



ccme

churches' commission for migrants in europe

**Eurodiaconia**

# AN OVERVIEW OF DIACONAL WORK WITH ROMA AMONG MEMBERS OF EURODIACONIA AND CCME

## Introduction

The Eurodiaconia Roma Network and the CCME Roma Steering Group met together in February 2011 in Budapest, Hungary. One of the outcomes of this meeting was a request for a tool for members to better network and to gain an overview of which members are active with Roma. For this reason, in 2012 we carried out an initial mapping of members' work with Roma. The aim of the mapping exercise is to gain an overview of churches and diaconal organisations working with Roma and to facilitate networking by the sharing of contact information and basic information about the projects, services and programmes with Roma. We also sought to understand better some of our members' challenges in this field and areas on which they would like Eurodiaconia to work.

In this overview document, we have summarised the types of projects/ services members are running as well as some of the main challenges identified in their work. We have also summarised what members would like Eurodiaconia to do to support their work including topics for discussion in future Roma Network meetings. In the annex of this document, we have listed all the projects collected so far including the same information which features in the reference document (see below) *plus* information about the funding and partnerships.

In addition to this overview document, we also have a more concise version of members' answers in the form of a reference document. [The reference document](#) is aimed to be used as practical reference tool, giving basic information about the project and the contact details of the project manager/coordinator. This reference document is public and available to download on our website. It will be updated regularly therefore if you do not see your organisation represented in this document and you would like it to be, please contact Catherine Mallet [catherine.mallet@eurodiaconia.org](mailto:catherine.mallet@eurodiaconia.org) or Doris Peschke [doris.peschke@ccme.be](mailto:doris.peschke@ccme.be)

We hope that through this joint activity we will have a greater understanding of the contribution of both the churches and diaconal organisations to Roma inclusion in Europe, as well as some of the challenges our members face in this area of work. We also hope this exercise is effective in facilitating contact, exchange and learning between the respective members.



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**Eurodiaconia** is a federation of organisations, institutions and churches providing social and health services and education on a Christian value base throughout Europe. Eurodiaconia is registered as an AISBL in Belgium.

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**CCME** - the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (is the ecumenical agency on migration and integration, asylum and refugees, and against racism and discrimination in Europe. Members are Anglican, Orthodox and Protestant Churches and Councils of Churches as well as church-related agencies in presently 18 European countries. CCME cooperates with the Conference of European Churches and the World Council of Churches.

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## The projects

The 28 projects listed range from providing health care, food, education, vocational training, empowerment and housing to advocacy activities and mission work. The majority of the projects provide some kind of training for Roma as opposed to humanitarian aid. A total of 16 projects provide education for children and 9 projects give vocational training to adults. Only 3 projects provide food to Roma, while 8 projects provide health care and 6 projects focus on housing. A limited number of organisations engage in advocacy work.

About 8 projects included **lobbying activities** with local and national authorities to their project portfolio. One example is the Drop-in centre Hirundo, organised by the Helsinki Deaconess Institute, Finland. It organises meetings and discussions with politicians and uses the media by speaking about the challenges Roma face on the radio or local television. Another example is Kerk in Actie in the Netherlands who produced a DVD about statelessness and organised a discussion with members of political parties. The discussions have been followed up on a European level by MEPs and the European Commission.

The **number of staff and volunteers** varies depending on the size of the project. 10 projects have no volunteers at all and employ between 0,25 to 8,5 staff. 8 projects rely largely on volunteers as the number of volunteers is clearly above the number of employed staff. Only one project is run solely by volunteers.

Project **partners** range from local authorities, national authorities, NGOs, universities or schools to other diaconal organisations and churches. Almost all projects have established partnerships with one or more of the mentioned entities. This reflects the importance of partnerships for community-based projects that aim to foster the integration of the Roma population.

## The main challenges

### ***Relations with the majority population and cultural differences***

For many of the members, integration with the non-Roma population is a major challenge, because of differences in culture, traditions and life-style. Trust and relationships are hard to build due to language barriers.

One major challenge for our Czech members in particular is the inclusion of Roma children into the mainstream Czech school system. Segregated education is still a major problem in the Czech Republic as Roma children are often still taught together with children who have disabilities. Our members also find it a challenge to support the peaceful coexistence of the minority and majority population and to include the Roma community in the wider community.

In terms of labour market integration, our members in Finland find it hard to reach some Roma people because they do not make use of the employment office's services. Furthermore, potential employers still have negative attitudes towards Roma people. Also, working or volunteering with Roma has been challenging for our Finnish members due to language barriers and suspicious attitudes towards Roma. They also find it challenging to activate Roma men when trying to organise sports activities for them. In general our members say that one of the most important challenges is to create a good relationship with the Roma based on mutual trust.

In Hungary, one challenge identified was the poor social conditions and different traditions to do with family culture. They see that while the father is absent, school-age boys must assume family-head position, which affects motivation for attending school. They often choose to start working from a younger age rather than to continue studying.

### ***The political and socio-economic context***

For several of our members, they say that the lack of political will or discrimination against the Roma is a major obstacle to inclusion. This, together with high levels of unemployment and poverty in a country can seriously prevent inclusion.

In Finland, social inclusion of Roma migrants is not yet developed or understood as a concept and is not a goal at the political level. Members in the Netherlands stress that the negative image Roma have in all parts of civil society and in politics is a major obstacle to Roma inclusion. For the Church of Sweden, the main work with Roma people today in parishes concerns newly arrived asylum seekers from Kosovo and Serbia. Almost all asylum applications from this group are rejected and their situation is a concern for many parish workers, especially deacons.

