

ROMACT

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CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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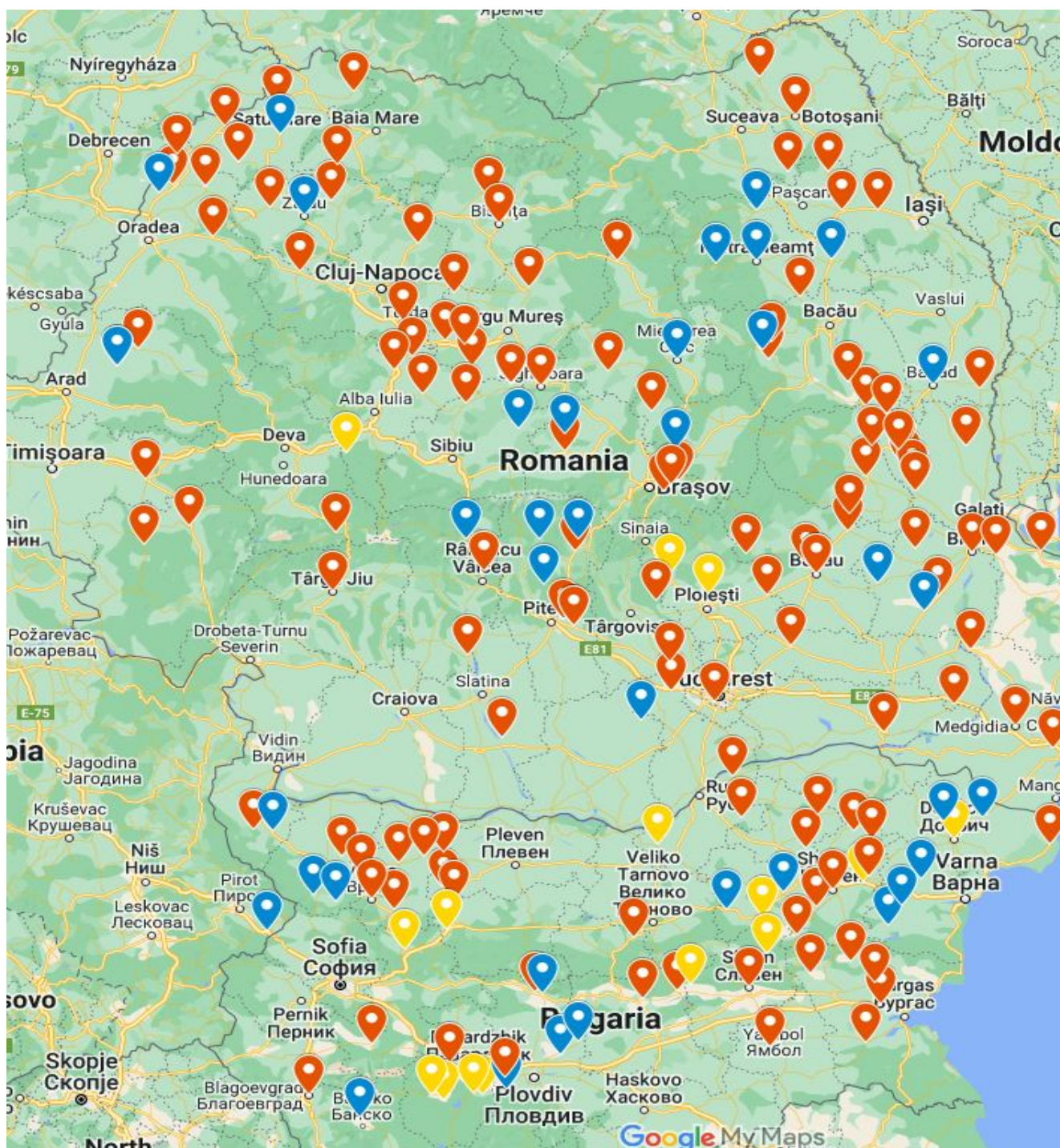
The programme assists local authorities in enhancing the lives of all citizens, including the Roma, by collaboratively assessing their needs, planning actions alongside all relevant stakeholders, and facilitating the implementation of these plans through concrete measures.



