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Summary of the project

“The Latvian Roma platform II: Dialogue, participation and mutual learning”

Main goal of the project was to facilitate cooperation and dialogue between Roma civil society, especially Roma youth, governmental and municipality institutions’ representatives, social partners and employers in order to ensure effective involvement of all relevant stakeholders and provide better coordination of the development and implementation of the set of policy measures on Roma integration at the national, regional and local level.

RESULTS OF THE PROJECT

The objectives of the project are achieved:

The cooperation and dialogue between representatives of municipalities, governmental sector and Roma people as well as employers and social partners has been fostered.

Mutual learning and exchange of best practices on Roma integration in key areas at the local and regional level has been supported.

The capacity building, empowerment and effective involvement of the representatives of Roma community, especially, Roma youth, has been facilitated.

Roma mediation practice in the municipalities and effective dialogue between Roma families and state/ municipal authorities (schools, social services, city councils) is developed.

The participation and involvement of the representatives of Roma community into the implementation of the set of Roma integration policy measures is facilitated; as well as the capacity and skills of representatives of Roma civil society has been strengthened.

Totally in the project activities have been involved 376 participants, including 119 state and municipal authorities, non-Roma NGOs, as well as 257 Roma representatives from 19 Latvian cities.



ACTIVITIES OF THE PROJECT

- [Regional meeting and field visit in Limbaži district municipality](#) for members of the Network of regional experts on Roma integration issues (experts from 12 municipalities).
- [Practical workshop “Better Roma access to the labor market”](#) in Riga aimed at fostering dialogue and cooperation between Roma representatives and employers (private entrepreneurs) in order to develop better Roma access to employment.
- [3 day practical workshop “SĀRE KHETENE” for Latvian Roma youth](#) aimed at improving knowledge and skill of Roma young people, promote access to EU support programs, as well as promoting their cooperation with the representatives of active national youth



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organisations and the State Agency for International Programs for Youth.

➤ [Training and support measures for development Roma mediation practice at the municipal level](#) (in five Latvian cities – Jelgava, Dobele, Rīga, Valmiera and Ventspils) in order to facilitate dialogue and cooperation between Roma families, municipality agencies and their representatives (social workers, teachers, employment mentors etc.). During the project five trained Roma mediators cooperated with 134 disadvantaged Roma families and provided assistance to more than 170 Roma persons. Local government' representatives who cooperated with the Roma mediators stated that the mediator helped them to improve dialogue with Roma families and to find appropriate solutions for solving many problems, as well as to inform about the most urgent needs of the Roma and the characteristics of traditional Roma culture. Moreover, mediators facilitated Roma access to municipal services, European Social Fund support programs, as well as prevented drop-out rates of Roma pupils in schools.



➤ [Capacity building training for Roma activists and representatives of Roma NGOs](#) aimed at improving their skills of project design and implementation; [support to the representatives of Roma civil society](#) to ensuring their participation in the meetings of the Council supervising the

implementation of Roma integration policy measures; as well as [English language trainings](#) for representatives of Roma civil society.

➤ [Coordination meeting of Latvian Roma platform](#) with participation of regional experts and members of the Council supervising the implementation of Roma integration policy measures, including representatives of Roma civil society.



Reports and informative materials elaborated within the framework the project:

- [Updated practical guidelines](#) for Roma NGOs and activists on elaboration qualitative Project application;
- [Summary report of the meeting and field visit of the Network of regional experts on Roma integration issues in Limbaži district](#) where best practices and possible solutions are identified;
- [Summary report of the seminar "Better Roma access to the labour market"](#) where existed practices and recommendations for improving Roma dialogue with employers are included.
- [Summary report of workshop „SĀRE KHETENE” for Latvian Roma youth](#) where best practices and recommendations are identified;
- [Evaluation report on the results of Roma mediators work at the municipal level](#) and [the Guidelines for Roma mediators work](#).
- [Summary report of the Latvian Roma Platform meeting](#) where results of the project's activities, recommendations and solutions to develop



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Latvian Roma Platform and the set of Roma integration policy measures is identified.

Roma in the project

Project activities provided an opportunity for many Roma to be active and prove themselves as good experts, moderators and coordinators. For example, there is Kaspars Arhipovs, Roma representative work in the Ministry of Culture as project assistant (he also will continue to be employed for next Latvian Roma platform project). He was responsible for organisation project activities and communication with Roma, representatives of municipalities, local experts, and other stakeholders.

An external expert of the project, Dana Didžus, who works as a Roma teacher assistant in the Jelgava's primary school, brought added value for the effective development of the Roma integration policy coordination by active participation in all project's activities and elaboration [evaluation report on the project activities](#).



The cooperation with the Roma activists is one of key element of successful the implementation of the project activity. Many Roma women and young people had active participation in the project's activities as local activists, mediators, facilitators,

teacher assistants, NGO representatives, young mothers, pupils and students. They are involved in the constructive dialogue and developing cooperation with municipality staff, as well as represented Roma voice and needs during project's activities.

Local authorities

Significant number of new stakeholders are involved in the process of the implementation Roma integration policy, especially at the local level. After the project many involved municipalities have had an interest to support Roma mediators in order to promote sustain dialogue between Roma families and municipality institutions and governmental agencies. One of task of the mediators Roma mediators is to foster Roma access to key areas such as education, employment, social housing and healthcare, using opportunities provided by ESF supporting programmes.

The Network of regional experts on Roma integration issues has been supplemented with new representatives of municipalities.

Detail information about the project in Latvian is available on the Ministry of Culture web site <https://www.km.gov.lv/lv/integracija-un-sabiedriba/romi/projekti-un-pasakumi/latvijas-romu-platforma>

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The material has been developed under the project "The Latvian Roma platform II: Dialogue, participation and mutual learning" No.763963-NRP2-LV with the financial support of the European Union Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme 2014-2020. The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Latvia is responsible for the contents of the material. It does not reflect the opinion of the European Commission.



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