

The programme assists local authorities in improving the lives of all citizens, including the Roma, by collaboratively assessing their needs, planning actions alongside all relevant stakeholders, and facilitating the implementation of these plans through concrete measures.

## ROMACT METHODOLOGY HAS 4 STEPS TO FOLLOW DURING THE PROCESS

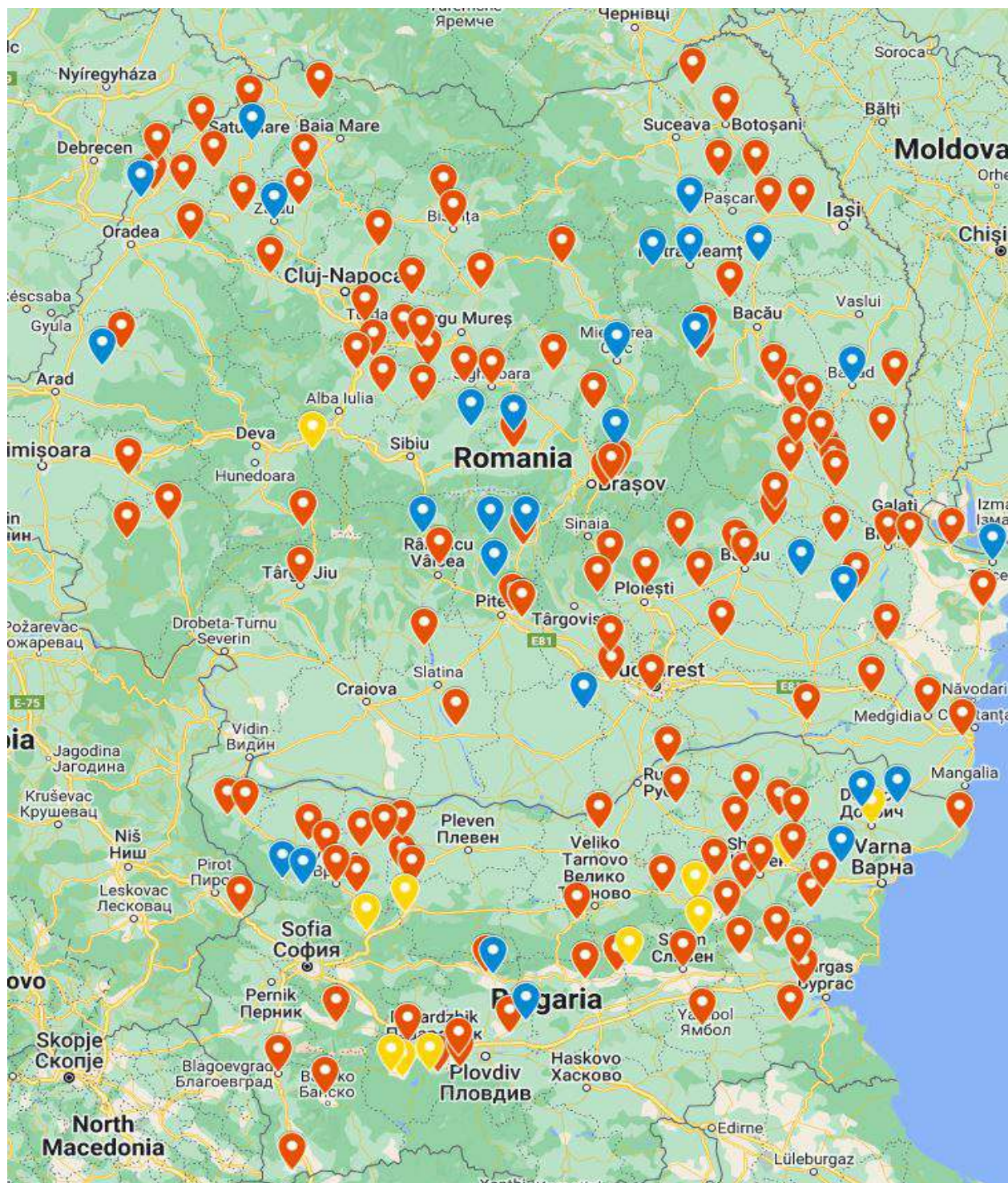



Scan the code for  
ROMACT handbook

<https://coe-romact.org/content/romact-handbook>

# 181 Municipalities in Bulgaria & Romania (October 2013 - October 2023)

ROMACT was also implemented in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy and in the Slovak Republic between 2013 and 2017