ROMACT METHODOLOGY HAS 4 STEPS TO FOLLOW DURING THE PROCESS



188 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



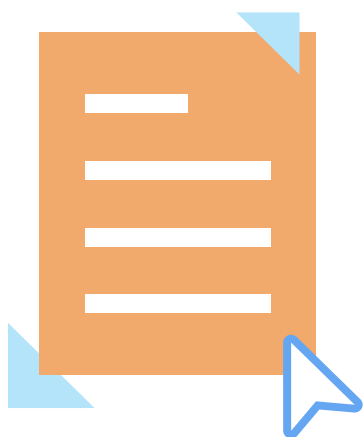
-  Closed
-  Ongoing
-  Reinforced

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



66 Municipalities participated in ROMACT between 2013-2023

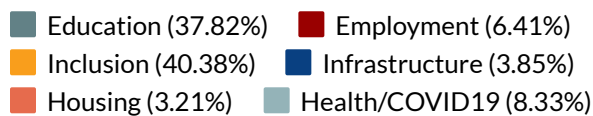
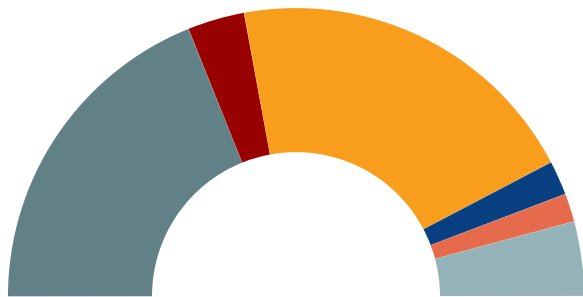


ROMACT expertise for municipalities involves training and guidance to prepare project proposals and implement inclusive policies aimed at improving the living conditions and social integration of vulnerable populations, including the Roma

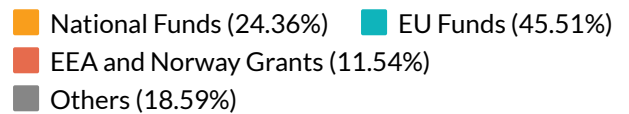
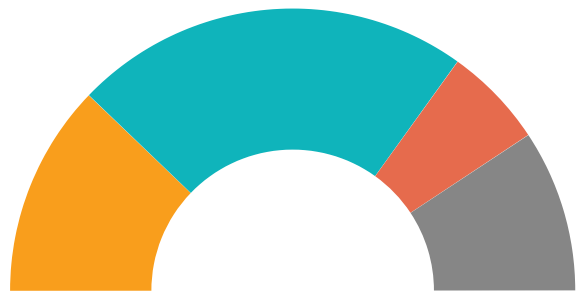
162

Project proposals are 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

25,000€



Net worth of 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



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

23,610,00€

Funded under Bulgaria's Human Resources Development (HRD) 2021 - 2027



Sungulare



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

177,146,00€

Funded under Bulgaria's Human Resources Development (HRD) 2021-2027



Lukovit



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
- Patronage care 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.

245,716,00€

Funded under European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)



