

Contract title: Support to the Implementation of the Roma Strategy

Contract number: 2010/258-484

SECOND QUARTERLY REPORT - SUMMARY

Subject: For the period 1 April – 30 June 2011

This Quarterly Report for the Project 'Support to the Implementation of the Roma Strategy' covers the project implementation activities in the period 1 April – 30 June 2011. It represents the major findings and results achieved from the work undertaken on the ground by the BBI Technical Assistance team. The format of the Report follows the structure of the previous one; and it includes the list of annexes and technical deliverables.

With regards to the use of **human resources** it is to report on the deployment of a number of Non-key Experts in the field of Communication (Strategy development), Roma Strategy Assessment, Training Needs Assessment, RIC and LAP Assessments and finalisation of Roma Decade Presidency Programme. There were in total 95 working days assigned to the NKE as of the end of the reported period.

The use of **incidental budget** categories was dedicated to travel costs for implementing project site visits to local stakeholders in most of the target municipalities and for the organisation of activity related workshop events.

- The field trips were related to the Component 2 assessment activities – LAP and RIC assessments;
- Workshop events were related to:
 - 2 workshops for finalisation of the Roma Decade Presidency Programme;
 - 2 Focus Group discussions related to the Roma Strategy Assessment;
 - 1 Workshop on Communication skills related to the Communication Strategy – interviewing and reporting.

The major achievements related to project **Component 1** in the reporting period are:

- **Finalisation and adoption of the Roma Decade Presidency Programme** (Annex 10) – After series of consultative meetings and editions, it was adopted by the Government at its regular meeting on 18 May 2011. The Programme contains a thorough planning of events to be organised in the period July 2011 – June 2012, starting with the International Steering Committee Meeting in September 2011. It provides also for the necessary budgets for event organisation with their responsible parties. It is to be noted that the Programme was adopted by the Government without specific financial allocation for its implementation;
- **Development of Roma Strategy Assessment Report** (Annex 8) – The Report takes a snapshot of the Roma Strategy implementation status by making specific references to the existing implementation mechanisms and there are also a number of recommendations for improvement. It should be viewed as an evolving document, which

is there to provide an orientation for optimising the implementation arrangements and also for better coordination between key policy documents at central and local levels – NAPs and LAPs;

- **Development of Communication Strategy** (Annex 9 & Annex 9a) – There are three entities, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy – the Unit for Implementation of Strategy and Decade for Roma; Cabinet of the Minister without Portfolio National Coordinator for the Strategy and Decade for Roma, and the National Coordinating Body for implementation of the Roma Strategy, have the synthesising role for the coordination of Communication Strategy implementation. The established Strategy document contains also an operational plan for Strategy implementation with some specific provisions on quantities of communication tools to be produced, responsible entities, budgets and time-line.

Major activities related to project **Component 2**:

- **RIC Assessment** (Annex 13) – following the established time-plan a thorough assessment of existing RIC was conducted using the following methods for collecting data: (i) desk review of selected relevant documents related to the RICs mission, work plans, working tools, etc.; and (ii) field visits to the nine localities where RICs exist and conduction of semi-structured interviews and group discussions with RIC staff and other key informants. The aim of this assessment is to provide background information on the on the situation of the Roma Information Centres (RICs) and their capacities and effectiveness in performing their role with a view to underline the options for ensuring better performance of their job and provide further support activities within the project. The Assessment is linked with other project activities, such as LAP assessment and support, capacity building interventions, communication activities and so on; .
- **LAP assessment** (Annex 14) - The assessment is linked to other activities being carried out within the framework of the Project, namely the assessment of the Strategy and the Decade, the assessment of Roma Information Centres, and the Training Needs Analysis. Methods for data collection included: (i) desk review of Local Action Plans and Memoranda of Understanding; (ii) gathering information through Letters of Request sent to all municipalities with MoU (or LAPs); (iii) field visits to localities where LAPs have been adopted and conduction of semi-structured interviews and group discussions local stakeholders. The LAP Assessment report was delivered one month prior to the established deadline due to the need to coincide with the parallel work of RIC assessment and TNA.

Activities related to both **Component 1 and Component 2**:

- **Training Needs Assessment** (Annex 6 and Annex 6a) – The Training Needs Assessment is one of the cornerstone of the project capacity building intents, which is related to both central level stakeholders (UISDR at MLSP, Cabinet of MwP, NCB, NGOs and line ministries/entities and also local level ones (RIC, municipal Referents for Minority Issues, municipal administration, NGOs). The method for data collection used face to face interviews, questionnaires (sent via letters) and group discussion. Obtained information was used to establish a comprehensive training plan to be followed – upon consultations and agreement with project beneficiaries - in the up-coming project periods.
- **Start of capacity building interventions** - It is noteworthy to mention that the TA team started with the implementation of some capacity building interventions, which are provided in the project ToR. One workshop on Interviewing and Reporting related to the Communication Strategy was organised at the end of May 2011. The TA team plans to

organise two training events in July 2011 on the following subjects – following the provisions by the Project ToR:

- Communication skills;
- Project Cycle Management;

Every capacity building event will be organised in accordance with the established training plan, so that specific attention will be given to the participants' identified needs and the possibility to provide them with a possibility for mutual exchanges and learning.

- **Preliminary consultations on Study Tour organisation** – although it is planned for the next project period, there were some initial exchanges of ideas between the TA team and the project beneficiaries. More information is provided in the respective chapter of this report.

Further the report also provides the plan of activities for the next 3-month period, which will be used as a management tool and also for monitoring purposes. The major focus in this period is placed on:

- Fine-tuning of TNA and organisation of capacity building interventions (trainings);
- Organisation of the Decade International Steering Committee;
- Production of some of Communication Strategy related deliverables – i.e. RIC and project leaflets; web-site;
- Organisation and planning of Study Tour;
- Identification of and launch to support of good practices related to LAP implementation at local level;
- Consultations with beneficiaries and stakeholders to finalise Roma Strategy Assessment;
- Planning of further actions to support RIC functions – launch the production of some key working documents;

Annexes are included at the end of the report.



Support to the implementation of the Roma Strategy
This project is funded by the European Union