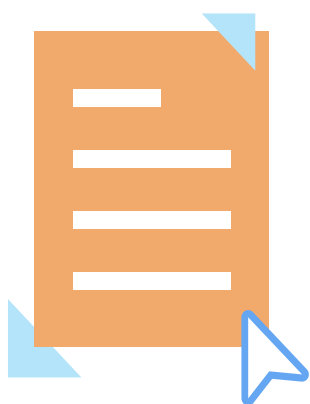
-  Closed
-  Ongoing
-  Reinforced

As of 2022, ROMACT reinforced process began to be implemented in former localities upon their request, aiming to enhance capacities and provide support to some of the structures previously established in the Programme

# ROMACT in Bulgaria



**65** Municipalities participated in ROMACT between 2013-2023

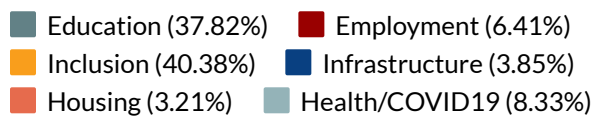
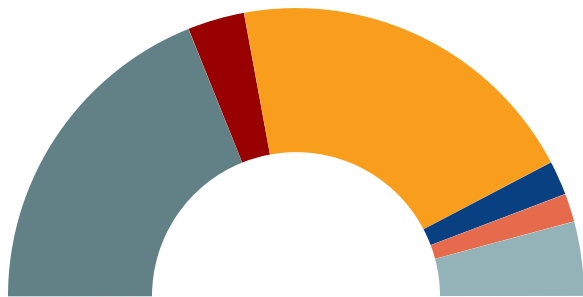


ROMACT expertise for municipalities involves training and guidance to prepare project proposals and implement inclusive policies aimed at improving the living conditions and social integration of vulnerable populations, including the Roma. Support is provided based on need and requests from municipalities part of the Programme.

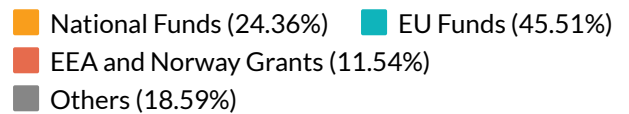
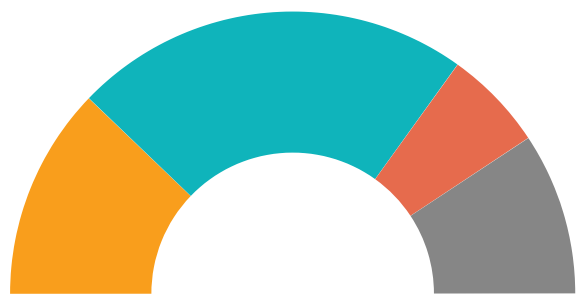
**162**

Project proposals were prepared and submitted with the assistance of ROMACT facilitators and experts in order to generate funding for local authorities

# Project Fields and Funding Sources for Bulgaria



Distribution by field



Funding sources

Average investment by  
ROMACT budget per  
municipality / per year

**25,000€**



Net worth of 15 projects  
currently under  
evaluation

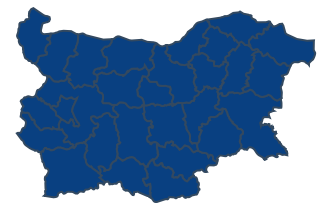
**4,823,233€**



**20,506,527€**

Generated through 81 projects  
supported by ROMACT

# ROMACT in Bulgaria



## ROMACT SUPPORTED PROJECT EXAMPLES

### Byala Slatina



23,610,00€

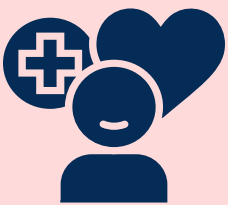
#### Strengthening and Development of Mother Centers

- Directly benefiting Roma women, children and families
- Supporting the empowerment of women
- Providing parenting support and education
- Fostering community building
- Offering opportunities to build skills
- Promoting inclusivity by bridging social and economic gaps