ROMACT in Bulgaria



JOINT ACTION PLANS SUPPORTED BY ROMACT

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



ROMACT in Bulgaria

463

training and coaching sessions

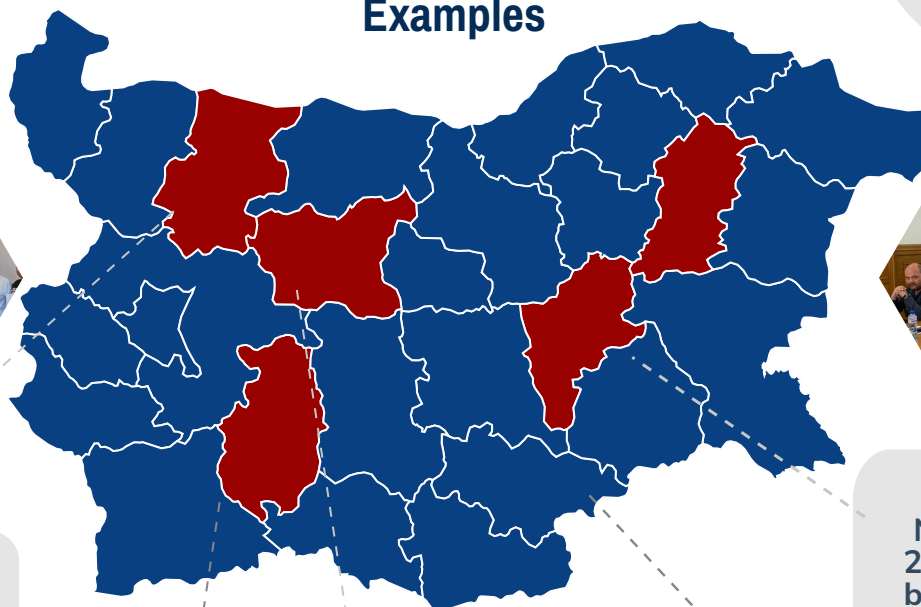
CAPACITY BUILDING

Training and coaching sessions for local authorities and community action groups

4564

participants

Examples



Borovan

Intercultural approach in education and work with Roma parents



Varbitsa

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

Rakitovo

Identifying the needs and priorities of the community

Lukovit

CAG coaching on participation in the Local budget consultation process

Sliven

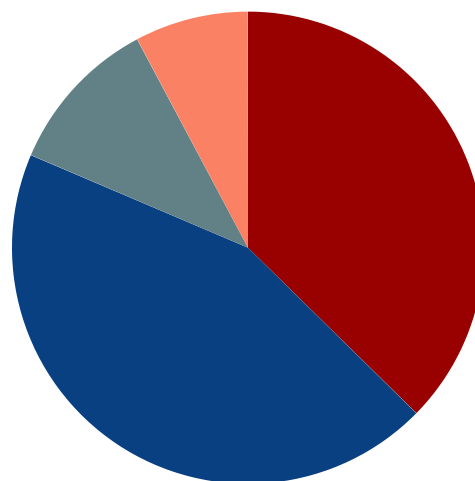
Local Authorities training on project planning and management

"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

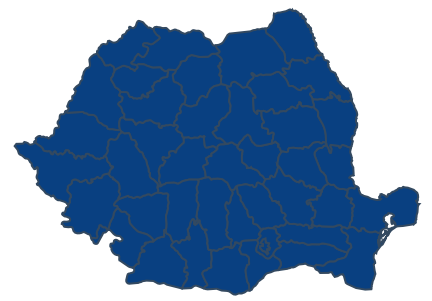


Training target groups



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

ROMACT in Romania



121 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

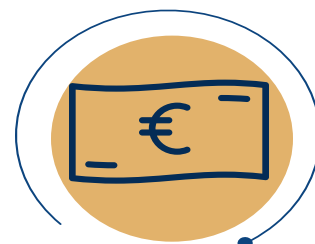
Average investment by ROMACT budget per municipality

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

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 :

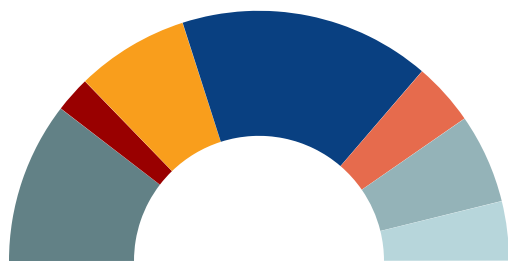
- Support in access to health care for 600 persons and legal assistance
- Support in professional skills development for 301 persons
- Support access to quality education for 132 preschool and school children

