

Project Generation Facility

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The Project Generating Facility (PGF) is one intervention of the Making the Most initiative (MtM) which is aimed at building capacity of stakeholders at the local level to articulate Roma concerns as part of the local development agenda and to access EU funding in order to address these concerns. This MtM tool is currently operational in Central-Eastern Europe (CEE) and in South-Eastern Europe (SEE) region.

Project Generation Facility

The interventions of the *Making the Most* facilitate local consensus-building around initiatives to eliminate segregation and exclusion of Roma and build technical capacity of institutions and organizations to obtain funding from national and EU Structural Funds resources for the implementation of such initiatives. Their impact is realized through the combined effect of several outcomes: financial resources for Roma inclusion reaching communities; enhanced competence of local stakeholders to identify solutions to Roma issues; and technical skills for preparing projects for the Structural Funds.

PGF in Central and Eastern Europe

The PGF intervention in Member States of the European Union was started in 2008 and is currently operating in Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia. Through project development assistance, training, and advocacy, PGF seeks solutions to problems such as weak visibility of Roma issues at local level, resource and expertise disadvantage, and overly bureaucratic funding procedures, which block access of the most deprived to rights and opportunities. The good practice and the problems identified in this process, feed into national advocacy action to promote favorable conditions for sustainable Roma inclusion action.

PGF CEE in figures:

In the period 2009-2011, the PGF projects in five EU Member States:

- Raised over Euro 19 million for projects which fall mainly in two priority areas of the Decade – education and employment;
- Assisted the preparation and submission of funding requests for Roma inclusion action for over 300 projects;
- Provided assistance to local governments and Roma organizations for the generation of structural funds projects in approximately 341 communities;
- Provided targeted training in EU projects design and management for over 700 persons, including Roma and non-Roma representatives of public administration, educational institutions, and nongovernmental organizations.

PGF in South Eastern Europe

Making the Most of EU Funds for Roma works to connect EU development funds with Roma inclusion objectives. Working within the conceptual and geographic frame of the Decade of Roma Inclusion MtM is an instrument to tailor Government political commitments to the needs of Roma communities and foster an inclusive process of delivering local developments by:

- Project Generating Facility (PGF) aimed at building capacity of stakeholders at the local level to articulate Roma concerns as a part of the local development agenda and access to EU funds in order to address these concerns.
- Through project development assistance, training, and advocacy, PGF seeks solutions to problems such as weak funding procedure.
- Through the Supplementary funding scheme, OSI provides supplementary funding to cover costs, which are central to achieving the goals of a project but are not covered from EU funds (co-financing, mentoring, bridging loans, non-eligible costs).
- The good practice and the problems identified in the process, feed into national advocacy action to promote favorable conditions for sustainable Roma inclusion action.

PGF National Partners in CEE

Started in 2008-2011, Project Generation Facility is implemented through the following National partner organizations:

[Bulgaria – Foundation Open Society Institute Sofia \(FOSIS\)](#)

PGF in Bulgaria "Communities in action- Enhancing Roma Inclusion through Capacity Building for Making the Most of EU funds"

PGF implementation in Bulgaria was initiated in 2009. During its pilot phase, covering 2009-2010, the main objective of the project was disseminating the information on the services provided through PGF, identifying potential beneficiaries and provision of technical support for generating projects to be submitted for EU Funds. The provision of PGF services was secured through the established project generation councils, composed of Roma NGOs and public bodies in 28 districts across the country and a broad network of project generation consultants. The project generation support was strongly supported through the activities of the Regional Centers, financially supported Roma NGOs, tasked with the: advocacy for promotion of Roma integration actions in social inclusion policies in local level; liaising and consulting between civil organizations and local authorities on project designs; dissemination of information on open calls for EU Funding.

Maintaining the same structure, enriched with knowledge on the local needs, experience and expertise gained during the first phase PGF Bulgaria entered the second phase in May 2011. Building on lessons learned from the first the objective of the project in the second phase is:

scaling up the provision of professional assistance to NGOs and local governments for generation of EU funds for Roma inclusion; facilitating the collaboration between local authorities and civil society organizations with relevant expertise; advocating for the adoption and/or revision of existing policies to create more favorable conditions for Roma integration through EU-funded projects.

