



# Interreg



EUROPEAN UNION

## Danube Transnational Programme

### DREAM ROAD

# Training on Participative Policy Development for Roma Inclusion



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# Introduction to Participative Policy Development

# *PARTICIPATION?*



Source of the image: <https://www.skillshare.com/classes/Brainstorming-Course-%E2%80%94-Solve-Problems-Faster-by-Mind-Mapping/177671759>

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# Exercise and discussion

## Worksheet 1/Exercise:

In a pairs of two, share your experience and answer the following questions:

1. As individual or institution, have you been involved in improving the position of Roma so far? If yes, how?
2. Were you involved in making decisions of importance for the position of Roma, or development of any policy in general, at the local level? If yes, which policies?
3. Why was this participation important to you?
4. How did participation contribute to building and strengthening the community?

Time for work: 10'

Share your experience and thoughts in plenary.

# Participation

*Effective participation of citizens in policy making is at the heart of open government reforms and has the potential to renew the relationship between policy makers and citizens. In times of declining rates of voter turnout, and low levels of trust in public institutions and membership in political parties, governments acknowledge the need to move from the role of simple provider of services towards the development of closer partnerships with all relevant stakeholders.*

(OECD (2017), “Citizen participation in policy making”, in Government at a Glance 2017, OECD Publishing, Paris.)

# Recommendations of the EU Roma Strategic Framework for Equality, Inclusion and Participation until 2030 relating participation of Roma:

- To capacitate and engage civil society organisations in EU-wide coordinated Roma civil society monitoring of Roma integration policies;
- To ensure participation of Roma CSOs as full members in national monitoring;
- To organise commissions for all programmes dealing with the Roma communities' needs;
- To double the percentage of Roma filing complaints when they experience discrimination;
- To encourage the participation of Roma in political life on local, national and EU levels (in member states with a significant Roma population) and to ensure that they register as voters, vote and run as candidates.

# What can be done at the national and local level?

The participation of Roma in decision-making in public affairs that shape the conditions of equality and inclusion in society should be articulated in all three domains:

- 1) participation in the institutions of representative democracies:
- 2) operating manifold channels of Roma citizens and CSO participation in public affairs,
- 3) inclusion of Roma professionals in public administration.

# What can be done at the national and local level?

- National and local policies should define the minimum mandatory aspects and channels of Roma people's participation in policy development, implementation, and monitoring, as well as EU funds programming, including written participation protocols defining the mandate, work methods and expected results of the bodies' consultations and participation in order to ensure effective cooperation, trust and responsibility



# What can be done at the local level?

- Empowering Roma communities at the local level, so that the community can explicitly and strategically influence social and political changes.
- The mobilization of the community should be viewed as a deliberate inclusive and participatory process involving Roma, local governments, and organizations.
- Ensure that the Roma people are represented in politics and consultative processes in their entirety (including nationals and non-nationals, marginalized and integrated people, women, children, and young people).
- Initiatives for the involvement of more Roma experts,
- Ensure that the Roma people are represented in all their **diversity** (including nationals and non-nationals, marginalized and integrated people, women, children, and young people)
- Promotion of cooperation in the civil society sector between Roma and other organizations focusing on Roma support, particularly those focusing on the rights of children, young people, and women.

# Participation of Roma in local policy development-modalities:

- Involving representatives of Roma civil society organizations or Roma individuals in local policy making bodies (councils, committees, working groups, local assemblies)
- Employment of Roma in local self government and relevant institutions
- Involving Roma in governing boards of relevant institutions (such are education, health, social protection, employment etc institutions)
- Establishing intersectoral bodies for Roma inclusion which involve Roma

# Development of local policies – Local action plans or strategies for Roma inclusion

1. Initiation of local policy document-decision on initiation of a process, decision on establishing of the working group for development of a policy
2. Development of the local policy
3. Consultation process, public discussion and adoption of the local policy document
4. Adoption of the local policy document in its final draft
5. Mandatory public hearing
6. Adoption of the final version of the local policy document
7. Implementation and monitoring the implementation of the local policy document

# The main elements of the local policy document may be:

- The profile of the municipality
- Description of political, socio-economic context (education, employment, health, housing, social protection, culture, participation, discrimination..) at the local level
- Description of the problems Roma face at the local level, their causes and consequences
- Conclusions on main problems that need to be addressed
- Defined priority goals and objectives of the local policy with indicators
- Measures with indicators and activities
- Implementation arrangements
- Monitoring and evaluation framework