Funded under Bulgaria's Human Resources Development (OPHRD) - ESF+ 2021 - 2027



### Sungulare



177,146,00€

#### Integrated Approach in Social Services and Health

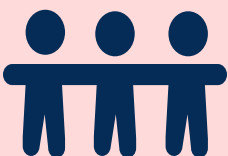
Under the European Child Guarantee and the Municipal Plan for Inclusion, Equality and Participation of Roma:

- Directly benefiting Roma children and families
- Aiming to increase competencies in preventative health care
- Promotion of responsible parenting
- Improving children's well-being and access to social rights
- Field work with children and families

Funded under Bulgaria's Human Resources Development (OPHRD) - ESF+ 2021 - 2027



### Lukovit



245,716,00€

#### Future for children in Lukovit municipality

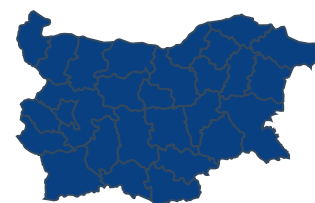
Under ESF+ The project aims to include around 200 children under 18 years of age, of which about 150 will improve their living conditions

- Social work for early childhood development
- Child care services for children up to 3 years of age
- Integrated health and social services for children and young people and pedagogical work for prevention and support services in the community for children and young people up to the completion of secondary education.

Funded under Bulgaria's Human Resources Development (OPHRD) - ESF+ 2021 - 2027



# ROMACT in Bulgaria



## Activities from the Joint Action Plans and Strategies implemented

A collaborative and coordinated strategy developed by multiple stakeholders to address specific challenges or achieve common objectives



Local Authorities and communities work together



Renovation of water supply & sewage systems in Roma neighbourhoods



Awareness campaigns on health and drug use



Appointing Community Mediators



Reconstructing playgrounds for children



Cleaning landfills



Reconstruction of streets



Mapping of housing needs



**277**  
different interventions and activities funded by local, regional and national budgets

# ROMACT in Bulgaria

**463**

training and coaching sessions

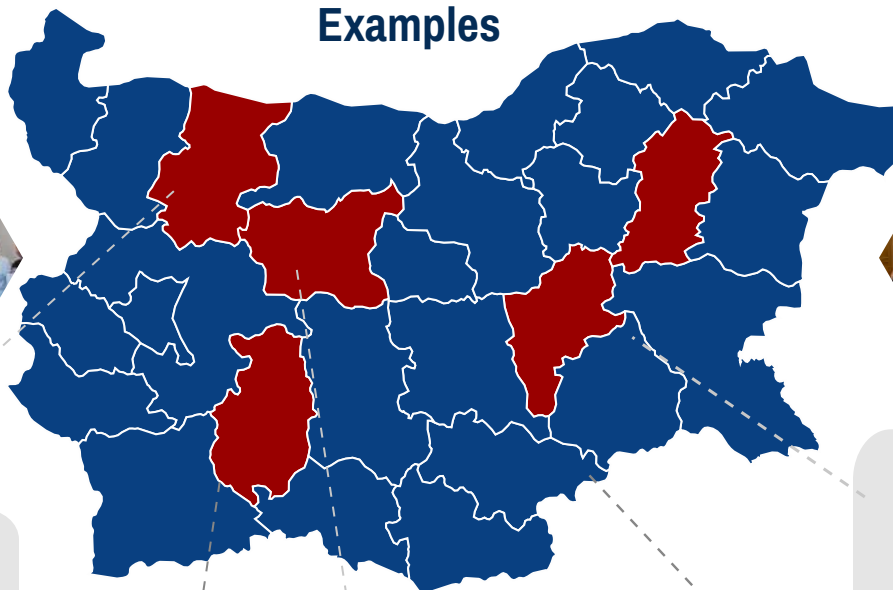
## CAPACITY BUILDING

Training and coaching sessions for local authorities and community action groups

**4564**

participants

### Examples



#### Borovan

Intercultural approach in education and work with Roma parents



#### Rakitovo

Identifying the needs and priorities of the community



#### Lukovit

CAG coaching on participation in the Local budget consultation process



#### Sliven

Local Authorities training on project planning and management



#### Varbitsa

National programs 2021 - 2027 funded by the EU structural and cohesion funds in support of municipal policies for social inclusion

