

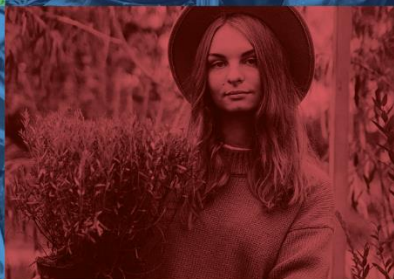


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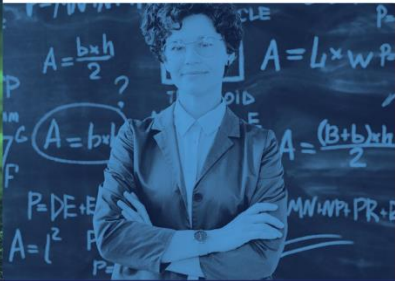
**Y a a**  
Roma Active Albania

Implemented by  
Roma Active  
Albania

# 2021 EU AWARD FOR **ROMA INTEGRATION** in the Western Balkans and Turkey



Extraordinary **people**  
promoting **equality**  
through **employment**



## Rules of contest, and eligibility and selection criteria.

# EU Award for Roma<sup>1</sup> Integration in the Western Balkans and Turkey, 2021

### 1. Background

With an estimated 12 million living in Europe, the Roma is one of the largest ethnic minorities in Europe. About 1 million Roma live in the Western Balkans and 2.8 million in Turkey. They share a rich culture and history that is inextricably linked to Europe, but have also faced a long history of exclusion. Many Roma still face severe forms of racism, discrimination, social exclusion and poverty. Improving their equality, inclusion and participation continues to be a key priority for the European Commission and a criteria for progressing on the enlargement path.

The EU is working to improve the social integration of Roma into society and to provide tangible results on the ground. The European Union is also providing substantial funds for social integration measures through the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance.

The IPA beneficiaries have adopted Strategies and related action plans on Roma integration that are being renewed to adapt to the new EU 2020-2030 Roma Strategic Framework. Important work is done through public authorities, national and local CSOs and individuals/activists.

Honouring these efforts, since 2014, the DG NEAR Award on Roma Integration in the Western Balkans and Turkey has been raising the visibility both of challenges facing Roma in the Western Balkans and Turkey, and of the important work of some dedicated players in support of Roma integration. The Award offers recognition, publicity and support to positive models showing tangible results in the area of Roma Integration.

The 2021 EU Award for Roma Integration will promote private or public initiatives having achieved a remarkable contribution to the sustainable **employment** of Roma, as a mechanism to break the circle of exclusion.

The award is hosted by the European Commission, funded by IPA Funds and implemented by Roma Active Albania (RAA).

### 2. The Award and its aim

The award is intended to draw attention to concrete efforts and positive results by various relevant players to enhance both access to, and quality of, employment of Roma. Gender equality and the empowerment of Roma women in the area of employment will be an important dimension.

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<sup>1</sup>As it is most commonly used in EU policy documents and discussions, the term "Roma" refers to a variety of groups of people who describe themselves as Roma, Gypsies, Travellers, Manouches, Ashkali, Egyptian, Sinti and other without denying the specificities of these groups.

Specifically, the award is intended to help:

1. To further recognise the role and contribution of Roma employment as one of the crucial areas for improving the position of vulnerable Roma women and men in the region
2. To promote successful models of employment of Roma, and the positive changes to their communities.
3. To foster the institutional dialogue on the employment for Roma.
4. To make visible the support and work of the European Union for the Roma integration in the enlargement countries.
5. To foster the cooperation among the actors involved in the process of Roma integration
6. To ensure recognition and sustainability of the impacting actions implemented at grassroots level.
7. To identify and share positive examples of work of individuals, public institutions, private companies, business and CSOs, at central and local level in the field of employment.

An independent evaluation panel will review the applications and select the winners of the award. There will be two award winners per IPA beneficiary, promoting in total 14 valuable experiences.

All awardees will receive international recognition through the Award ceremony, which, if conditions allow, will be held in Brussels. All awardees will be invited to attend the other events organised there during the Roma Week 2021. Additionally, all awardees will win the participation in a study visit to Madrid on “Access to employment for Roma”.

Individuals and Civil Society awardees, may furthermore receive a financial support to continue their initiatives in the field of employment of Roma. In this case, the amount of the award is the same as was applied in the Roma Award 2019, i.e. 7500 Euro. The amount has been determined in such a way to be sufficiently high to attract attention and enable further work in the targeted area.

### **3. Who can receive the award?**

To be eligible to receive the award, the competitor has to fulfil the following eligibility criteria:

- Be Roma and non-Roma individuals or entities from public institutions; private sector and Civil Society Organisation (including teachers and healthcare actors, small businesses and social enterprises) ; and
- Be established / reside in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo<sup>\*</sup>, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Turkey; and
- Having through their work made a significant contribution to the employment of Roma in the Western Balkans and Turkey; and
- Having implemented relevant activities for a minimum of 1 year; and
- Being able to prove that the initiative for which the application is made has been carried out for a minimum of 6 months prior to applying for the award and has already given results.

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<sup>\*</sup> 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.

