between Roma and non-Roma in the IPA II beneficiaries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enrolment rate and reduction of drop-out at all education levels - Employment rates, - Homelessness rates - Average income, absolute poverty rate. <p>Furthermore, the gap between the Roma and non-Roma population in the priority areas, will be presented in 2018, in the context of the results of the survey done in the 2016 Roma multi-country IPA action. Please see regional monitoring and reporting standards for more information. Please note that statistical data are disaggregated by ethnicity and gender.</p>	Annual reports (completed by coordinated effort of the designated relevant officials, populated with the best available official statistics). Annual reports submitted to date can be found on the Roma Integration 2020 action website.	
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS (*)	SOURCES OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
To support the efforts of the governments of Western Balkans and Turkey to implement the existing commitments and allocate the necessary resources for the integration of Roma as part of the EU integration.	<p>Number of implemented measures stipulated by the National Roma integration strategies and action plans and the operational conclusions.</p> <p>Budget allocated to implement the Roma integration strategies and action plans and the Roma Seminar operational conclusions.</p>	<p>Annual reports (completed by coordinated effort of the designated relevant officials, populated with the best available official statistics). monitoring reports of implementation of Seminar conclusions prepared for relevant Subcommittees. Annual reports submitted to date can be found on the Roma Integration 2020 action website.</p> <p>Summaries of the IPA II beneficiaries' annual reports prepared by the action team and submitted to the European Commission.</p>	The achievement of the specific objective of the action directly contributes to the achievement of the overall objective, provided there are no disintegrative processes in the IPA II beneficiaries (such as societal clashes, mainstream policies with adverse effect to the integration of Roma, etc.)
RESULTS	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS (*)	SOURCES OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
<p>Result 1: Improved capacities and practices of the governments and the civil society of the Western Balkans and Turkey in formulating, budgeting, implementing and monitoring their Roma integration policies as part of their EU integration efforts.</p>	<p>Quantity and quality of measures for Roma integration formulated within targeted and mainstream policies including those related to EU integration. Methodology of monitoring qualitative indicators will be based on disaggregation according to different dimensions: gender, territorial level to which they refer, income quintiles etc. Data will be collected annually.</p> <p>Amount of budget allocated for Roma integration.</p>	Official strategies and action plans on Roma integration and operational conclusions of the Roma Seminars agreed with the EU. Annual reports of the governments submitted to the Roma Integration 2020.	Improved capacities and practices of the governments serve the enhanced efforts of the governments to integrate Roma, provided there is genuine commitment to implement the plans.
<p>Result 2: Enhanced regional cooperation and exchange of know how among the governments and the civil society of the Western Balkans and Turkey on the issue of integration of Roma.</p>	Quantity and quality of standards and programmes for integration of Roma adopted at regional level.	Action documentation (possibly official inter-governmental agreements).	The regional cooperation indirectly contributes to the enhanced efforts of governments to integrate Roma if the regional agreements are transposed nationally.

<p>Result 3: Improved reporting of the governments and civil society of the Western Balkans and Turkey to the process of Roma integration at EU and international level in the context of enlargement ensured, including on the post 2020 EU policy on Roma integration.</p>	<p>Quantity and quality of government and civil society reports on the integration of Roma to the EU and other international bodies.</p>	<p>Documentation of the EU and international bodies.</p>	<p>International processes contribute to the governments' performance on Roma integration if EU/international bodies issue relevant recommendations and governments are genuinely committed to implement those recommendations.</p>
---	--	--	---

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

The activities of the action are distributed by results, which are defined by the level of intervention: central, regional and EU.

Result 1: Improved capacities and practices of the governments and the civil society of the Western Balkans and Turkey in formulating, budgeting, implementing and monitoring their Roma integration policies as part of their EU integration efforts.

The Roma Integration 2020 Phase II will offer institutional support to the governmental structures responsible for Roma issues, Monitoring and "National Platforms".

The action will provide *policy advice and guidance to the designated NRCPs* to help them perform their role. This will be done through meetings in the IPA II beneficiaries, regular communication, written recommendation papers and dialogue on the issue at central, regional and international level at the relevant meetings, or study trips/participation in relevant EU meetings.