2,839,598€

Funded under Operational Program Human Capital Priority Axis 4.1

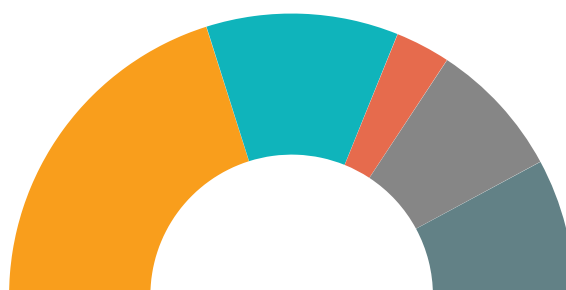


Project Fields and Funding Sources for Romania



- 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

JOINT ACTION PLANS SUPPORTED BY ROMACT

441

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

110

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

88

Education

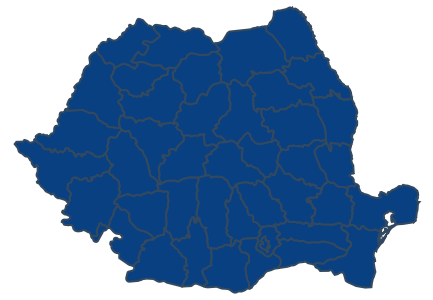
- Second Chance Schools
- School after School Programmes
- Campaigns against drop-out, kindergarten construction)

Mediation and intercultural activities

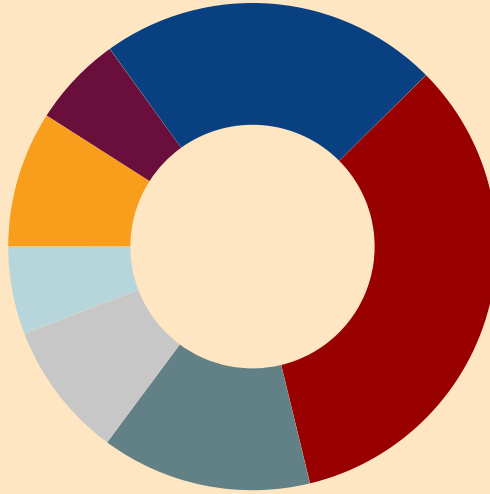
- Recruitment of mediators and Roma experts
- Intercultural events