In Slovakia, our members say that the biggest challenge is general poverty in the country and the lack of jobs available. Several prospective Roma leaders left for the UK or other countries to make money. Alcohol and drug addiction in the Roma families and low levels of education is also mentioned as a serious issue. In Kosovo, the low of education of Roma and difficulties to engage them in training and education is cited as a challenge.

### ***Human resources, staff and volunteers***

According to our Finnish members, in order for their Roma projects to be successful, it is important that there are staff members who belong to the Roma minority themselves. However, there are sometimes conflicting groups inside the Roma community that make it impossible for some people to work with each other. Evaluation has shown that their work with Roma is highly dependent on a few educated and skilful Roma people, which forms a risk for the continuity of the work. Other members cite the lack of volunteers is a problem. Again, cultural differences and language barriers often hinder communication and block the building of positive relationships and trust.

### ***Funding, resources and sustainability***

For many members, long-term and sustainable funding resources for Roma inclusion projects are difficult to find. In particular members in Romania say that financial sustainability and long-term sustainability of the results among the target group and the local community is a major challenge. Similarly for Hungarian members, scarce financial support and finding long-term funding sources as well as heavy paperwork is a challenge. They struggle to find and establish the right financial and infrastructural conditions for their work with Roma. Other organisations also mention that starting up original or first time initiatives can be the greatest challenge. According to members in Serbia, the greatest challenge was initially to motivate the local municipality to contribute financially to the project. They now have the challenge of replicating the project in a different location where the context is very different.

Members use different sources of funding. A unique example is the Hungarian Interchurch Aid project as it is receiving exclusively corporate funding. Other sources of funding include EU funding such as from the European Social Fund and the EU Refugee Fund as well as funding from the national and local authorities or partner countries. About half of the projects are funded through the church or through donations.

## **How Eurodiaconia can support their work**

Most members would like to Eurodiaconia to organise meetings and workshops to facilitate exchange of best practice and experiences among partners interested in working on housing, education, and employment of Roma.

It was suggested that Eurodiaconia could facilitate exchange visits for the staff to learn from similar best-practice projects and best-practice models. It was also suggested that Eurodiaconia could coordinate short-term internships in other countries (ideally funded by Eurodiaconia).

It was suggested that Eurodiaconia could keep members updated on EU level progress and events on Roma issues, announcing calls for proposals, funding opportunities and facilitating related communication and networking. (It is to be noted that this already happens in the format of the monthly Roma e-news and the online Network pages). Members would like Eurodiaconia to stress and communicate to the EU that European funds or others subsidies must not only be available for starting new activities but also for the support and sustainability of ongoing projects.

*“We have the experience that is easier to get support for new activities and the sustainability can be than problematic” Member of Eurodiaconia*

Members suggested that Eurodiaconia advocate for rights on adequate housing of Roma at EU level, and more specifically, Dutch member Kerk in Actie requested that Eurodiaconia bring the problem of statelessness into the EU.

For the Church of Sweden, they need help to find more ways of engaging with the Roma community. They explain that many Roma are also members of the Church of Sweden. It is partly the task of the Church of Sweden to work with national minorities but work with the Roma has much less attention and support than the work with the Sami people or the Finnish speaking Swedes for example.

## Topics / issues members would like to discuss or explore

- Tackling Roma issues as part of a community development program.
- Identify donors to support the functioning and the development of projects
- Learning about other countries' experiences and activities in this context
- Migrant Roma, especially the question of how to build transnational cooperation, and how to promote interaction between the countries of origin and countries of destination.
- How to improve the image of Roma, and how to help the youngsters in the Roma community with positive role models
- Better living conditions
- Better education and more employment
- Housing in the EU context and how to implement EHOs housing project for Roma in an international context

## Putting members' experiences in the European context

In 2011, the European Commission took the positive and ambitious step of writing a European Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies. The framework identified four crucial areas to integrate Roma socially and economically, namely in the areas of education, employment, healthcare and housing. According to the Framework, every Member State had to update or design and implement a National Roma Integration Strategy (NRIS) applying minimum standards in order to address the basic needs of their respective Roma population. In this overview of our members' projects, it is evident that our members' work with Roma addresses the four focus areas and is in line with the Framework objectives. Although some of the projects are concentrated on either one of the four areas, we always stress the need for an integrated and holistic approach in the inclusion process because of the interrelated causes of poverty and social exclusion.

Regarding the impact of the European Commission's efforts to harmonise integration policies for Roma on a national level, our members will be working on the ground to assess the implementation of the National Strategies and the progress made on a local level. We carried out this initial assessment in 2012 on the National Roma Integration Strategies (NRIS) ([see here to read assessment](#)) and we will continue to assess the implementation in the second half of 2013. Furthermore, to achieve goals towards the integration of Roma, which also contribute to achieving Europe 2020 targets related to education, employment and fighting poverty, we stress that sufficient funding must be allocated from national budgets. Eurodiaconia will therefore also try to assess whether sufficient funding has been accessible for the implementation of the NRIS.

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# THEMATIC KEY

Education



Pastoral Care



Housing



Information/  
counselling/advice



Healthcare



Employment



Advocacy



# CZECH REPUBLIC

## Organisation: Diakonie ČCE

### 1. Name of project: *Rubikon*

- **Description:** Drop in centre for children and youth (6-26 years).
- **Location:** Vsetín, Czech Republic
- **Aim of project:** Help with inclusion in the majority society
- **Staff and volunteers:** 5 workers, 4 volunteers
- **Annual number of beneficiaries:** Directly 126 people (indirectly members of their families)
- **How Roma are involved:** Some of the workers and volunteers in 2011 were of Roma origin, they implement individual planning of services with users (so they can affect the services). Some lectures and discussions on current topics took place at the instigation of people.
- **Project Developments:** The work has extended from focussing on children to take into account and working with their families and the wider community. The organisation would like to develop a method to raise awareness for the cultural differences between Roma and non-Roma in schools.
- **Partnerships:** No partnerships. The organisation is involved with the community committee for ethnic minorities.
- **Funding and sustainability:** The project is funded through the municipality, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Social Affairs, funds from regional authorities, the ESF, the Council of the government for Roma issues and through a Czech-Swiss partnership. The funding available varies every year, which is why the services are not equally available every year. In 2012 the organisation had to reduce the number of workers and services rapidly.

