



# Roma community involvement within the LAGs in Romania (inputs and recommendations)

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# Context

- 622 000 – 1 850 000 Roma living in Romania
- Roma population still confront with a high rate of poverty:
  - 80% of Roma families live under the national level of poverty risk;
  - 84% of Roma families has no water, utilities and electricity
  - The school drop rate is higher in the rural area than in urban one

# LEADER 2007-2014 IN ROMANIA

- 163 financed LAGs
- 122 Roma as members
- 8000 financed projects
- 10-15 projects targeted Roma communities

# Findings

- Lack of direct collaboration with the community members;
- A poor process of the needs' identification of the Roma communities within the LAGs Strategies
- Lack of periodical discussions within the community
- The poor competence and training of the Roma as beneficiary or as partners in order to get involved
- The will of LAGs management team to involved Roma community

# LEADER 2014-2020 IN ROMANIA

- 239 LDSs strategy approved
- 84% of the LDSs have measures for Roma social inclusion
- 95% of Romanian territory
- 14 000 estimated projects
- Expected: few hundreds projects to target Roma

# Types of projects

- Projects that aims the school dropouts in the rural area
- Projects that aim to promote the traditional handcraft of Roma and non-Roma population
- Projects for daycare Centres
- Projects that aim to develop the entrepreneurship of the Roma
- Cultural projects
- Infrastructure projects
- Projects for professional qualification for Roma
- Projects for Roma NGO's capacity buliding
- Projects that encourages tolernace and communication between comunity members.

# Perspectives

- **need of Roma NGO's and Roma representatives involvement within the LAG's**
- **the Roma's community help to get/ to be organized in order to become a more active partner within the LAG's.**
- recognition the problem of **professional skills and trainings** (for both Roma and non-Roma members).
- **the relationship** between the Roma NGO's within the LAG's and MA **to be an open one, based on the dialogue.**
- active support for Roma community, with **more financial support** and with **more informational and professional support.**

# Reccomandations

- Identifiyng possible **proactive measures** in order to consolidate the Roma active involvment within the LAGs
- Possible **models** (benchmarks or best practice) of measures implemented in LDS and in communities
- Providing **quality expertise** of different types of projects that target Roma
- **Dedicated capacity building** activities throughout the planning and implementation process .
- **Rural networks** can facilitatet exchange of views between key stakeholders, including Roma NGOs, policy-makers and LAGs.
- Appropriate **monitoring tools** need to be developed to monitor community participation.
- **Genuine participation** of local communities in the planning and implementation of LDSs is crucial. Social inclusion should be an integral (horizontal) part of LDSs.





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