Details on PGF Bulgaria could be found also under the web page of the PGF NP:
<http://pgf.osi.bg>

[Hungary - Autonomia Foundation](#)

PGF in Hungary: 'Making the Most of EU Funds For Roma'

The implementation of PGF in Hungary was initiated in 2009 and currently is in its third year of implementation. The project went through its pilot phase in 2009-2010 having the selection of potential beneficiaries and provision of technical support to beneficiaries for generation of projects to be submitted for EU funds. In the pursue of its objective the national partner divided potential beneficiaries based on region and assistance needed accordingly assigning it with an individual expert. The tasks of individual experts included: individual work with beneficiaries, organizing trainings and capacity building on project planning, management and organizational development. During the first phase operational activities were complemented with actions for establishment of partnership with Hungarian EU agencies, whose resources could be supportive for PGF activities. Building partnerships between local governments and Roma NGOs, as base of meaningful and sustainable project, was another domain of actions of PGF National partner.

In 2011, PGF Hungary entered in the third year of its implementation. Scaling up the activities of provision technical support for generating projects under EU structural funds in line with the Decade of Roma Inclusion is the core objective of the project during the current phase. In the scope of its general objective PGF National partner offers packages of services to local governments involving training sessions on project design/participatory project planning and on specific funding calls; on site help; help desk; small grants program; study tours; application writing; and mentoring. Under the policy level activities of the project the national partner works on: organizing professional debates on Roma integration topics with government officials, experts, and nongovernmental representatives; inviting public officials to take part in its field operations; and will provide feedback to the contents of funding calls from beneficiaries of the calls.

Details on PGF Hungary can be found under the web page of the PGFNP:
<http://www.autonomia.hu/en/programs/making-the-most-of-eu-funds-for-roma-inclusion>

[Slovakia - The Roma Institute](#)

PGF in Slovakia "Roma Bridge to open Europe"

The PGF project in Slovakia was launched in the second half of 2008 and at the moment is the third year of its implementation. The main focus of Roma Institute during the first phase of project implementation was on organizing consultation process involving local authorities, Roma civil society, and experts in various fields with the purpose of elaborating local development strategies for Roma communities and implementation plans in a target of 30 municipalities, primarily in three regions with high percentage of Roma population. During the first phase of PGF, Roma institute assisted the development of 30 local strategies for comprehensive approach (LSCA) out of which 24 were approved by the Slovak Plenipotentiary Office. In parallel to the operational activities Roma institute worked on strengthening partnerships between local authorities, small and medium sized enterprises and Roma NGOs to ensure the sustainability of project generation beyond PGF.

In June 2011 PGF Slovakia started the implementation of the third year of the project. The focus of this phase of the project is on following and scaling up the activities initiated during the pilot phase. In line with this the main focus areas of PGF national partner are: project development assistance involving provision of technical assistance for the development of full scale projects proposals under the project ideas which were included in the LSCA developed during the pilot phase and assistance for generation of individual projects outside the LSCA; capacity building/project implementation assistance involving building specific expertise and facilitating sharing of experiences between local governments implementing LSCA and advocacy activities focusing on promoting social housing accompanied by preparation of a model social housing project in one locality.

More: web link of PGF NP: <http://www.romainstitute.sk/index.php?ID=71>

[Romania - Civil Society Development Foundation \(CSDF\)](#)

PGF in Romania "Developing Capacities of Roma Communities"

PGF implementation in Romania was initiated in the second half of 2009. Currently the project is in its second year of implementation. The core objective of the project during the first year of its implementation was to support a sustainable and equitable development of Roma communities in Romania and curb exclusion by providing integrated support (financial, technical) for the development of capacities of Roma community members to enter the competition for EU structural funds. Along with this this PGF partner focused on promotion of local development strategies in the communities where local stakeholders (Roma and non-Roma) don't have clear development goals. These objectives were pursued through dissemination of information on the services available under PGF, selection of potential beneficiaries, provision of technical support for generation of projects to be submitted under EU structural funds; elaboration and revision of local development strategies.