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### 2. Name of project: *Mozaika*

- **Description:** Services for families with children (including education, housing, debts...)
- **Location:** Vsetín, Czech Republic
- **Aim of project:** Help with inclusion in the majority society
- **Staff and volunteers:** 7 workers (less in 2012)
- **Annual number of beneficiaries:** Directly 52 families (indirectly members of wider families)
- **Project Developments:** The work has extended from focussing on children to take into account and working with their families and the wider community.
- **Partnerships:** No partnerships. The organisation is involved with the community committee for ethnic minorities.
- **Funding and sustainability:** The project is funded through the municipality, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Social Affairs, funds from regional authorities, the ESF, the Council of the government for Roma issues and through a Czech-Swiss partnership. The funding available varies every year, which is why the services are not equally available every year. In 2012 the organisation had to reduce the number of workers and services rapidly.

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# FINLAND

## Organisation: Helsinki Deaconess Institute (HDI)

### 1. Name of project: *Drop-in Centre Hirundo*

- **Description:** Drop-In Centre which provides acute humanitarian aid, promotes access to acute health and social services, prevents marginalization and discrimination among EU Roma and non-Roma migrants in Helsinki.
- **Location:** Finland, Helsinki metropolitan area
- **Aim of project:** Accessibility of migrant Roma to different services has been improved, including acute health services, employment counselling; mediation in between Roma and different institutions has been enhanced; a space of communication and participation among Roma migrants has been developed.
- **Staff and volunteers:** 3,5 staff and occasional volunteers
- **Annual number of beneficiaries:** 2000-3000
- **How Roma are involved:** Roma organisations have planned the project with the personnel. There is a Roma part time worker. Regular meetings and discussions are held with Roma people.
- **Project Developments:** HDI has been the first Finnish actor to establish services for the Roma migrants and to do outreach activities among them. In the future we plan to strengthen the cooperation with the home communities of the migrants in Eastern Europe. The challenge is to promote long term, comprehensive solutions, and find solutions together with Roma.
- **Partnerships:** Hirundo is a joint effort by the City of Helsinki Social Services Department, the Parish Union of Helsinki, and the HDI. Other major partners include the Evangelical Lutheran Church
- **Funding and sustainability:** The project receives joint funding by the Helsinki Deaconess Institute, the Social Services Department of the City of Helsinki, and the Parish Union of Helsinki. Nevertheless, the continuity of the funding is uncertain and therefore it is difficult to plan activities in the long term.

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### 2. Name of project: *Roma people to school! Project*

- **Description:** Project develops services and structures in education that are suitable for Roma people.
- **Location:** Finland, Helsinki metropolitan area
- **Aim of project:** Project has created new networks, especially in the City of Espoo, and new working methods which compile family work and school counselling.
- **Staff and volunteers:** 2 staff members
- **Annual number of beneficiaries:** Estimation is difficult because the project does not educate or employ people but aims to change and develop methods and structures.
- **How Roma are involved:** Roma organisations planned the project with the Helsinki Deaconess Institute there has been at least one Roma member in every project team.
- **Project Developments:** A network has been established in the course of the project, which will continue to operate after the closure of the project. Methods developed for family workers and school counsellors will be applied beyond the project period.
- **Partnerships:** The project is a joint effort by the City of Helsinki Social Services, Omnia (Joint Authority of Education in Espoo Region), the Church Training College in Jarvenpaa and Helsinki Deaconess Institute. It furthermore collaborates with local schools in order to support Roma drop-outs and support Roma families to help their children to continue further education.
- **Funding and sustainability:** The project is co-funded by the Helsinki Deaconess Institute and the European Regional Development Fund. The created network and developed methods will carry on even after the project terminates.

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**3. Name of project:** *Tempo Project*

- **Description:** The project aims to find jobs and education for Finnish Roma adults.
- **Location:** Helsinki metropolitan area
- **Aim of project:** 90 Roma people have found employment, internship or education with the help of the project.
- **Staff and volunteers:** 4 staff members
- **Annual number of beneficiaries:** 90 Roma people have found employment, internship or education with the help of the project.
- **How Roma are involved:** There is a Roma member in the working team and in the steering committee.
- **Project Developments:** The project has developed a job-coaching method and a support model for employers. The model will be used even after the project closure.
- **Partnerships:** Tempo collaborates with the employment offices, social workers and schools in order to create suitable education and job paths for Roma.
- **Funding and sustainability:** Tempo is funded by the Centre of Economic Development Transport and the Environment of Uusimaa, Finland as well as the Helsinki Deaconess Institute.

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**4. Name of project:** *Day Centre Kaalo*

- **Description:** Day Centre assists clients with information and access to services that they may need. It provides activities ranging from entertainment and exercise to information sessions.
- **Location:** Finland, Helsinki metropolitan area
- **Aim of project:** Aim is to promote inclusion of Roma people in Finnish society.
- **Staff and volunteers:** 2 staff members
- **Annual number of beneficiaries:** 200
- **How Roma are involved:** All the clients and personnel of Day Centre belong to the Roma minority. Clients participate in the planning of the activities.
- **Project Developments:** The day centre has been a major support service centre for Roma people in Helsinki metropolitan area. It has enhanced the inclusion of Roma people in Finnish society, provided access to various services, guidance in education options and employment. In addition, prison work among Roma has been an important part of the work.
- **Partnerships:** The Day Centre Kaalo collaborates with the City of Helsinki Social Services, Health Services, police as well as prison authorities. Also, contacts with local Roma associations has been established.
- **Funding and sustainability:** The project receives funding by the Finnish Slot Machine Association and is co-funded by the Helsinki Deaconess Institute. The funding by the Finnish Slot Machine Association is expected to continue in the foreseen future. Such long-term funding has made it possible to develop operations systemically.