72 municipalities invested local budget

ROMACT in Romania

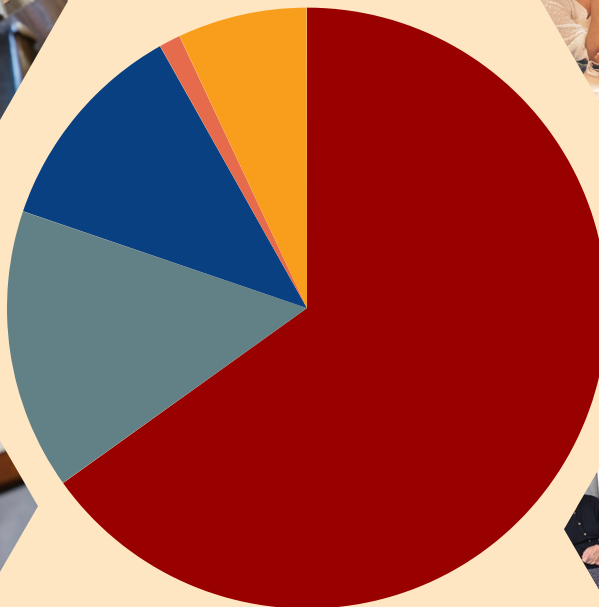


Distribution by field

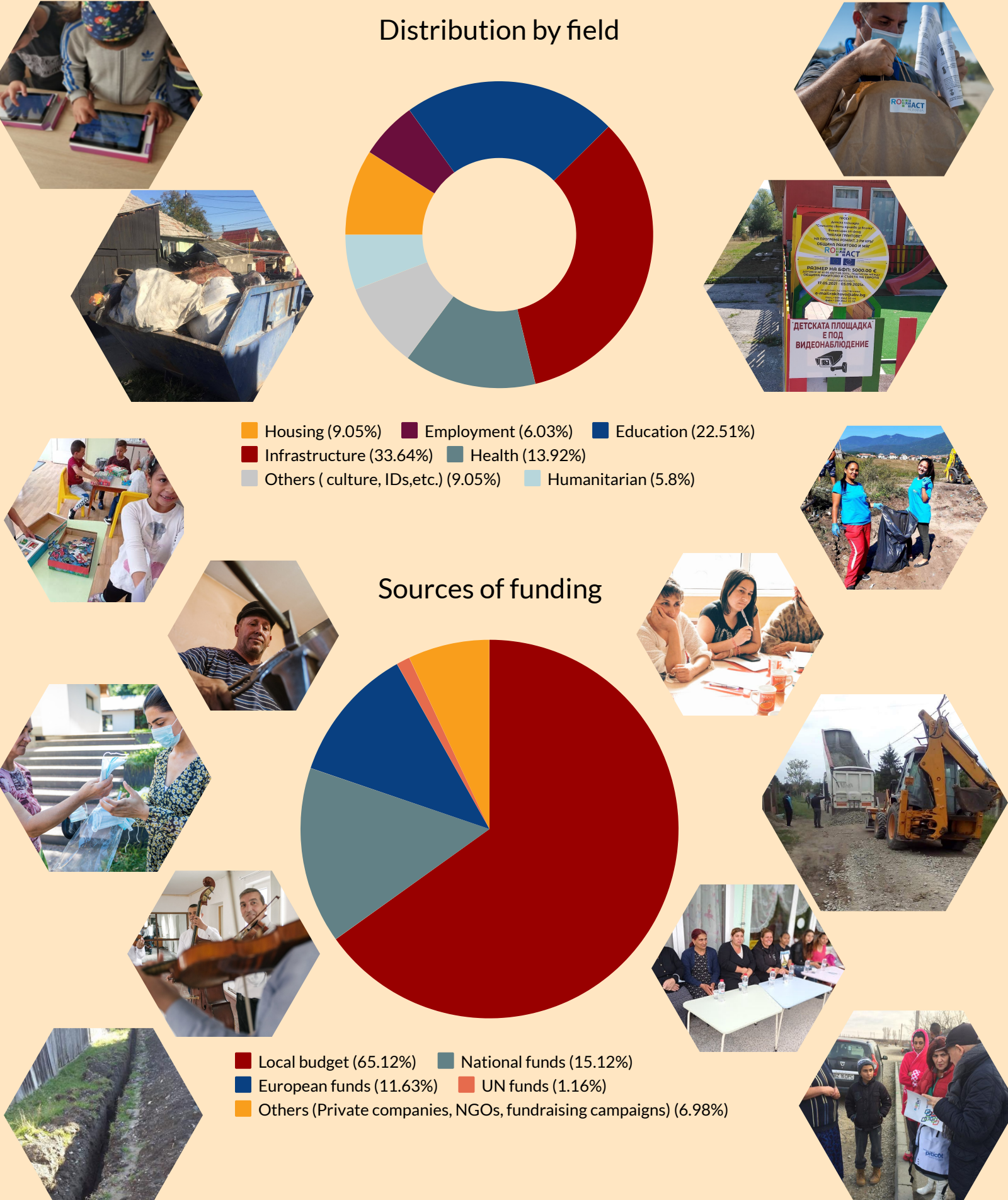


- Housing (9.05%)
- Employment (6.03%)
- Education (22.51%)
- Infrastructure (33.64%)
- Health (13.92%)
- Humanitarian (5.8%)
- Others (culture, IDs, etc.) (9.05%)

