
THE NEXT MILE OF THE EUROPEAN CIVIL SOCIETY INFRASTRUCTURE
(Developing the potential of Bulgarian and Romanian civil organizations for social environment improvement)
Project Objectives

Quality improvement and social services expansion for people with unequal social status offered by Bulgarian and Romanian organizations.

Adopting the best European practices and drawing on the experience of the European social networks on the territory of Bulgaria and Romania.

Introduction of new methods for providing social services by non-governmental organizations and extensive integrated approach.

Cementing the cooperation between Bulgarian and Romanian civil organizations and creating conditions for their successful integration into the European networks and initiatives in the social sphere.

Creating good conditions for increasing the impact of Bulgarian and Romanian civil organizations in the two countries as well as in the EU member states.

The project aims to strengthen the position of the non-governmental sector in Bulgaria and Romania in order to improve the social environment. This can be achieved through increasing the institutional capacity of civil organizations and promoting the cooperation between them.

Project Target Groups

The first target group is comprised of civil organizations and their networks on the territory of Bulgaria and Romania, working in spheres with a high priority:

- Social services providers;
- Organizations which represent groups in a vulnerable position;
- Centers for advocacy of vulnerable groups;
- Organizations which generate fresh ideas, resource centers and research institutes which work in the social sphere.

The second target group includes representatives of vulnerable groups in Bulgaria and Romania, as special attention is devoted to people subject to double (multiple) marginalization.

Project Implementation Tools

The project envisages the following:

- Objective analysis of the conditions and needs of Bulgarian and Romanian civil organizations working in the social sphere;
- Preparation and circulation of information and methodology materials which provide support to the activities of such organizations;
- Creating conditions for exchange programmes of personnel between Bulgarian and Romanian civil organizations as well as between these organizations and their European partners;
- Conducting training sessions, formation of working groups and organization of a succession of seminars for exchange of good practices;
- Creation and maintenance of an electronic gateway in Internet which will provide consulting and information exchange to fulfill the project aims.

Project Status

The project will be launched in January 2006.

Duration period – two years.

Funding

The project is funded by the European Commission and is part of the Networking Programme – Civil Society Component – Romania and Bulgaria.

Territory

Bulgaria and Romania

Products

- Analysis of the state and the needs of Bulgarian and Romanian civil organizations, working in the social sphere;
- Information and methodology materials;
- Training sessions and seminars;
- Internet-based platform about information exchange, cooperation and access to good practices in Bulgarian, Romanian and English - Web Portal System;
- Exchange of heads and experts of European, Bulgarian and Romanian organizations.

Experts and Partners

Euroregional Centre for Democracy, Romania
<http://www.regionalnet.org/>

European Roma Information Office, Belgium
<http://www.erionet.org/>

Civil Society Development Foundation, Hungary
<http://www.ctf.hu/>

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