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#### 5. Name of project: *Music activities for Roma youth*

- **Description:** Roma youth have participated in regular music activities, established an own choir and performed as a choir and smaller groups in various occasions. Along with the rehearsals, youth have had an opportunity to discuss their life, education and employment paths with a social worker.
- **Location:** Finland, Helsinki metropolitan area
- **Aim of project:** Project prevents social exclusion of young Roma people through arts education.
- **Staff and volunteers:** 0,25 staff
- **Annual number of beneficiaries:** 100
- **How Roma are involved:** All the participants and the personnel of the project belong to the Roma minority.
- **Project Developments:** The project has provided youth with a choirmaster, place for rehearsals, musical instruments, accessories and opportunities to perform. In addition, it has provided youth with peer support, social learning and guidance in future education options and career planning.
- **Partnerships:** The Finnish Children and Youth Foundation (FCYF) supports the project by offering communication tools and counselling for staff members. The outreach work of the project is conducted by the City of Helsinki Youth Department and local Roma associations. It is conducted in close collaboration with the Day Centre Kaalo.
- **Funding and sustainability:** The project receives funding from the Myrsky Cultural Youth Programme and is co-funded by the Helsinki Deaconess Institute.

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#### 6. Name of project: *Sport activities for Roma men*

- **Description:** Roma men have started regular exercise by playing volley ball (elders) and floorball (youngsters). After exercise, they discuss different aspects of a healthy lifestyle with a social worker.
- **Location:** Finland, Helsinki metropolitan area
- **Aim of project:** Project promotes regular exercise and healthy living among Roma men
- **Staff and volunteers:** 0,25 staff
- **Annual number of beneficiaries:** 40-50
- **How Roma are involved:** All the participants and the personnel of the project belong to the Roma minority.
- **Project Developments:** A meeting place for men of different ages has been created during the project to facilitate a social learning process.
- **Partnerships:** The project is conducted in close collaboration with the Day Centre Kaalo.
- **Funding and sustainability:** Funding is received by the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Helsinki Deaconess Institute. The project hopes to create awareness so that Roma men include exercise and healthy lifestyle as a part of their normal life.

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#### 7. Name of project: *Health promotion camps for Roma men*

- **Description:** Project promotes healthy lifestyle among Roma men.
- **Location:** Finland, Helsinki metropolitan area
- **Aim of project:** Participants learn non-formal skills that promote healthy lifestyle
- **Staff and volunteers:** 0.25 staff members
- **Annual number of beneficiaries:** 200
- **How Roma are involved:** Most of personnel and all of clients belong to Roma minority. Clients participate the planning of the camps.

- **Project Developments:** So far, not all people interested have been able to participate in the campo due to lack of funding. Therefore, further funding has been applied for from different sources.
- **Partnerships:** The project is conducted in close collaboration with the Day Centre Kaalo.
- **Funding and sustainability:** Both the City of Helsinki Health Centre and the Helsinki Deaconess Institute fund the project. The project hopes to create awareness so that Roma men include exercise and healthy lifestyle as a part of their normal life.

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**8. Name of project:** *Evaluation of social work in prisons*

- **Description:** Advocacy project which is conducted in close cooperation with the Day Centre Kaalo and in collaboration with the Criminal Sanctions Agency.
- **Location:** Finland, Helsinki metropolitan area
- **Aim of project:** The aim is to evaluate social impacts of social Roma work in prisons.
- **Staff and volunteers:** 0.25 staff members
- **Annual number of beneficiaries:** 70
- **How Roma are involved:** Most of the interviewed personnel and prisoners belong to Roma minority.
- **Project Developments:** The evaluations carried out have shown the importance of good planning and the importance of evaluating social impacts from the very beginning of a project.
- **Partnerships:** The Project is conducted in close collaboration with the Day Centre Kaalo. The evaluation was conducted in collaboration with the Criminal Sanctions Agency.
- **Funding and sustainability:** The National Council for Crime Prevention and the Helsinki Deaconess Institute funded the project.

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## HUNGARY

### Organisation: Hungarian Interchurch Aid (HIA)

**1. Name of project:** *Development House*

- **Description:** Individual and group development of Roma children through afterschool trainings and organised playtime
- **Location:** Hungary, Olaszliszka
- **Aim of project:** Individual and group development of Roma children through afterschool trainings and organised playtime
- **Staff and volunteers:** 6-8 staff members (full-time and part-time included), 1-2 volunteers (from the local community)
- **Annual number of beneficiaries:**
- **How Roma are involved:** volunteering in the project
- **Project Developments:** A first project period has already been carried out in the early 2000s. The experiences were used when designing the current programme.
- **Partnerships:** The project was coordinated with the Ministry of National Resources and with local education, health and social authorities.
- **Funding and sustainability:** Until 2011, the project was funded by Hungarian governmental funding through a co-operation agreement. Since June 2011, it is funded from corporate funding. Due to the nature of the activities, the programme cannot be sustained without governmental funding.

