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## Summary of the project

### “Latvian Roma platform I - Dialogue, cooperation and involvement”

**Main goal of the project** was to facilitate cooperation, consultation and dialogue between Roma civil society, governmental and municipality institutions' representatives and social partners in order to ensure effective involvement of all relevant stakeholders and provide better coordination of the development and implementation of the set of policy measures on Roma integration at the national, regional and local level.

#### RESULTS OF THE PROJECT

##### The objectives of the project are achieved:

The cooperation and dialogue between representatives of municipalities and governmental sector and Roma people has been fostered.

Representatives' of municipalities and Roma's knowledge about the access to available financial resources from ES structure funds has been improved.

Mutual learning and exchange of best practices on Roma integration in key areas at the local and regional level has been supported.

The awareness of representatives of local authorities, municipalities and governmental sectors about Roma culture and history, especially about the Roma genocide during the World War II, has been raised.

The participation and effective involvement of the representatives of Roma community, including Roma youth and Roma women, into the implementation of the set of Roma integration policy measures is facilitated; as well as the capacity and skills of representatives of Roma civil society has been strengthened.

Totally in the project activities have been involved more than 400 participants, including 260 state

and municipal authorities, non-Roma NGOs, as well as 150 Roma representatives from 23 Latvian cities.



#### ACTIVITIES OF THE PROJECT

➤ [Regional meetings and field visits at the local level](#) in 3 municipalities with best practices of Roma integration – Jūrmala, Daugavpils and Jelgava for members of the Network of regional experts on Roma integration issues

➤ [Practical workshops “Improving social situation of Roma families at the local level”](#) in Ventspils, Valmiera, Jelgava and Daugavpils in order to improve knowledge of municipalities' specialists and Roma civil society how to provide better access of Roma to social services and supporting



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programs provided by municipality, and to ESF funds.

➤ [Educational lectures on Roma culture and history](#), and exhibition “Roma Holocaust in Latvia (1941-1945)” in 3 municipalities (Jelgava, Tukums, and Ventspils) aimed at raising awareness of representatives of municipalities, including experts, teachers, social workers, as well as representatives of local NGOs and Roma.

➤ [Training for Roma activists and representatives of Roma NGOs](#) to improve their skills of project designing and implementing; [support to the representatives of Roma civil society](#) to ensuring their participation in the meetings of the Council supervising the implementation of Roma integration policy measures.

➤ [Coordination meeting of the Latvian Roma platform](#) with participation of all regional experts and members of the Council supervising the implementation of Roma integration policy measures, including representatives of Roma civil society.



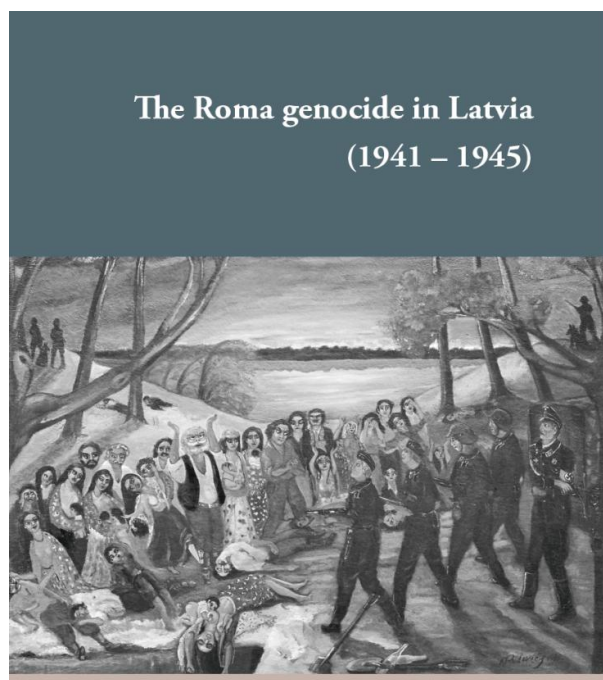
**Reports and informative materials elaborated within the framework the project:**

➤ [Practical guidelines for Roma NGOs and activists on project elaboration, implementation and evaluation](#);

➤ [Summary report of the meetings and field visits](#) of the Network of regional experts on Roma integration issues where best practices, problematic issues and the possible solutions are identified;

➤ [Summary report of the workshops "Improving social situation of Roma families at the local level"](#) where existed practices and information regarding Roma access to the ESF supporting programmes is included.

➤ Informative material (illustrated booklet with 15 pages) on Roma genocide in Latvia during the World War II has been elaborated and published in [Latvian](#) and [English](#);



➤ [Summary report of the Latvian Roma Platform meeting](#) where results of the project's activities, recommendations and solutions to develop Latvian Roma Platform and the set of Roma integration policy measures is identified.

#### **Roma in the project**

Project activities provided an opportunity for many Roma to be active and prove themselves as



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good experts and coordinators. For example, there is Kaspars Arhipovs, Roma representative who is hired by the Ministry of Culture as project assistant (he also will continue to be employed for next Latvian Roma platform project). He was responsible for communication with Roma people, representatives of municipalities, local experts, and other stakeholders – participants of the project, as well for organising project activities.

One active Roma woman, Dana Didžus, who works as a teacher assistant in the Jelgava's primary school was an external expert of the project. Her active participation and involving in each activity of the project and elaborated Conclusions of the evaluation on the project activities brought added value for the effective development of the Roma integration policy coordination in general.



The cooperation with the Roma NGO is one of key element of successful the implementation of the project activity. Due to cooperation with the Roma Culture Centre it was possible to organize exhibition "Roma Holocaust in Latvia (1941-1945)" with traditional Roma music performance in municipalities. Roma from this NGO with special lectures were able to raise awareness of stakeholders on European and Latvian Roma culture, traditions and history, especially on the

tragedy of the Roma genocide during the World War II.

Many Roma women and young people had active participation in the project's activities as local activists, mediators, teacher assistants, NGO representatives, young mothers, pupils and students. They are involved in the constructive dialogue and developing cooperation with municipality staff, as well as represented Roma voice and needs during project's activities.

### Local authorities

Significant number of new stakeholders are involved in the process of the implementation Roma integration policy, especially at the local level. After the project many involved municipalities have had an interest to support Roma mediators in order to promote sustain dialogue between Roma families and municipality institutions and governmental agencies. One of task of the mediators Roma mediators will be fostering Roma access to the measures of the aforementioned ESF supporting programmes. The Network of regional experts on Roma integration issues has been supplemented with new representatives of municipalities.

Detail information about the project in Latvian is available on the Ministry of Culture web site <https://www.km.gov.lv/lv/integracija-un-sabiedriba/romi/projekti-un-pasakumi/latvijas-romu-platforma>

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