

Strasbourg, 5 November 2015

Mr Vasil Edrev
Mayor of Aitos

Subject:

Invitation to participate in the ROMACT Programme to support the Roma inclusion at local level

Dear Mr Mayor,

Since 2013, the Council of Europe and the European Commission have been implementing the ROMACT Programme in Bulgaria, aiming at increasing the capacity of local authorities to develop and implement inclusive policies and plans, and better access resources for the social inclusion of Roma communities.

After consultation with various national and European stakeholders, we are pleased to inform you that *your municipality was recommended to be included in the ROMACT Programme.*

The participation of your municipality in the Programme implies your commitment on the following topics:

- *To delegate relevant staff members to cooperate within the different stages of the Programme.* Their work will consist in contributing to the joint meetings with the representatives of the Roma community, liaise with other municipal staff and services in order to support the adoption of relevant Action Plans and the revision of existing strategic documents on Roma inclusion at municipal level;
- To seek support for the approval of the Joint Action Plans and Strategic documents on Roma inclusion, by the Local Council, to work towards the allocation of the necessary resources for their implementation, as well as to support their development into relevant project proposals to be submitted for external financing, including EU funds;
- To ensure the participation of relevant staff members in capacity-building activities planned in the framework of the Programme;
- To promote the commitment of the municipality towards the ROMACT Programme on different platforms, including on the official website of the municipality, in accordance with the visual guidelines provided by the Council of Europe.

The ROMACT Programme is managed by a team of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg and is implemented in Bulgaria by a National Support Team composed of National Project Officer, National Focal Point and Facilitators who support the process at local level, in cooperation with the designated representatives of your municipality.

Within the framework of the Programme, the Council of Europe shall provide the following:

- Human and financial resources for the implementation of the Programme, in particular expertise through training and coaching, for the development or revision of strategic integrated plans on Roma inclusion and for the elaboration of project proposals to be sent for external funding, including EU funds;
- Expertise on participatory approach for the development and implementation of inclusive plans and strategies, through cooperation with the concerned vulnerable communities, including the Roma citizens;

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- Political endorsement and visibility for the municipality and its activities within the Programme, as well as coordination and establishing potential synergies with related initiatives at local, national and international level;
- Organization of expert visits in the municipality and representation in relevant international events;

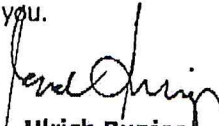
More information on the ROMACT Programme can be found in the documents attached, as well as on the ROMACT website at: <http://coe-romact.org>

Considering the above, we therefore invite you to become part of the ROMACT Programme which is implemented, jointly by the Council of Europe and the European Commission, in 6 European countries with a total of 69 municipalities committed so far.

In order to confirm your agreement, kindly return the present letter at your earliest convenience, after signing this current page. The letter might be returned in original, to Liliya Makaveeva, our National Project Officer in Bulgaria or, in scanned form, to the email address of the programme: romact@coe.int

We look forward to a fruitful cooperation with you.

Sincerely,


Ulrich Bunjes
Special Representative of the Secretary General for Roma Issues

Special Representative of the Secretary General for Roma Issues

I, the undersigned, Vasil Edrev, Mayor of Aytos, hereby confirm the commitment of the municipality I represent to take part in the ROMACT Programme, under the conditions specified in the above letter.

10.11.2015, Aytos
[date and place]

Vasil Edrev, Mayor of Aytos Municipality:
[name and signature of the Mayor]



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