The action will also *assist the governments in the functioning of the Inter-disciplinary bodies (IDB)* responsible for Roma issues. The action team has an observer status within these bodies. It is expected that the role of the IDBs across the region is similar and entails responsibilities in drafting and proposing (possibly adopting) Roma policies in the relevant IPA II beneficiary, coordinating their formulation, implementation and monitoring in the institutions represented at the IDB, and particularly work on the budgeting, monitoring and reporting of the Roma policies. The action will support the meetings of these bodies; provide policy advice and guidance and capacity building. The support will be realised through meetings in the IPA II beneficiaries, technical and expert support provided through consultancy, specific trainings in each IPA II beneficiary, and written policy recommendation papers. These are also action activities performed as needed continuously throughout the action duration.

Content-wise, the activities above will be adjusted to the actual issues and context at regional and central level, including the topics of budgeting and monitoring Roma integration policies, as well as specific issues within the priority areas of the Roma integration policies (examples include Roma health mediators status, social entrepreneurship legislation, IPA funded housing actions, etc.).

As a core activity at central level, "*National Platforms on Roma Integration*" will be organised once per year in each IPA II beneficiary. The "National Platforms" are meetings in each IPA II beneficiary gathering about 60 participants relevant for the integration of Roma, including central and local officials and civil servants, civil society organizations from across the IPA II beneficiary, international organizations based in the IPA II beneficiary, media and any other relevant participants. The meetings are organised jointly by the NRCPs and the RI2020 action team. The "National Platforms" mirror similar platforms organized in the EU Member States, and represent an activity by which the enlargement region assumes the practices established in the [EU Member States](#) within the enlargement process (thus also contributing to Result 3 of the action). As such, the "National Roma Platforms" are expected to encourage and facilitate dialogue and exchanges, promote mutual learning, cooperation and involvement in implementation and monitoring between all relevant stakeholders. Inclusion of Roma people, in particular Roma women and youth, in the Platform is strongly encouraged. The "National Platforms" result in policy recommendation papers, which shall be retained as a practice. The recommendations are followed up with the governments, particularly as a baseline input for discussion of the Roma Seminars, as well as continuous discussions with the governmental actors and at regional level, including by taking into account recommendations similar across the region for designing the regional and EU/international activities. The civil society has been encouraged to present its own monitoring findings at the "National Platforms". Furthermore, the "National Platforms" contribute to the preparation and follow up of the Roma Seminars by monitoring the implementation of the Seminar conclusions.

Activities in the second phase will also encompass *support to civil society*, in order to build capacities and prepare them for meaningful participation in the process of formulation and monitoring of the Roma

integration policies. This shall be done by providing support to Roma and pro-Roma civil society coalitions to meet regularly and discuss the input to the Roma integration policy, prepare monitoring reports and organize capacity building trainings in each IPA II beneficiary. This activity shall be related to the regional support of the civil society and its participation in the action and other Roma integration related regional and EU/international processes. This will be carried out taking full account of and making full use of existing regional CSO networks in this area.

Special attention will be paid to donor coordination and coordination with international organisations

Result 2: Enhanced regional cooperation and exchange of know how among the governments and the civil society of the Western Balkans and Turkey on the issue of integration of Roma.

The second phase of the action is planned to kick-off with a **High Level Meeting** of the highest level officials from the enlargement region responsible for Roma integration. The presence of high level representatives from the European Commission, the OSF and the RCC is also expected. The kick-off event will enable governments to restate their commitment, and will help take stock of the first phase of the action and define content priorities for the action. The event will also ensure visibility for the action and reaffirm its importance and relevance for the region. The meeting should gather around 100 participants, including civil society from the region and international organizations.

The Roma Integration 2020 has strong ownership by the beneficiaries, particularly through the Task Force of the action consisted of the NRCs and civil society representatives from the region, as well as representatives of the European Commission, OSF and RCC. The Task Force meets once per year (or more frequently if so requested by the Task Force members or the implementation of the action requires) to discuss the progress of the action, define the details on the activities and their particular content, discuss specific issues of integration of Roma in depth, review regional standards proposals, receive training modules on specific topics of interests, and similar. It is usually organized in Serbia where the action team is based. During the second phase of the action **two regular Task Force meetings** shall be held. They will be preceded by **meetings of civil society** from the participating beneficiaries, which will network, prepare joint messages for the Task Force meeting, select their representatives, and exchange information and experiences on the Roma integration policies.