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## Organisation: Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary, (Magyarországi Evangélikus Egyház)

### 1. Name of project: *Lutheran Roma College*

- **Location:** Nyíregyháza, Hungary
- **Description:** Providing a community in a dormitory setting with extracurricular activities – supporting the emergence of church-related Roma intellectuals. Beside their university studies, the students receive a special emphasis on Roma-Hungarian traditions.
- **Aim of project:** To provide safe circumstances for the Roma college/university students
- **Staff and volunteers:** Staff members: 6
- **Annual number of beneficiaries:** Right now strictly 20, but the number is growing to 80
- **How Roma are involved:** They can shape their college life
- **Project Developments:** The project runs since 2011 and the monitoring of developments is ongoing.
- **Partnerships:** The Ministry of Public Administration and Justice is involved in the project implementation. Furthermore, the College of Nyiregyhaza, the Health Institute of Nyiregyhaza and the Network of the Christian Roma College play a role in the project implementation.
- **Funding and sustainability:** The project is funded through ELCH and the state.

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### 2. Name of project: *Oltalom Szeretetszolgálat*

- **Description:** Social services with many clients from the Roma population
- **Location:** Nyíregyháza, Hungary
- **Aim of project:** To help people to solve their social problems by providing a temporary home for families and a temporary home for homeless with a daytime shelter for addicts
- **Staff and volunteers:** staff members: 49 volunteers: 12
- **Annual number of beneficiaries:** 500 are helped, from these 10% are Roma
- **Project Developments:** The goal is to keep the project running.
- **Partnerships:** The Ministry of National Resources, the City Council and the local Roma government are involved.
- **Funding and sustainability:** The project is funded by the state.

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### 3. Name of project: *Education for children, counselling and mission for adults*

- **Location:** Lutheran Congregation in Sárszentlőrinc
- **Description:** Education for children, counselling and mission for adults
- **Aim of project:** Help the children with their studies. For the adults, to find a more complete life by the help of the Church, Christian faith
- **Staff and volunteers:** staff members: 2, volunteers: 8
- **Annual number of beneficiaries:** 80
- **How Roma are involved:** Roma are also involved in the mission work

- **Project Developments:** There is a slow, but continuous development. We are making effort to keep this tendency by involving more co-workers.
- **Partnerships:** The organisation has a partnership with the Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Hungary, the local government, and the local Roma government.
- **Funding and sustainability:** The project is funded through ELCH and the state. These funds ensure sustainability.

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**Location:** Sárszentlőrinc, Hungary



#### 4. Name of project: "Jump-in" programme

- **Description:** Education for children, counselling and mission for adults. Educational, cultural, religious centre, care for addicts, social farming program, home care program, information and consultancy centre for youth, motivational camps.
- **Location:** Lutheran Congregation in Nyírszőlős
- **Aim of project:** To help people achieve a better standard of life through services mentioned above
- **Staff and volunteers:** staff members: 23, volunteers: 28
- **Annual number of beneficiaries:** 300 (80% Roma)
- **How Roma are involved:** Target persons and also co-workers at the same time
- **Project Developments:** There is a slow, but continuous development. We are making effort to keep this tendency by involving more co-workers.
- **Partnerships:** The project is running in partnership with the Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Hungary, the local government, the Roma government and the Anti-Poverty Network.
- **Funding and sustainability:** The project is funded through ELCH and the state. These funds ensure sustainability.

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**Location:** Nyírtelek, Hungary



#### 5. Name of project: Adult counselling and mission

- **Description:** Adult counselling and mission at the Lutheran Church
- **Location:** Lutheran Church in Orosháza, Hungary
- **Aim of project:** Help the children with their studies. For the adults, to find a more complete life by the help of the Church, Christian faith
- **Staff and volunteers:** staff member: 1, Volunteers: 15
- **Annual number of beneficiaries:** 100
- **How Roma are involved:** Roma are also involved in the mission work
- **Project Developments:** There is a slow, but continuous development. We are making effort to keep this tendency by involving more co-workers.
- **Partnerships:** The organisation has a partnership with the Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Hungary, the local government, and the local Roma government.
- **Funding and sustainability:** The project is funded through ELCH and the state. These funds ensure sustainability.

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**Location:** Orosháza, Hungary



## Organisation: The Reformed Church of Hungary (Magyarországi Református Egyház Ungarn)

### 1. Name of project: *Mission in the Hős Street*

- **Description:** Volunteers make home visits and lead Bible studies and discussion groups
- **Location:** Budapest, Hungary
- **Aim of project:** make disciples of Christ, and develop a regular Bible study and discussion club
- **Staff and volunteers:** 4 volunteers
- **Annual number of beneficiaries:** 70
- **Project Developments:** There has been a steady row of visitations. The project is becoming known and respected in the area. The plan for the future is to make a weekly Bible club for children and adults.
- **Partnerships:** The project runs in partnership with the volunteer Diaconal Year programme in the Reformed Church.
- **Funding and sustainability:** The project is funded through contributions from volunteers, through the local church and through a grant from the Ministry of Public Administration. Sustainability is fragile on the mundane level. Hence, more funding would help to ensure sustainability.

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### 2. Name of project: *"Tanoda Programme", Children's House, Reformed Mission Centre*

- **Description:** The **Tanoda programme** covers first and foremost the development of the age-group 10-14 and with free time activities. The Children's House cares for families with children at the age of 0-5. It gives family management and educational advice. It notes the disturbances of development and in such cases directs them to the proper specialists or if it is possible brings these services directly to the family.
- **Location:** Dencsháza, Hungary
- **Aim of project:** An important element of the programme is to prevent the children from dropping-out of school and to receive school-leaving certificate or qualifications. Parents gain reinforcement in their roles as parents, their self-confidence grows and they learn things they could not before. We prepare the students in subjects they have difficulties individually or in small groups. They have the opportunity to participate in organised programmes. It forms a self-helping community which helps families by mutual motivation.
- **Staff and volunteers:** 3 staff and 3 volunteers
- **Annual number of beneficiaries:** 200
- **How Roma are involved:** Before starting the programme we engaged Roma people by informing them, and regular family visits.
- **Project Developments:** The organisers would like to continue the work and plan to realise a job creating system.
- **Partnerships:** The organisers work together with the local Roma authority, the local school, the kindergarten, the local authority, the district nurse service and the family support service.
- **Funding and sustainability:** The project is running through donations and EU funding. Without the EU competitions it is hardly sustainable.