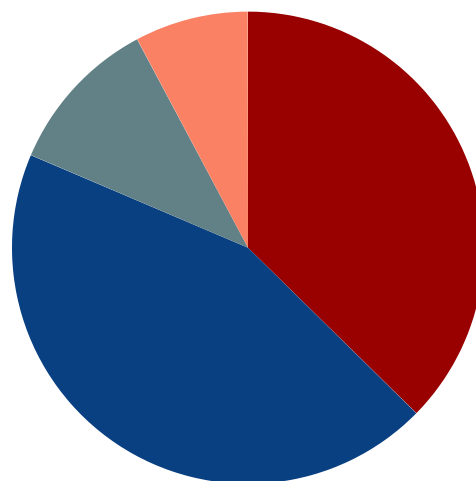


*"Better understanding the needs of each child and the situation of each family, partnering with parents and other responsible parties. Thanks to ROMACT training, I understood that this is the basis for successful inclusion."*

Municipal staff member, Borovan

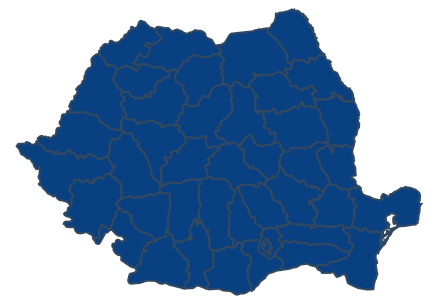


### Training target groups



Local Authorities (LA) (37.37%) CAG (44.06%)  
LA & CAG (10.8%) Other (7.78%)

# ROMACT in Romania



**116** Municipalities participated in ROMACT between 2013-2023



**124**

Project proposals are prepared and submitted with the assistance of ROMACT facilitators and experts in order to generate funding for local authorities

Average investment by ROMACT budget per municipality / per year

**25,000€**

Net worth of projects currently under evaluation

**6,503,700€**



**134,588,259€**

Generated through 94 projects supported by ROMACT



# ROMACT in Romania



## ROMACT SUPPORTED PROJECT EXAMPLES



### Vulcan

Integrated education programme to reduce school dropout :

- Preventive measures for 800 children
- Second chance education tools for 200 early school leavers
- Capacity building for 260 education professionals

**2,022,539€**

Funded under the EU Commission's Operational Program Human Capital Priority Axis 6



### Moinesti

Modernization of the electrical installations within the Emergency Hospital

- Benefiting 21,787 inhabitants, including the Roma
- Enhanced safety and reliability within the hospital environment
- Compliance with safety and quality requirements, which is particularly important in a healthcare facility.

**2,935,337€**

Funded under European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)



### Sighisoara

Integrated measures for social inclusion of people at risk of poverty in marginalized communities in which there is population belonging to the Roma minority :

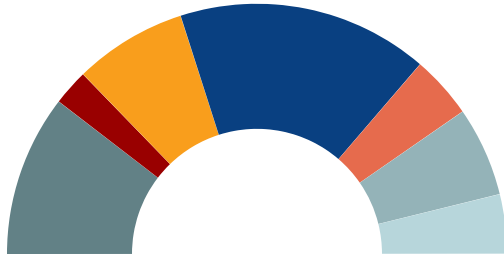
- Support in access to health care for 600 persons and legal assistance
- Support in professional skills development for 301 persons
- Support access to quality education for 132 preschool and school children

**2,839,598€**

Funded under Operational Program Human Capital Priority Axis 4.1

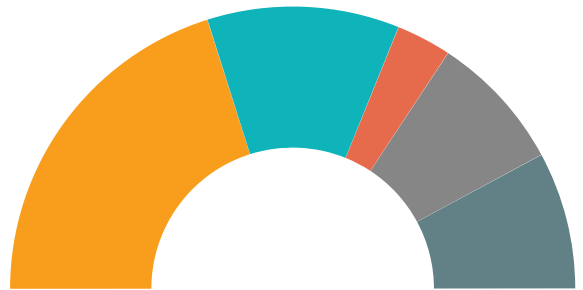


# Project Fields and Funding Sources for Romania



- Education (20.88%)
- Inclusion (14.62%)
- Housing (8.12%)
- Other (IDs, culture) (7.66%)
- Employment (4.64%)
- Infrastructure (32.48%)
- Health/COVID19 (11.6%)

Distribution by field



- ESF (40.25%)
- EACEA (6.29%)
- Other (15.72%)
- ERDF (22.01%)
- EEA (15.72%)

Funding sources

## Activities from the Joint Action Plans and Strategies implemented

**441**

Different interventions and activities and funded by local, regional and national budgets with ROMACT expertise



### Infrastructure and Housing

- Repairing roads, bridges, sewage and electricity network construction)
- Building or rehabilitation, support to access



### Health

- Information/vaccination campaigns
- Support in registering for health insurance/family GP, etc.