Regional standard setting and policy development, including capacity building and experience sharing among the state officials and civil society will be supported through **regional workshops**. They will cover topics such as monitoring and reporting, public and donor budgeting for Roma integration, non-discrimination and anti-Gypsyism, integral approach to housing, etc. The workshops will gather around 60 participants from the institutions and the civil society of the region and will be delivered by consultants with particular expertise on the topics. Workshops may take place in the region, or in one of the EU Member States if relevant. Furthermore, the workshops may engage experts from the EU to share good practices from the EU within the enlargement region. **Two workshops per year will be organised**. On specific topics, **working groups** may be established with representatives from the enlargement region to work on setting regional standards. Such approach has been piloted during the first phase on the topic of regional standards for budgeting Roma integration policies.

At the regional level there will also be **activities to mainstream Roma integration issues into regional cooperation on other relevant topics**, such as employment, education, housing, etc. For this purpose, the RI2020 action team will contribute with relevant content to various publications, reports and meetings of the RCC and regional partners, including through participation of the relevant team members at such meetings. The action will also ensure participation of the NRCs at the most relevant and important meetings of the RCC and regional partners, such as the Programming and Monitoring Committees of the SEE 2020 Strategy, donor coordination conference and other meetings on specific topics of the SEE 2020 Strategy relevant for mainstreaming the integration of Roma in the discussions.

Result 3: Input of the governments and the civil society of the Western Balkans and Turkey to the process of Roma integration at EU and international level in the context of enlargement ensured, including on the post 2020 EU policy on Roma integration.

The Roma Integration 2020 is strongly linked to the EU level developments and practices on Roma integration, including through regular reporting by the action staff to the European Commission, linking the "National Platforms" with the Roma Seminars, regular cooperation and coordination with the EU Delegations, and participation of the action staff to relevant EU/international events.

The core activity of the Roma Integration 2020 related to the EU integration is the regular annual monitoring and reporting by the IPA II beneficiaries on the implementation of their strategies, action plans and operational conclusions for Roma integration. During the first phase, monitoring and reporting standards have been developed in line with the EU reporting standards on Roma integration and adopted regionally. Further, relevant officials from the enlargement governments have been trained to use those standards in practice, and two rounds of reports have been completed. The practices of regular annual reporting shall continue, and the action shall continue to provide technical and expert assistance to governments to improve their monitoring and reporting processes. The action staff shall also continue to analyse and provide summarized assessments of the IPA II beneficiaries to the European Commission. During the second phase of the action the monitoring and reporting shall be further aligned with the EU reporting practices, primarily by establishing a digital platform for monitoring and reporting input by the enlargement governments.

RISKS

Political: While the political will is consistent and the engagement of the EU and other international bodies maintain the political pressure on the IPA II beneficiaries to engage in Roma integration, political turnovers and turmoil in the region have proven to influence the pace of the achievement of the action objectives. This is expected to continue during the second phase of the action and shall be mitigated by the impartial approach of the action towards the politics in the region. Weak governmental technical and administrative capacity is another risk. The very purpose of the Roma Integration 2020 is to augment that capacity wherever possible.

Social: The Roma integration agenda faces the social risks of public resistance or hostility to dealing with Roma issues and a lack of understanding and engagement of citizens in the public policies targeting Roma. Roma civil society is also relatively weak to engage meaningfully and effectively in high-level international developments regarding Roma issues. It also faces deep-rooted mistrust and negative stereotyping within the state administrations, as well as misinformation and/or approaches of dealing with poverty challenges through hand-outs. In general, the Roma Integration 2020 shall endeavour to provide a platform for governments and civil society to debate challenges and find adequate solutions, as well as strengthen the capacities of both governments and civil society.

Economic: The targeted reforms in socio-economic policies, particularly when strengthened by continuous policy advice and streamlining with the SEE 2020 Strategy, would contribute to mitigate the risk that governments might face economic constraints in implementing meaningful integration programmes. Building capacities in budgeting, as well as central programming and close consultation with the European Commission and with other potential donors will further help mitigate this risk.

CONDITIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Presently the Roma Integration 2020 is envisioned to continue until 2020, to coincide with the term of the "EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies". The RCC implementing the Roma Integration 2020 has incorporated the action within its existing structure, in particular making available its administrative and managerial capacities, as well as by promoting the issue of integration of Roma throughout the SEE 2020 Strategy topics.

The action is implemented from the RCC office in Belgrade, which has been provided by the Government of Serbia through a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Government of Serbia and RCC. The Memorandum is valid for the duration of the Roma Integration 2020, including its second phase.

The team for the implementation of the action is established and shall be in place for the second phase of the action with certain adjustments to enable the implementation of the additional elements of the action.

The structures within each participating government, including the "National Roma Contact Points" and the Inter-Disciplinary Bodies are established and need to be maintained. The "National Roma Integration Strategies" are in place with period by 2020 and beyond. Corresponding action plans are prepared for 1-3 years and Seminar operational conclusions are agreed with the European Commission biennially.

3. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The action will be implemented from Belgrade by the RCC Roma Integration 2020 Action Team, consisting of professional staff engaged specifically for the action. Currently, an Action Team Leader, two Policy Experts and an Administrative Assistant are engaged. For phase II, it is foreseen that additional staff will be engaged (such as a Policy Expert, a Public Relations Officer and a part-time assistant).

Consultants will be engaged within the action to deliver technical and expert support in the case of particular activities related to specific topics.

Additional regular personnel from the RCC Headquarters will be engaged in the action, providing managerial support for the proper implementation of the action.

Participating governments designate "National Roma Contact Points" and Inter-Disciplinary Bodies on Roma issues as explained within the description of activities at IPA II beneficiary level, to engage and cooperate on the action activities.

The Task Force consisting of the NRCs and civil society representatives from the region will have a special role in steering the action.

IMPLEMENTATION METHOD(S) AND TYPE(S) OF FINANCING

The action will be financed through a grant to the RCC, in which a especially dedicated Roma Integration 2020 Action Team will be responsible for implementing the action. The action will be co-funded by the OSF. The RCC also contributes with own funding to the action. The arrangements with the two donor organizations are harmonized and follow the general rules for EU funding of multi-country actions.

4. PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

METHODOLOGY FOR MONITORING (AND EVALUATION)

The European Commission may carry out a mid-term, a final or an ex-post evaluation for this action or its components via independent consultants, through a joint mission or via an implementing partner. In case a mid-term or final evaluation is not foreseen, the European Commission may, during implementation, decide to undertake such an evaluation for duly justified reasons either on its own decision or on the initiative of the partner. The evaluations will be carried out as prescribed by the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations guidelines on linking planning/programming, monitoring and evaluation. In

addition, the action might be subject to external monitoring in line with the European Commission rules and procedures.

The implementation of the Roma Integration 2020 action is monitored and assessed at three levels. According to the arrangements with the donor organizations, the RCC prepares and submits semi-annual narrative and financial reports, including assessment of the progress of the action towards achieving its objectives and results. The Team Leader communicates on a monthly basis with the responsible persons for the action from the donor organizations, and submits regular narrative and ad-hoc reports. The Team Leader also regularly reports to the line management within the RCC Headquarters.

The action is monitored and assessed by the beneficiary governments and civil society at the Task Force meetings where the action team provides narrative report on the implementation and receives instructions for the further implementation of the action. The Task Force assesses periodically the progress of the action.

The achievements related to the action's objectives and results are monitored as described in the table below. The key aspect of monitoring is the level of implementation of the central policies for Roma integration, including strategies, action plans and operational conclusions. Through a range of activities, and primarily through the annual reporting by the beneficiary governments, the quantity and quality of measures planned versus those implemented is monitored, as well as the budget planned and spent for the implementation of the Roma integration policies.

Expert evaluation of the action shall be performed by the end of the action and shall result in a comprehensive publication on the action, both from the aspect of its performance and from the aspect of its content.