In August 2011, PGF Romania entered in the second year of its implementation. The activities under the current project phase are continuation and scaling up the work already initiated in the first year of the project implementation. The focus of the PGF Romania is directed to: capacity

building at the grass-roots level (through community facilitation, small grants and training) for the design of projects addressing Roma problems; incorporation of targeted Roma inclusion measures in the strategies for the development of local communities prepared by local authorities; and technical assistance for the elaboration and submission of EU projects for Roma inclusion. The operational level of actions is contributed with the policy level advocacy activities focusing on promoting mechanisms which will simplify the funding procedures for structural funds projects and make structural funds accessible for nongovernmental organizations serving vulnerable groups.

Details: web page of the PGF NP: <http://www.pgfroma.ro>

[Dzeno Association](#) (National Partner in the period 2009-2010)

Dzeno Association is a successor of Dzeno foundation, established in 1994 with the aim of preserving and developing traditional Roma values. The Association publishes the magazine "Amaro Gendalos" and is the founder of the first internet Roma radio station "ROTA" in the Czech Republic. Along with management of the Rota radio, Dzeno implements programs for training young Roma as journalists and editors in mainstream media. As a member of the European Network against Racism, Dzeno is involved in networking across Europe for the promotion of human rights, equal opportunities, anti-discrimination and social assistance. Prospectus Co. has experience as a service provider of PHARE funded projects; in 2000 it acted as service provider for the task Force of the Czech Ministry of Foreign Development which was designed to prepare state authorities for the implementation of the EU Structural Funds. The company managed training programs for local administration as well as non-profit organizations related to the EU Structural Funds, including a training program for Roma associations in Central Bohemia.

PGF Project : Roma Project Assistance

The main objectives of the PGF project were: increaseing the number of projects for Roma inclusion funded from the EU Structural Funds; organising a process of participatory project planning and development at the local level, including Roma community representatives and/or NGOs; ensuring that projects reflect needs at local level and have sustainable impact on Roma communities; as well as building skills and capacity of Roma and others working on Roma issues to be able to take advantage of EU funding opportunities. In addition, the National partner worked with regional and local authorities in the Czech Republic to prepare long-term social inclusion strategies and implementation plans which can be funded through the Structural Funds.

PGF Pilot Project Partners in CEE

Pilot Project partners of the PGF initiative are: Mikrofond Foundation Sofia in Bulgaria and Roma Civil Rights Foundation in Hungary.

Microfond Sofia Foundation (2008-2010)

Microfond Foundation Sofia is a non-profit organization, which promotes the development of civil society in Bulgaria. As an independent entity since 2002, Microfond Foundation originated from within the Microcredit Program of the Resource Center Foundation (1999-2002) that targeted regions with high unemployment rate, low economic growth and ethnic communities. Microfond is devoted to building mutual cooperation among state bodies, civil entities and business organizations; it supports the democratic process in socioeconomic development; encourages sharing and adopting know-how in democratic mechanisms development.

Led by common aim, promotion of democratic development and building dialog in the relations between the citizens and the state, Microfond Foundation formed consortium with the Open Society Club – Rouse and the Regional Economic Development Center. The common objective of the consortium is to support Roma inclusion in Bulgaria through professional assistance for the development of infrastructure projects.

Ongoing projects:

- [Improving Living Conditions for Roma through Infrastructure Projects](#)

Roma Civil Rights Foundation Hungary (December 2009 - March 2011)

Being one of the first organizations focusing on Roma community in Hungary, Roma Civil Rights Foundation (RCRF) was established in 1995. Main objectives of the Foundation are: emancipation of Hungarian Roma through professional programs and projects, providing free of charge legal advice to Roma, conflict prevention through social mediation and counseling, intervention in issues affecting Roma in domestic and international level.

Led by the aim of encouraging communities with dominant Roma inhabitants to establish NGOs, where needed, capacitate them and support their cooperation with local and regional actors Roma Civil Rights Foundation formed consortium with Kai Consulting Ltd and Hungarian Helsinki Committee.