**46** municipalities invested local budget



### Education

- Second Chance Schools
- School after School Programmes
- Campaigns against drop-out, kindergarten construction)

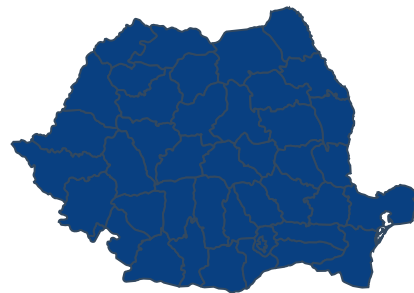


### Mediation and intercultural activities

- Recruitment of mediators and Roma experts
- Intercultural events

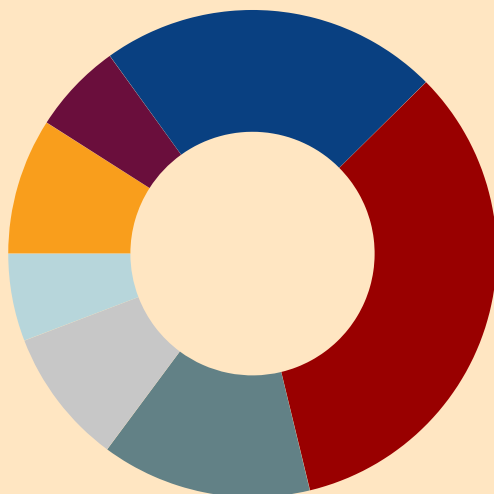
**72** municipalities invested local budget

# ROMACT in Romania



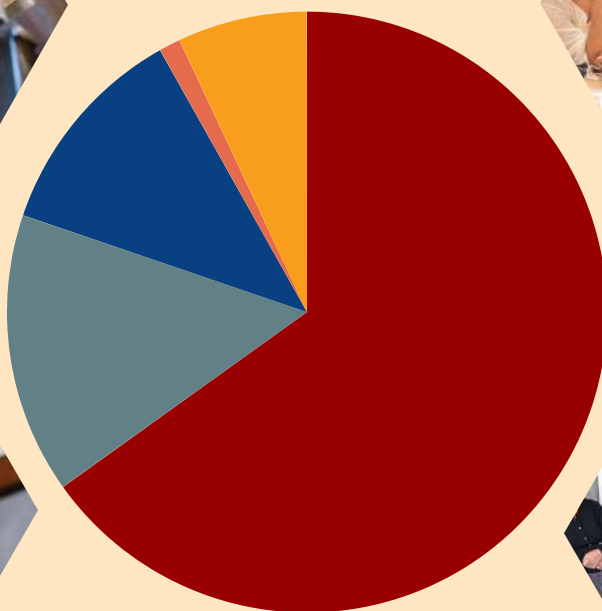
Activities from the Joint Action Plans and Strategies implemented

Distribution by field



■ Housing (9.05%)  
 ■ Employment (6.03%)  
 ■ Education (22.51%)  
■ Infrastructure (33.64%)  
 ■ Health (13.92%)  
■ Others ( culture, IDs, etc.) (9.05%)  
 ■ Humanitarian (5.8%)

Sources of funding



■ Local budget (65.12%)  
 ■ National funds (15.12%)  
■ European funds (11.63%)  
 ■ UN funds (1.16%)  
■ Others (Private companies, NGOs, fundraising campaigns) (6.98%)



# ROMACT in Romania

## CAPACITY BUILDING

411

training and coaching sessions

Training and coaching sessions for local authorities and community action groups

3773

participants

### Examples



Dolhasca

Training for Community Action Groups on community development



Braşov

Accessing structural & cohesion funds - certified training for Local Authorities



Sarmasu

Training for Local Authorities on the protection of children affected by migration



Draganesti Olt

Expert in accessing structural and cohesion funds (Certified training)



