

## *Agreement to implement the ROMACT Programme in the Municipality of Botevgrad*

The ROMACT Programme, which has been implemented by the European Commission and the Council of Europe in Bulgaria since 2013, aims at increasing the capacity of local authorities to develop and implement inclusive policies and plans for the social inclusion of Roma communities.

After due information and consultation, the Municipality of Botevgrad, which already implemented ROMACT process between February 2017 and 2019, agrees to be active in the ROMACT Programme and commits:

- to appoint a high-level member of the municipal staff as the Coordinator who will be responsible for managing and monitoring the ROMACT process;
- to appoint a municipal staff member that will be trained and coached to take over ROMACT facilitator's tasks at the end of the agreement;
- to delegate representatives of concerned municipal departments as well as invite other local stakeholders, including Roma, to participate in the Municipal Taskforce for planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of local policies for equality, inclusion and participation of Roma;
- to ensure the participation of staff of concerned municipal departments in capacity-building activities planned in the framework of the ROMACT process;
- when required, to contribute to the drafting or revision of the Municipal plan for equality, inclusion and participation of Roma based on a comprehensive and in-depth needs assessment and measures identified jointly with the other local stakeholders and the Community Action Group, established within ROMACT, including to seek the adoption of the plan by the Municipal Council;
- when required, to seek to integrate – where relevant - the priority needs and measures of the Municipal plan for equality, inclusion and participation of Roma in the Plan for integrated development of the municipality;
- to seek to implement the Municipal plan for equality, inclusion and participation of Roma, alongside the activities integrated in the Municipal plan for integrated development, by allocating local resources, including by the municipal budget, as well as seeking – where appropriate - external financing, including EU funds.

As part of this Agreement, the ROMACT Programme shall provide:

- punctual assistance by a Facilitator who will train and coach relevant staff of municipal departments to design and implement plans and measures for the inclusion of Roma, as well as to strengthen the dialogue and cooperation between the municipality and the Roma community;
- when required, technical expertise (for capacity building and access to funding) by specialized experts.

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Strasbourg



Eleni Tsetsekou  
Head of Division  
Roma and Travellers Team  
Council of Europe

Date:  
Botevgrad

Ivan Gavalyugov  
Mayor  
Botevgrad