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



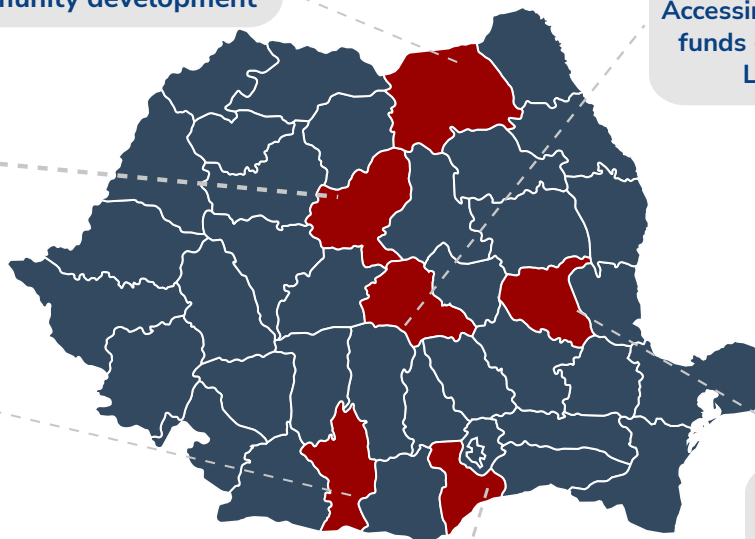
Braşov
Accessing structural & cohesion funds - certified training for Local Authorities



Sarmasu
Training for Local Authorities on the protection of children left behind



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



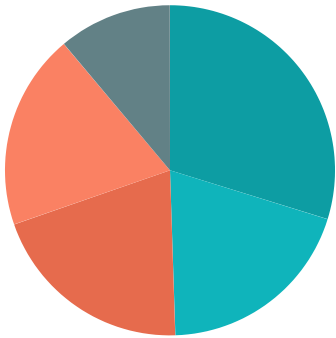
Local Authorities (LA) (64.2%)
CAG (18.48%) LA & CAG (15.01%)
Other (2.31%)

ROMACT

Small Grants Scheme

Since 2020, the scheme supports municipalities and Community Action Groups to respond together to 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

Grants for
Municipalities, Community Action
Groups and schools

max. 5,000€ each



529,700€

* 17 grants were provided through 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

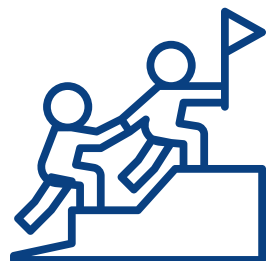


Provision of information and hygiene kits to help keeping the COVID-19 pandemic under control



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 in line with normal life in the community and minimize 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 pleasant and safe public place for a community of 1500 people and children. Organization of public discussions and workshops on “socially responsible and tolerant behaviour in society” for families and children.

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

Isaccea, Romania



Provision of hygiene & food packages and information campaign for 300 vulnerable families during COVID-19 pandemic. Telephone consultancy and specialized assistance for people in the high-risk group.

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

ROMACT

Evidence-based support to 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 encompasses in Bulgaria.



Guide on Social Housing Allocation Criteria

CRITERII DE ATRIBUIRE A LOCUINTELOR SOCIALE
GHID pentru autorități publice locale



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

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.



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.



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.

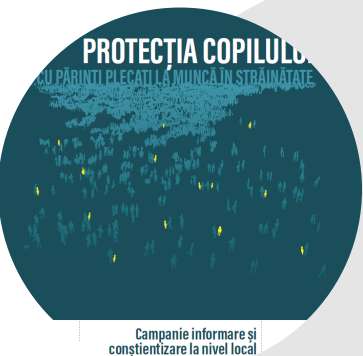
The toolkit addresses issues such as the steps to be taken, the analysis of informal settlements, the demarche for legalization and the local development planning. The local team can easily identify the tools it needs from the toolkit, as appropriate.



Guide on local information & awareness raising campaigns on 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 a campaign, 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

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