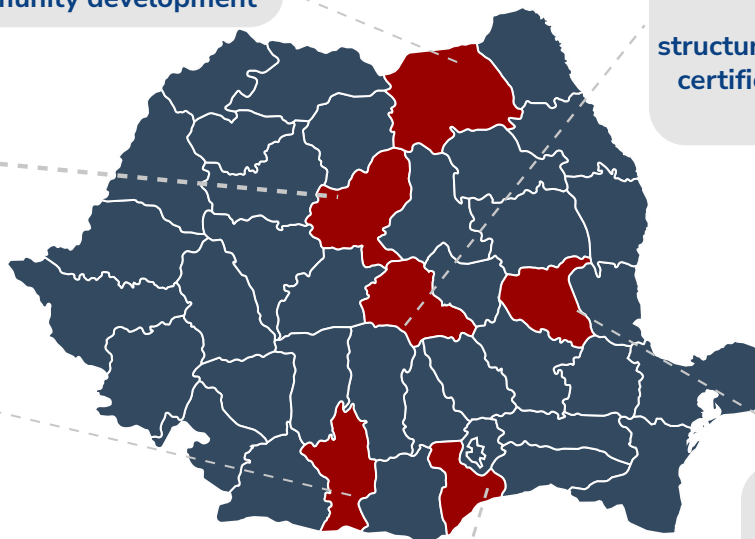
Bolintin Vale

Local Authorities and CAG joint training on Local Strategy development



Focsani

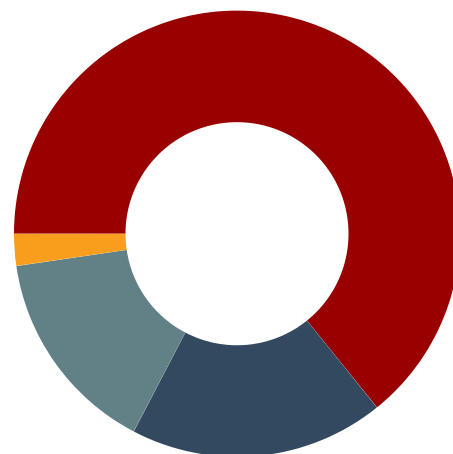
Local Authorities Training on Challenges in using MySMIS platform



*"An opportunity provided at an adequate moment. Thank you for the chance to attend this training course – I have been waiting for it for 10 years!"*

A municipal civil servant after a certified EU funds expert training in Brasov

### Training target groups



Local Authorities (LA) (64.2%)  
CAG (18.48%) LA & CAG (15.01%)  
Other (2.31%)

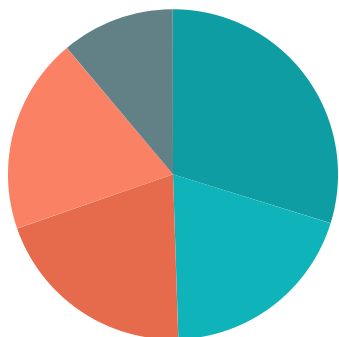


# ROMACT

## Capacity Building Incentives

Since 2020, the scheme supports municipalities and Community Action Groups (CAG) to implement local initiatives based on the needs of the most vulnerable communities and to multiply the good practices

- Health (29.8%)
- Aid (19.7%)
- Education (20.2%)
- Infrastructure (19.19%)
- Awareness raising (11.11%)



Distribution by field

**+130**

max. 5,000€ each

Grants for  
Municipalities, Community Action  
Groups and schools



**529,700€**

\* 17 grants were provided through other financial resources of the Council of Europe Roma and Travellers Team using ROMACT expertise and field teams' support



Support for further educational activities to help fighting school dropout



Improvement of street infrastructure



Awareness campaigns on health care and education

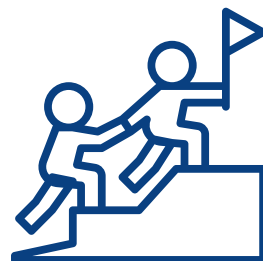


Provision of information and hygiene kits to help keeping the COVID-19 pandemic under control



Providing food and essential material assistance to help mitigate the impact of COVID-19

A basis for  
further  
development



# ROMACT Small Grants Scheme

## Examples

### Berkovitsa, Bulgaria



Improving the environment of the community and minimizing the risk to human health.