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### 3. Name of project: *István Wáli Reformed Roma Collegium.*

- **Description:** The aim of the project is to support the professional development of young Roma studying in higher education. In addition we have publications in press and we hope for long-term effects.
- **Location:** Debrecen, Hungary
- **Aim of project:** Apart from striving after professional excellence the aim of our College is to have our students socially aware, able to analyse and oversee social processes, and have ambition for dialogue. We try to keep in touch with the student's family and help them. The plan is to provide after-care. In case of graduating students we will help to find a job as well.
- **Staff and volunteers:** 3 full time staff
- **Annual number of beneficiaries:** 16
- **How Roma are involved:** At the beginning in 2010 the employment of colleagues with Roma origins was very important. We have found the right people. Before the semester starts we are inviting students by advertising in congregations, electronic study networks and Roma local governments
- **Project Developments:** After two semesters have ended, we have agreed on the method to reach our objectives. Another aim is to finish the professional projects. In the future the project wishes to develop its infrastructure, to have tangible assets and to welcome more students.
- **Partnerships:** Partnerships have been established with the Ministry of Public Administration and Justice, the Reformed Church of Hungary, the Debrecen Reformed Theological University and the Hungarian Reformed Church Aid.
- **Funding and sustainability:** The project is financed by the church and the ministry. For the future the organisers want to apply for TÁMOP funding. Without EU funding it is hard for the project to sustain the educational activities. Individual support would also be useful and important to ensure sustainability.

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**Location:** Debrecen, Hungary



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## ITALY

### Organisation: Diaconia Valdese

#### 1. Name of project: *Sportello Migranti (the door for migrants)*

- **Description:** The project with these two families has involved the Waldensian Church in Florence, just for three months so far. It is too soon to know of the impact. The church helped with education, housing, healthcare, employment, providing food, clothes, especially baby clothes
- **Location:** Chiesa Evangelica Valdese di Firenze, Florence, Italy
- **Aim of project:** to support Roma families with finding housing, employment etc.
- **Staff and volunteers:** 1 deacon, 10 volunteers
- **Annual number of beneficiaries:** Our project is aimed to two families including five children under 18
- **How Roma are involved:** Participation in public conferences where they tell about their experiences and about their wish for change. They organised meals for church communities
- **Project Developments:** Two families who were sent away were followed-up by volunteers. The Waldensian Church takes part by employing a person part-time who is making contact with schools and helps with the search for employment.
- **Partnerships:** The project involves local schools, other volunteer associations and catholic and evangelical churches.
- **Funding and sustainability:** The project is funded by the volunteer association and the Waldensian Church. Until now, there is no proper fundraising plan. The volunteers provide self funding or look for temporary employment.

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## KOSOVO

### Organisation: Diakonie Kosova

- Name of project:** *Voluntary Return and Vocational Trainings*
  - Description:** This project helps young Roma women who have come back to Kosovo to receive training to help them enter the reintegrate into the labour market
  - Location:** Mitrovica- Kosovo
  - Aim of project:** The aim of the project is to educate Roma woman and youth and help them find work and to better integrate the returned Roma Families
  - Staff and volunteers:** 8 staff members full time and one half time
  - Project Developments:** Regular campaigns are taking place. The example of beneficiaries is shared within the Roma community.
  - Partnerships:** The project runs in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Employment as well as the municipality.
  - Funding and sustainability:** Education and trainings are funded by Kindernothilfe Germany and voluntary return is funded by the Interior Ministry of Rheinland-Pfalz in Germany and the European Refugee Fund. The need for sustainability is high as in Kosovo many Roma women and youth need trainings and employment. The organisation has difficulties ensuring long-term funding.

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## NETHERLANDS

### Organisation: Kerk in Actie

- Name of project:** *Citizenship for stateless Roma*
  - Description:** Lobbying at national level and discussions with political parties to raise awareness about statelessness of Roma. Kerk in Actie also works with filmmakers to show the impact of statelessness with documentaries, together with the organisation Defence for children.
  - Location:** Netherlands
  - Aim of project:** Getting citizenship for stateless Roma in the Netherlands
  - Staff and volunteers:** 0.1 full time staff, 1 volunteer
  - Annual number of beneficiaries:** 100
  - How Roma are involved:** We have Roma people sheltered by churches, and their Roma volunteer is connected in the network of Roma people.
  - Project Developments:** The project started because local churches were sheltering stateless Roma and they asked for funding form Mediciens des Mondes for a project of healthcare for stateless Roma.
  - Partnerships:** National political parties and government and ministerial officers



- And local with the municipality Utrecht. Other partners include filmmakers, because they try to show the impact of statelessness with documentaries. The other partner is Defence for Children because they care about stateless children, and they have good lawyers.
- **Funding and sustainability:** The project is funded by the churches.