#### **4. Which activities may be considered for the award?**

The activities to be awarded (whether through a monetary and non-monetary award) should have resulted in, or have good potential to contribute to, enhanced quantity and/or quality of Roma employment, and may include

- Advocacy and lobbying resulting in adoption and implementation of legal frameworks contributing to Employment of Roma.
- Efforts to assist self employed Roma to move from the informal to formal sector
- Training, mentoring resulting in increasing employment for Roma
- Support resulting in improved transfer from education to employment
- Match making between Roma and employees
- Combating antigypsyism in employment
- Specific actions favouring Roma women employment
- Roma Entrepreneurship resulting in Roma employment
- Social Entrepreneurship resulting in Roma employment

#### **5. Selection criteria: How will the winners be selected?**

The winners of the Award for Roma Inclusion will be selected by an independent panel of evaluators, according to the following award criteria, whereby transparency of the procedure and equal treatment of the participants will be ensured

The main selection criteria include:

- Extent of impact of initiative on quantity and quality of Roma employment
- Extent of addressing of gender dimension in employment of Roma
- Extent of impact of initiative in Roma communities and lives
- Extent of initiative's promotion of equal treatment in employment for Roma
- Extent of sustainability in employment of Roma
- Success in applying a gender equality approach.

#### **6. How to apply - applications (self-nominations) and nominations**

The award is open to public and private institutions, companies and businesses, employers, (including but not limited to SME, social businesses, entrepreneurship initiatives and other employment initiatives); teachers, health care actors and Civil Society (organisations and individuals) - Roma and non-Roma - established and residing in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Turkey.

The competition is open to both self-nominations (applications directly from the initiative seeking to receive the award), and nominations from other stakeholders wanting to draw attention to a relevant initiative.

Multiple applications; (self-nominations and/or nominations) will result in disqualification. Each stakeholder (group of individuals/CSO/IO and/or public and private entities), can nominate only one contender.

An entity, who is applying as applicant, cannot be nominated, and as well, a nominee cannot directly apply for the award.

#### *Applications (self-nominations)*

- Applications can be directly submitted by interested parties established and residing in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey.
- Applications must be made via the dedicated application form, and be readable, accessible and printable.
- Incomplete applications may be considered inadmissible if essential elements are missing.
- An application is considered valid, when is duly filled-in together with the Declaration of Honour.
- Applications must be submitted together with the relevant documentation, such as photographs, short video clips (max. 5 min), or similar.
- Only one application can be submitted per applicant. In case of multiple applications, the applicant will be disqualified.

#### *Nominations*

- Nominations can be made by any stakeholders wishing to do so.
- Nominations must be made via the dedicated nomination form, readable, accessible and printable.
- Incomplete nominations may be considered inadmissible if essential elements are missing.
- A nomination is considered valid, when is duly filled-in together with the Declaration of Honour.
- Nominations must be submitted together with the relevant documentation, such as photographs, short video clips (max. 5min), or similar.
- Stakeholders are allowed to make several nominations

#### *Supporting documents*

Applicants and nominators are invited to provide additional supporting information as available, and are encouraged to send documents in electronic version whenever possible. Supporting information may include:

- Video clips, photographs;
- publications (leaflets, brochures etc. promoting the initiative/project);
- links to websites related to the initiative/project (to be mentioned in the application form)
- media coverage (if any);
- any other material and proof of the impact of the initiative implemented by the applicant/nominee for the prize

#### *Consent on use of information for publication.*

Some information provided from the applicants, nominators and nominees, can be used for further publications. Thus a consent form signed by all parties shall be submitted together with the other documents. Please see further information on use of data below.

### *Language*

The language used for both applications and nominations, is English.

The supporting documents can be in different languages, however English versions will be appreciated.

### *Deadlines*

Deadline for submitting the applications and nominations, together with other relevant documentations, is 30<sup>th</sup> of April 2021, 23:59 local time.

### *Submission*

Submission of applications (self-nominations) shall be via e-mail in the address: [application\\_eu\\_award\\_2021@raa.al](mailto:application_eu_award_2021@raa.al).

The title of the email must contain the initials of the applicant and the country of origin.

Submission of nominations shall be via email in the address: [nomination\\_eu\\_award\\_2021@raa.al](mailto:nomination_eu_award_2021@raa.al).

The title of the email must contain the acronym of the nominator, initials of the nominee and the country of origin.

Applications and nominations, along with the supporting documents, can also be sent by post at the address:

**Roma Active Albania - Rr. “YlbereBylykbashi”; P. 25; Shk. 2; Ap. 4; Tirana, Albania**

In this case, only the applications/nominations received by us within the deadline will be considered. Applications reaching by post later than the set deadline, shall not be considered for evaluation.

## **7. Use of Data**

Submitted data and personal information will be treated confidentially, solely for the purpose of the award.

All personal data contained in the application shall be processed in accordance with regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 (*OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 39–98*) on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data. Such data shall be processed by the Contracting Authority solely in connection with the implementation and follow-up of the application of the winner, without prejudice to a possible transmission to the bodies in charge of a monitoring or inspection task in accordance with European Community and European Union legislation.

Participants may, at any time, lodge a complaint against the processing of their personal data with the European Data Protection Supervisor.

The Commission shall only be authorized to publish, in whatever form and on or by whatever medium, the following information:

- The name of the winning applicant or nominee

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- The name of the nominator
- The general purpose of the activities of the winning to the award of the prize;
- The amount of the prize awarded;
- The geographic location of the activities carried out.

The European Commission may produce videos or other promotional material about the winners. Photos and videos taken by the European Commission either in preparation of the award ceremony or during the award ceremony are the sole property of the European Commission.