**4967,22 € ROMACT - 567,5€ Municipality**

### Podu Iloaiei, Romania



Procurement and installation of 300 m pipes enabled access to clean drinking water supply in the area and improved the living conditions of around 200 inhabitants drastically.

**5000€ ROMACT 1500€ Municipality**

### Belogradchik, Bulgaria



Renovation of a playground for a safe community space for 1500 residents, including children. Facilitating public discussions and workshops on "socially responsible and tolerant behavior in society" for families.

**5007€ ROMACT  
Municipality in-kind contribution**

### Isaccea, Romania



Provision of hygiene & food packages and information campaign for 300 vulnerable families during COVID19 pandemic. Telephone consultancy and specialized assistance for people in the high-risk group.

**4357€ ROMACT  
Municipality in-kind contribution**

# ROMACT

## Evidence-based support to the local & national authorities

ROMACT reports and guides are shared and discussed with local, national, and European stakeholders, including mayors, municipal associations, ministries, and representatives from the European Commission

Between November 2020 and January 2021, experts from the ROMACT Programme conducted a study to identify the challenges faced by children left behind in the municipalities it covers in Bulgaria.

### Guide on Social Housing Allocation Criteria

CRITERII DE ATRIBUIRE A LOCUINȚELOR SOCIALE  
GHID pentru autorități publice locale



This Guide is based on continuous needs assessments in ROMACT municipalities in Romania.


It supports Romanian local authorities in better understanding the social housing allocation methodology promoting the prevention of discriminatory allocation practices.



It combines both legal and social approaches and exemplifies potential restrictive criteria as well as criteria that are accessible and already used by some municipalities.



The report also includes several specific recommendations directed at various stakeholders, including parents, guardians, and relevant institutions, with the goal of minimizing the negative consequences for the children left behind by parents going abroad for work.

Scan the code for the report on Children left behind 



# ROMACT

## Evidence-based support to the local & national authorities

### Toolkit: Possible solutions for informal settlements

This Toolkit is dedicated to local public authorities in Romania who decide to enter in the process of legalizing these types of settlements and to design development projects together with the community.

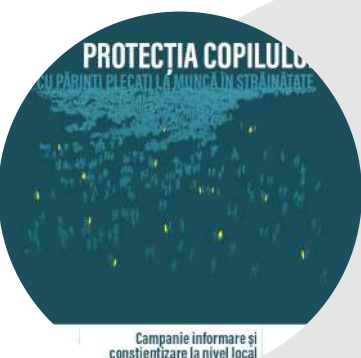
The toolkit addresses issues such as the steps to be taken, the analysis of informal settlements, the demarche for legalization and the local development planning.



### Guide on local information & awareness raising campaigns for the protection of children with parents going to work abroad

Fundamental rights of children left at home, such as the right to family and protection, the right to education, leisure, play and the right to opinion and participation are likely to be at risk.

This guide is intended for local specialists in Romania, who identify the need to organise such awareness actions, taking into account the steps to be followed when it comes to public sector action.



### Other ROMACT Reports and Studies

- ✓ ROMACT Review of the Operational Programmes proposed for Romania in the programming period 2021-2027
- ✓ Urban CLLD Projects in Romania. Report on challenges encountered by Local Public Authorities in nine ROMACT municipalities in implementing the 2014-2020 Projects and Recommendations of the Programming period 2021-2027
- ✓ Report on the analysis of the legal provisions regarding the social component of the public procurement
- ✓ Report on the Situation of Social Economy Structures in the ROMACT municipalities in Romania
- ✓ Guidelines for Conducting Public Procurement with Social Criteria in the ROMACT Municipalities in Romania



## Other ROMACT Reports and Studies



Guidelines for Permanent Address Registration and Issuance of an Identity Document in Bulgaria



Guidelines for Obtaining a Sustainable Status of Housing Constructions built without Construction Papers in Bulgaria



Analysis of Municipal Development Plans & Integrated Urban Reconstruction & Development plans of municipalities participating in ROMACT in Bulgaria



Report on children left behind in Bulgaria: between labour migration, institutional standards and extended family



Analysis of the challenges concerning registration at a permanent address and possession of identity documents of persons living in homes without valid lawful basis in Bulgaria



Analysis of the application of the Social Services Act with regard to preventive community work in Roma communities and in neighborhoods with a concentration of poverty in Bulgaria

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Resources  
web page



<https://coe-romact.org/resources>

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