Kai Consulting Ltd. partnership will complement the activities of RCRF with its proficient experience in project management, proven through its participation in the preparation of the Human Resources Operational Program (2004-2006) and its experience in work with PHARE and Structural Funds Programs.

Ongoing projects:

- [Give a Chance to the Local Community](#)

PGF National Partners in SEE

Empowerment for Making the Most of EU Funds for Roma in Serbia

Within the framework of the Open Society Foundations program, Group 484, European Movement in Serbia, and Roma Center for Democracy Development are implementing a program aimed at contributing to improved social inclusion and quality of life of Roma community in Serbia, in accordance with national and EU standards. The project, entitled "Empowerment for Making the Most of EU funds for Roma", will increase opportunities for local government and civil society organizations to reach EU funds for supporting implementation of Roma inclusion policies in Serbia. This will be achieved by establishing a specific Project Generating Facility team through capacity building process of Roma individuals and NGOs for generating project ideas and mobilizing EU funds for Roma inclusion projects. The PGF team will assist the final beneficiaries to develop relevant projects for EU/bilateral funds through participative approach and cooperation between different stakeholders at local, national, and regional level.

National Partner is Group 484, responsible for the overall management of project implementation. Group 484 is an NGO founded in 1995 with the aim to support self-organization of 484 refugee families who found shelter in Serbia since fleeing from Krajina, hence the organization got its name. The organization started with a group of activists, primarily providing assistance to refugees from Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and displaced people from Kosovo and Metohija. Since its establishment, Group 484 has transformed itself into a modern organization capable of meeting the needs of beneficiaries and responding to migration challenges in the region. Direct service was gradually expanded to educational and research work, influencing decision makers in order to achieve lasting solutions. Group 484 implements its activities through three programs, based on strategic decisions: Support to forced migrants program, Work with youth program and Regional cooperation in the field of migration program.

Project Partners in the project implementation are European Movement in Serbia and Roma Center for Democracy Development. European Movement in Serbia (EMinS) is a non-profit NGO founded in 1992 upon the initiative of a group of independent intellectuals and experts, opposing the ideology of aggressive nationalism, decided to form an organization committed to the creation of democratic, pluralistic society with robust market economy. Since 1993, EMinS has been a member of the International European Movement, based in Brussels, the oldest pan-European organization. Main goals of EMinS are Serbian enrolment as equal member in all the European institutions and organizations, spread of the Idea of European unity in Serbia, support of the idea of democratic, federal Europe, based on rule of law and social justice. EMinS has implemented more than 150 various projects, as a response to some of the key problems Serbia faces in the process of EU integration, while also being focused on building the capacities, knowledge and skills of specific target groups. Today EMinS is a high-level performer in terms of its project management and technical capacities, expertise in research and development, and reputable implementing partner of the development programs. Alongside the its headquarters office in Belgrade, EMinS has a network of 14 local councils in 14 municipalities across Serbia, enjoying full independence in acting within the Statute and program of the European Movement in Serbia.

Roma Center for Democracy Development (RCDD) - a national NGO, which aims to be the prime Roma catalyst and facilitator for strategic analysis and capacity building for sustainable democracy and development in Serbia. The mission of the RCDD is to promote the values and democratic practices, the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, of the economic, social and cultural rights of the Roma minority at the local and national in Serbia. RCDD membership currently consists of a developed, interdependent leadership with 25 team leaders, 250 team members geographically dispersed in all regions in Serbia. It is in process of developing 1000 volunteers within the Roma communities in Serbia. The Members and founders of the organization are experienced activists and professionals with more than 10 years of experience in non-government sector. The core objectives of the RCDD are to ensure active participation of the Roma in the process of creating public policies for Roma, to combat discrimination against Roma, support and promote Roma identity and social inclusion, strengthen the capacity of Roma organizations, stimulating Roma participation in the electoral processes, improve Roma's lives, build stronger Roma communities and individuals to act effectively for positive change in their communities, and democracy in our country in the long term.