INDICATOR MEASUREMENT

Indicator	Baseline (value + year) (2)	Target 2020 (3)	Final Target (year) (4)	Source of information
Number of implemented measures stipulated by the Roma integration strategies and action plans and the operational conclusions, expressed as percentage of all planned measures.	XX – provide the number at regional level (2016)	?? increased by 10%?	Same.	Annual reports (completed by coordinated effort of the designated officials, populated with the best available official statistics). Annual reports submitted to date can be found on the Roma Integration 2020 action website.
Budget allocated to implement the Roma integration strategies and action plans and the operational conclusions, expressed in EUR.	XX – provide the number at regional level (2016)	?? increased by 10%?	Same.	Summaries of the IPA II beneficiaries' annual reports prepared by the action team and submitted to the European Commission.
Quantity and quality of measures for Roma integration formulated within targeted and mainstream policies including those related to EU integration .	XX – provide the number at regional level (2016)	Quantity reduced to at most 5 measures per IPA II beneficiary per priority area; quality increased	Same.	Official strategies and action plans on Roma integration. Annual reports of the governments submitted to the Roma Integration 2020.
Quantity and quality of standards and programmes for integration of Roma adopted at regional level.	1 on monitoring and reporting; high quality (in line with EU) (2016)	1 improved (digital platform on monitoring and reporting) 3 new: budgeting, specific programmes in employment and housing	Same.	Action documentation (possibly official inter-governmental agreements).
Quantity and quality of government and civil society reports on the integration of Roma to the EU and other international bodies.	1 set of annual reports by governments; of relatively good quality, needs improvement (2016)	3 more sets of annual reports by government and 3 sets by civil society	Same.	Documentation of the EU and international bodies.

(1) This is the related indicator as included in the Indicative Strategy Paper (for reference only)

(2) The agreed baseline year is 2010 (to be inserted in brackets in the top row). If for the chosen indicator, there are no available data for 2010, it is advisable to refer to the following years – 2011, 2012. The year of reference may not be the same either for all indicators selected due to a lack of data availability; in this case, the year should then be inserted in each cell in brackets. The baseline value may be "0" (i.e. no reference values are available as the Action represents a novelty for the beneficiary) but cannot be left empty or include references such as "N/A" or "will be determined later".

(3) The target year CANNOT be modified.

(4) This will be a useful reference to continue measuring the outcome of IPA II support beyond the 2014-2020 multi-annual financial period. If the Action is completed before 2020 (year for the performance reward), this value and that in the 2020 target column must be the same.

5. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

GENDER MAINSTREAMING

Regional Roma Survey conducted by UNDP in 2018 shows cumulative disadvantage faced by marginalised Roma women which starts as early as at the age of enrolment into compulsory education. The compulsory education completion rates lag behind Roma boys and non Roma women. This then translates into next level of education and results in low employment rates. Low educational rates, low employment rates in combination with high informal incidence employment also points out to a possible discrimination at the formal labour market. The position of young marginalised Roma women aged 18-24 is particularly worrisome as 80 to 90 percent are not in education, employment or training. Furthermore, significant numbers of young Roma women currently aged 20-25 have entered into marriage before they were 18. These significant and cumulative gender and ethnicity gaps point to a need to address the position of marginalised Roma from an intersectional perspective.

The Roma Integration 2020 action provides support to the governments of the Western Balkans and Turkey to properly implement their Roma integration policies. While education, employment, housing, health and civil registration are the priority areas of these policies, gender equality is one of the cross-cutting topics along with poverty reduction and non-discrimination. Thus, the action pays specific attention to mainstreaming of gender in the content of all its activities. For instance, the monitoring and reporting standards adopted at regional level require from governments to provide data disaggregated by sex. Similarly, the content of all relevant action activities mainstream gender. There is also a deliberate effort by the RCC to achieve gender balance in the action team. More attention needs to be paid in promoting gender equality in budgeting Roma integration policies during the second phase of the action.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Since the core topic of the action is Roma integration, the action deals with and puts its efforts to ensure equal opportunities to Roma in the societies of the IPA II beneficiaries. To the extent possible and wherever relevant, equal access of particularly marginalised groups within the Roma communities is also considered throughout the action activities. Participation in the action activities is predefined with the persons responsible for Roma issues in the various priority areas within the governments. It should be noted that the participation has been gender balanced and is expected to continue during the second phase.