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## NORWAY

### Organisation: Church City Mission Oslo

#### 1. Name of project: *Nadheim*

- **Description:** Nadheim have a qualified staff who can give practical help and advice concerning health, safety, economy, migration, housing, work, legal issues, drug addiction, or personal /social challenges. The centre also offers free condoms, and personal hygiene products. The project is not aimed exclusively at Roma, we have projects for homeless people, for people addicted to drugs, for people who sell or have sold sexual services, and they have a Health Centre for people who do not have legal residence in Norway. All these projects regularly meet Roma, mostly from Romania.
- **Location:** Oslo, Norway
- **Aim of project:** To help persons who sell or have sold sexual services
- **Staff and volunteers:** Nadheim have 13 employees and 20 volunteers
- **Annual number of beneficiaries:** about 950 different persons used Nadheim in 2010

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#### 2. Name of project: *Møtestedet*

- **Description:** Møtestedet is a café for substance abusers and for homeless people in the streets of Oslo.
- **Location:** Oslo, Norway
- **Aim of project:** To help substance abusers and for homeless people in the streets of Oslo. The café sells food at subsidized prices. We also offers information and consulting on how the health and welfare system works in Norway as well as one's rights within the system
- **Staff and volunteers:** Møtestedet has 9,5 employees and about 45 volunteers
- **Annual number of beneficiaries:** About 5000 different persons during a year, about 100 were Roma.

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#### 3. Name of project: *Health Centre for Undocumented Immigrants*

- **Description:** Centre offering health care for undocumented migrants
- **Location:** Oslo, Norway
- **Aim of project:** to provide health care for undocumented migrants
- **Staff and volunteers:** 2.2 employees and 75 volunteers
- **Annual number of beneficiaries:** about 700 different persons a year, about 20 of them Roma.

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## ROMANIA

### Organisation: Episcopia Reformata Din Ardeal

1. **Name of project:** *Day centre for Roma and socially disadvantaged children*, Fundația Creștină Diakonia, (Christian Foundation Diakonia)
- **Description:** Day centre for Roma and socially disadvantaged children including a daily meal, social counselling, after-school for elementary school children, after-school for kindergarten and secondary school children. The project aims to develop parents' participation and mentoring for those who continue school in Cluj.
  - **Location:** Romania, Cluj-Napoca/ village Mera
  - **Aim of project:** Social-educational inclusion. The impact is improved school results, better behaviour, clean appearance, consciousness of the importance of hygiene and of living a spiritual life, awareness of rules, participation of the parents, acceptance by the school and the local community.
  - **Staff and volunteers:** 8 staff members (1 project responsible, 2 social workers, 4 pedagogues, 1 cook) Local volunteers in 2011: 4, Foreign volunteers in 2011: 12
  - **Annual number of beneficiaries:** 50
  - **How Roma are involved:** Based on a social survey most beneficiaries are Roma. Their parents are involved into special events organised for the children, they benefit of parents' thematic seminars.
  - **Project Developments:** The future plan is to put emphasis on development of life skills.
  - **Partnerships:** Work with local authorities includes the Municipality Baciú, General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection Cluj. Work with national authorities includes the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs. The program is accredited and thus the collaboration with the above is constant because of monitoring and reporting. Partners also include the Reformed Church Mera, GP office Mera, the faculty for Social Work in order to host students for their internship, as well as donors Dorcas Aid International.
  - **Funding and sustainability:** The project is funded by foreign partners, local donors, grants, EU-funding, and state subvention. It is a constant activity of the administration of Diakonia to raise awareness and funds that make the project sustainable. The funding is vital for the functioning of a program run by an NGO.

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### Organisation: Evangelical Lutheran Church of Sibiu

1. **Name of project:** *Open House for street children Sibiu/Hermannstadt*
- **Description:** The "Open House" for street children is a project of the Evangelical Church AB Sibiu, which is financed in part through the action "Hope for Eastern Europe" (Diakonie Germany) and partly by donations. The project started on 12.06.2001 with a group of 10 children and soon became a "refuge" for 28 - 30 children who spend most of the day on the road. Every day has a clear routine: with games, food, showers, laundry, homework, crafts, tea time and homework.
  - **Location:** Sibiu, Romania
  - **Aim of project:** The goal is to encourage and accompany the children and their guardians, so that the children can become responsible and independent personalities.
  - **Staff and volunteers:**
  - **Annual number of beneficiaries:** 37 directly

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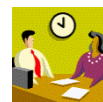
## SERBIA

### Organisation: Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation (EHO)

**1. Name of project:** *Social inclusion and improvement of living conditions of Roma in Vojvodina – Serbia*

- **Description:** Sanitation and house up-grading, vocational training, employment, and self-employment, education, information and dialogue facilitation.
- **Location:** Province of Vojvodina, Serbia
- **Aim of project:** To contribute to social inclusion and sustainable livelihood of the Roma population in Serbia
  - a. To enhance living conditions in 4 Roma settlements by improved individual housing and infrastructure such as water supply, road and electricity.
  - b. To transform / to mainstream the know-how on dweller driven settlement up-grading into the National Roma Housing Action Plan and make it accessible for municipalities.
  - c. To improve the Roma's access to income opportunities by linking them to educational activities, vocational training and capacity building.
  - d. To foster social inclusion of Roma due to advocacy, information, mobilization and counselling
- **Staff and volunteers:** 10 employees
- **Annual number of beneficiaries:** 6800 individuals
- **How Roma are involved:** Roma are directly involved in project planning and project realization. Roma have crucial role in the whole process, from planning until implementation and decision making process. Also Roma are staff members in the organisation from managerial level until associate level and volunteers.
- **Project Developments:** EHO started from educational support to the children, and then upgraded with support to employment of Roma youngsters, and then started with advocacy and lobbying as a preparation for the upgrading living conditions in Roma settlements. At this point they have implemented this project in 13 Roma settlements. The plan is that in the following period, their programme becomes a facilitator in the learning process of Municipalities how to implement this kind of programme in their own localities and Roma settlements. The Manual is to be developed in the following period. Also, to include the participative model in working with Roma, as part of National action plans for Roma.
- **Partnerships:** Partnerships are with local Municipality and Provincial Office for Roma Inclusion and relevant National Ministries in direct implementation of especially the housing component. Their duty is to provide all plans and other relevant documentation for legalising of the Roma houses/settlement, and to invest in infrastructure (water, electricity system) and from last year and financially contribute to project (for bathrooms). Also we work in finding other solutions on local level in education, employment and advocate for the rights of Roma at all levels. EHO also implement this programme in partnership with HEKS, NCA, SDC, and MFA of Norway. We are looking for potential partners in implementation of this programme in EU in the sense of putting this participative model into practice in EU context. Also we are open for discussing on this issue with potential interested parties.
- **Funding and sustainability:** The programme is mainly funded by HEKS, SDC, NCA, MFA of Norway, MFA of Switzerland, Local Municipality's of Ruma, Odzaci, Novi Sad and Plandiste, Diaconie Baden Württemberg, Broth fur die Welt, Government of Lichtenstein. The project has its own dynamic, but the funding very much affects the sustainability of the project. So far we have secured certain funds to implement some elements of the project in the next period, but certain donors are leaving the Balkan region and that will affect to re-design the services that we are going to offer to Roma. Also, some of the elements of the work have been taken over by the government.