For further information, please see the website of [Group 484](#)

PGF Montenegro Project Consortium

Centre for Democracy and Human Rights – CEDEM, as the National Partner of Open Society Foundation for Project Generating Facility in Montenegro, has started the implementation of PGF Montenegro Project in November 2011. The project will last 12 months and its overall objective is to improve the position and influence of Roma CSOs in Montenegrin society. Specific project objectives are: Strengthened capacities of Roma CSOs to attract and manage EU funds; Improved cooperation between Roma CSOs and relevant stakeholders.

Information on PGF consortium

The project is being implemented by PGF consortium, consisted of CEDEM, UNO Libertask and Humanitarac. CEDEM acts as a leading partner acts as a think-thank group, as an organizer of various kinds of public discussions, targeted trainings and practical actions. During more than a decade of its existence, CEDEM implemented a number of various programs, researches and analytical projects, workshops, training's and other activities for more than 5.000 trainees, in the area of rule of law and human rights, oriented towards encouraging process of democratic transition and on promotion of the idea of the respect for human rights. HUMANITARAC is mostly recognized by its field work and reporting on main issues and challenges concerning marginalized groups. Its mission is to contribute to achievement of positive changes in peoples live especially for deprived, marginalized, vulnerable and discriminated groups. Since its establishment in 1998, Humanitarac implemented 57 projects, individually or in partnership, which focused mainly on the protection of marginalized groups. Humanitarac was civil society partner to Government of Montenegro in preparation of PRSP paper in 2003 and promotion of Roma Decade National Action Plan 2005-2015. Uno Libertask acts as a consortium of Non-Governmental Organizations which has been established in June 2006 with the aim to promote

the idea of the respect for human rights and emphatic tolerance to different positions expressed by individuals and groups. UNO Libertask was part of the regional project Advancing Inclusion of Vulnerable Groups in Southeast Europe: Minority Rights Advocacy in the EU Accession Process as well as participation in consultation concerning preparation of EDIHR and IPA in Montenegro concerning ethnic minorities. UNO Libertask has extensive experience in working with local administration and Government stakeholders.

Implemented and planned activities PGF consortium provides assistance to Roma civil society organizations acting in partnership with self-governments and/or businesses, to design projects for the social inclusion of Roma communities.

So far, CEDEM and PGF partners have implemented following activities:

- Organized press conference where at the project has been presented to the public;
- Organized several coordination meetings with the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights of the Government of Montenegro, local self-governments, and Union of Municipalities of Montenegro, with the aim to
- Organized three informational workshops for Roma CSOs, Roma Council and local Roma communities;
- Conducted needs assessment in order to target main challenges and obstacles concerning Roma population and Roma NGOs;
- Identified and recruited potential PGF beneficiaries;
- Established PGF core team at national level and created mailing list in order to provide regular exchange of information between PGF team members;
- Conducted preparations for introductory training for PGF team members that is going to be held on February 11th and 12th;

In the up-coming period, PGF consortium will focus on capacitating and promoting PGF team and work on the preparation and organization of three more training modules; organization of consultations with PGF partners and Roma beneficiaries on two relevant calls for proposals, EIDHR 2011 and IPA 2011 Program for Civil Society; developing initial project ideas with PGF beneficiaries and identifying financing opportunities in addition to EU calls. National Partner will also reconstruct its website in order to establish system of information on relevant EU calls.

For further information, please see the website of [CEDEM](#).

Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (MCIC)

Established in 1993, Macedonian Centre for International Cooperation (MCIC) vision is peace, harmony and prosperity for people in Macedonia, the Balkans and globally. MCIC encourages and leads changes by mainstreaming new and alternative solutions to the societal problems. Its long-term goals are: sustainable local and rural development; good governance, participation and people-based policy; rooted and dynamic civil society, which influences public policies; acceptance of cultural diversity, interdependence and dialogue; support for Euro-integration

process and enhanced regional cooperation. One of the MCIC's objective social cohesion and poverty reduction goal is realized by employment, entrepreneurship, education and access to public services, based on the principles of equal opportunities and right based approach, and inclusion of the marginalized groups (women, Roma, persons with special needs).

OSI selected MCIC in partnership with Initiative for Social Change (InSoC), organization that has extensive experience in working with Roma issues, to implement the PGF project in Macedonia. InSoC is an association of citizens established in March 2009. InSoC's vision is ASCEND of each individual and the society as a whole, which implies building values towards sustainable development of the democratic values, rule of law, human rights and human capital, through social change and equitable national development.