MINORITIES AND VULNERABLE GROUPS

The action is dedicated to the issues of Roma. Other particularly disadvantaged groups are increasingly considered, as the action strives to mainstream Roma issues within the relevant policy areas along with other vulnerable groups.

ENGAGEMENT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY (AND IF RELEVANT OTHER NON-STATE STAKEHOLDERS)

While the first phase of the action ensured participation of the civil society in the action activities, the second phase of the action, as proposed by the beneficiaries, provides specific support to the civil society to prepare and meaningfully participate in the action both at IPA II beneficiary and regional level.

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE (AND IF RELEVANT DISASTER RESILIENCE)

There is no direct or indirect link to the EU environmental *acquis*. However, the reduction of the socio-economic gap between the Roma and non-Roma population as well as the capacity building activities addressed to authorities could open the door to more responsible environmental-friendly management of

settlements, and to a stronger attention to pollution, waste management and in general to an healthier living space within Roma communities.

Climate action relevant budget allocation: EUR 0 million
--

6. SUSTAINABILITY

The Roma Integration 2020 is designed to produce durable changes in IPA II beneficiaries' approach to Roma integration. Besides encouraging and supporting the development and implementation of multiannual government Strategies and Action Plans that extend beyond the lifetime of the action, it provides for enhanced regional support and cooperation and sets regional standards for Roma integration in regards to the Roma integration policy cycle, including formulation, budgeting, implementation, monitoring and reporting, as well as in regards to specific programmes and measures of the priority areas. The institutional arrangements set and capacitated through the action, both as part of the governments and the civil society, may continue after the action lifetime.

Roma Integration 2020 will help the Western Balkans and Turkey in their efforts to advance with their enlargement aspirations. Achieving compliance with the objectives of the "EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies" will likewise be seen as further evidence that the Western Balkans and Turkey are meeting the accession criteria. Policies and practices established through this process are likely to continue after the completion of the action.

Efforts for integration of Roma will be needed even after the Roma Integration 2020 is completed. The form of support depends on the future of the EU policy towards the integration of Roma and the status of the region in the process of EU integration.

7. COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

Communication and visibility will be given high importance during the implementation of the action. The implementation of the communication activities shall be funded from the amounts allocated to the action.

All necessary measures will be taken to publicise the fact that the Action has received funding from the EU in line with the EU communication and visibility requirements in force. All stakeholders and implementing partners shall ensure the visibility of EU Financial assistance provided through IPA II throughout all phases of the programme cycle.

Visibility and communication actions shall demonstrate how the intervention contributes to the agreed programme objectives and the accession process, as well as the benefits of the action for the general public. Actions shall be aimed at strengthening general public awareness and support of interventions financed and the objectives pursued. The actions shall aim at highlighting to the relevant target audiences the added value and impact of EUs interventions and will promote transparency and accountability on the use of funds. Visibility and communication aspects shall be complementary to the activities implemented by the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations and the EU Delegations in the field. The European Commission and the EU Delegations should be fully informed of the planning and implementation of the specific visibility and communication activities

The Roma Integration 2020 action has established user-friendly website during the first phase that shall be maintained during the second phase of the action. According to the key action stakeholders, the action website serves as a one-stop-shop platform containing all the key information regarding Roma integration in the region, organized in an easy to navigate manner. The website shall be enriched with the monitoring and reporting digital platform during the second phase of the action.

The information sharing related to the implementation of the action is also well organized. The action has developed its visual identity following the standards of the EU, OSF and RCC, and publishes relevant information through its website, social media, newsletters and press releases to media. It also has a good coverage in terms of media articles and interviews (relatively to the topic of the action).

Key action stakeholders, including the donors, beneficiary governments and civil society and relevant central, regional and international actors are well informed about the action and the Roma integration in the region, including through promotions and inputs at relevant RCC fora on other mainstream topics.

The second phase of the action shall employ a public relations officer to consolidate and ease the information distribution and branding of the action, including with a view to widen the audience.

A full action overview, both in terms of implementation and content shall be presented through a publication at the end of the action, which shall remain as permanent source of information after the completion of the action.