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## SLOVAKIA

### Organisation: Ecumenical Council of Churches in Slovakia

- 1. Name of project:** *Community centre for Roma*, YMCA Revuca Slovakia
- Description:** Community centre and pre-school club for younger children, drop-in clubs for school children under 14 years old and YMCA Tearoom for teenagers over 13 years old, after-school clubs: help with homework and extra-school tutoring. *Move it!* Learn to dance Club and Music Club: learn to sing and play. Mother's Club for skills development and help with children. Youth personal development club: learn about yourself and others and nurture your spirit. It officially started in 2011.
- Location:** Slovakia, Jelsava
- Aim of project:** The aim is to support the personal development of young people by organising leisure time activities that contribute to their physical, mental and spiritual growth. Since we want to make sure that our programmes are accessible also for young people with fewer opportunities (socially or economically disadvantaged), we provide these activities basically for free.
- Staff and volunteers:** 1 staff member and 10 volunteers
- Annual number of beneficiaries:** 150-200 people
- How Roma are involved:** Local Roma are involved in all ministries. They help with clubs for children, youth, mothers, free-time activities, a dancing group, Bible study groups, Sunday school for children...
- Project Developments:** Some individuals have been working with Roma kids for several years. Then in 2010 they did summer outreach for Roma in Jelsava. In April 2011 we opened Community centre for Roma in Jelsava, where different ministries are taking place. .
- Partnerships:** Local authorities support our ministry, but not financially. The main partner in this project is the Baptist church in Revucka Lehota. They are looking for volunteers for the Roma ministry for 1 year/years, short term ministry teams (English, music, construction) financial support, and other resources.
- Funding and sustainability:** Most of the work is done by volunteers. The local Baptist church supports this program as well. Plus from some donations and they received grant from Intenda Foundation. Because local church cover overheads and most of the work is done by volunteers, they're able to run programs with low costs. Additional grants and support help them develop the ministry and involve more people in the ministry.

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- 2. Name of project:** *Roma ministry*, IN Network Slovakia
  - Description:** Club Cinobaňa provides services for children and young people, mostly Roma, but is popular even among adults. It is open four to six days a week. It helps prevent or reduce negative social phenomena and risky behaviour (drugs, sexual promiscuity, theft ...) and creates favourable conditions for development of certain skills for social inclusion and a positive change in lifestyle. It provides clients with information and professional advice and assists in social and psychological areas. The project officially started in 2004.

- **Location:** Slovakia, Cinobana
- **Aim of project:** The aim of the project is to establish self sustainable Roma community, which will influence not just Cinobana village, but help with Roma communities on other places as well. They would love to see even a Roma church there.
- **Staff and volunteers:** 1 staff member and 7 volunteers
- **Annual number of beneficiaries:** 150-200 people
- **How Roma are involved:** Local Roma are involved in all ministries. They lead clubs for children, youth, free-time activities, traditional Roma dancing group as well hip-hop group, singing group, cooking classes.
- **Project Developments:** From 2004 they started to support a small group of Roma believers in Cinobana. They try to equip the local Roma leaders to serve according their skills. We try to provide funds and resources, so they can serve others from their community. In the future we would like to make it an independent ministry.
- **Partnerships: Partners of this project include the** Baptist church in Lucenec. They also received some small grants for support of our ministry from national authorities. Local authorities support our ministry, but not financially.
- **Funding and sustainability:** Most of work is done by volunteers. The organisation put their own funds into the project. The program was funded also from donations and grants of different organisations. They have own building where the programs are running. They're able to run programs with low costs, because of volunteer work. If they can receive some grants they can develop ministry and do more programs and impact more people.

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## SWEDEN

### Organisation: The Church of Sweden

#### 1. Name of project: "Rasismen mot Europas romer" (Racism against the Roma of Europe)

- **Description:** A photo exhibition addressing racism against Roma people in 8-10 countries in Europe. A slideshow of pictures from Romania, Kosovo and the Czech Republic was displayed in the Swedish Church's stand in the Library in Gothenburg.
- **Location:** Sweden, Europe
- **Aim of project:** This project aims at raising awareness about racism against Roma in Europe through a photo exhibition.
- **Staff and volunteers:** 1 photographer
- **Annual number of beneficiaries:**
- **How Roma are involved:** feature in photos
- **Partnerships:** It received funding from the Church of Sweden cultural scholarship programme but is otherwise independent.
- **Funding and sustainability:** It has received approximately 10 000 Euro from the Church of Sweden cultural scholarship programme in 2010. In terms of sustainability, the photo exhibition is possibly already finished.

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