The Project Generating Facility (PGF) is one intervention of the Making the Most of EU funds for Roma (MtM) initiative, which is aimed at building capacity of stakeholders at the local level to articulate Roma concerns as part of the local development agenda and to access EU funding in order to address these concerns. During the first period of the project the PGF mechanism was established, tested and functioning in Macedonia. There is a satisfactory level of mobilization of the Roma community, reflected through the number of generated ideas and applications. In the first year of implementation, a total of 42 project ideas were generated, out of which 20 applications were produced and submitted for funding. 10 of the applications were rejected and other 10 are still in process of evaluation. Most of the planned project activities were also realized: Service Providers were identified and trained; training was offered and implemented to more than 10 Roma NGO's and meetings were held with many relevant stakeholders; Selection Committee was established and held two sessions; EU and other funds were monitored regularly on a weekly basis; PGF process was promoted by regional coordinators and on bilateral meetings of project partners with other stakeholders; promotion materials (leaflets) were prepared and distributed to the relevant stakeholders and the web-site is operational since April 2011.

For more inform on ongoing projects, please click [here](#).

Additional support for SEE

Supplementary funds available for PGF beneficiaries and other organizations in SEE countries

The fund provides additional financial support to approved EU and other funded projects within and out of PGF assistance scheme aiming to contribute to effective implementation and influence changes within Roma communities. Supplementary fund in SEE countries serve to cover several parts of the project cycle: co-financing, mentoring, bridging loans to cover the cash-flow gaps during the project implementation, and non-eligible costs that might occur during the implementing phase. MtM assistance may support one of afore mentioned project-cycle components. Projects with minimum budget threshold of 50.000 Euro shall be eligible for MtM supplementary granting scheme, in which request for funding may be submitted to MtM up to 25.000 USD.

Council of Europe - ROMED training program on Roma mediators

The ROMED program was launched in January 2011 as part of the implementation of the Strasbourg Declaration on Roma. It is a joint Council of Europe/European Commission action aimed at enhancing the quality and the effectiveness of the work of mediators.

Mediation is one of the measures used across Europe to tackle the inequalities Roma face in terms of access to employment, healthcare services and quality education. It consists of employing people with a Roma background, from local Roma communities, or with a good knowledge of Roma issues, to act as mediators between the Roma and the public institutions. This program uses mediators with a Roma background who speak the language of the Roma community they are working with, if needed. Their tasks and responsibilities include facilitating communication between Roma and a public institution. For more information please click [here](#).

MtM has supported with small grants to local governments and mediators in order to develop models in Bulgaria, Hungary, Macedonia and Slovakia.

MtM/PGF Board

The board of the Making the Most of EU funds for the Roma, under which the Project Generation Facility component consist of the following members:

Kalman Mizsei (Chair): EU Special Representative to Moldova and steering committee member of the Local Government and Public Service Reform Initiative. He has acted as a senior adviser to governments in the transition region and was former Assistant Administrator and Regional Director of the Regional Bureau of for Europe and the CIS of UNDP and also served as the Deputy Coordinator of International Cooperation on Chernobyl.

Kenneth Davey: Professor Emeritus at the School of Public Policy at the University of Birmingham, former chair and current member of the steering committee of the Local Government and Public Service Reform Initiative. During the last decade he has worked continuously on local government reform, at one time directing the British Know How Fund in the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Slovakia. He currently advises the Ukrainian government on fiscal decentralization.

Zeljko Jovanovic: Senior Program Manager of the OSI Roma Initiatives in Budapest. He previously worked with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). At present he is working on Roma issues and government strategy in Serbia, Kosovo, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. He has a legal academic background.

Valeriu Nicolae: currently Executive Director of the European Roma Grassroots Organisation, an international Roma network working on empowerment at the community level. He previously worked as Deputy Director of the European Roma Information Office in Brussels, and has been



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involved in anti-racism campaigns in sports, working together with UEFA, FIFA, and the Romanian Sports bodies, as well as co-editing the Roma Diplomacy handbook.



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