



## SLIVEN / NADEZHDA

### INTEGRATED PROJECT FOR THE PROMOTION OF SOCIAL INCLUSION OF ROMA AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

#### OBJECTIVES

**The Project for Social Inclusion of Roma and Other Vulnerable Groups in Sliven is implemented in the Roma neighbourhood *Nadezhda*. The big community is socially isolated and faces serious problems: bad quality housing, high rates of unemployment, lack of access to quality health, education and social services. The project aims to provide access to education and medical services within the Roma community, so that basic services are closer to *Nadezhda* citizens.**

#### EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

2305 is the total number of children in *Nadezhda*, born between 2011 and 2018, according to official data. According to the local mapping, the children in *Nadezhda* aged under 18 are a lot more than that – 7000.

- ❖ Expected to officially open doors on November, 22, 2018, a new modern multifunctional building in *Nadezhda* will host a nursery, a kindergarten and a healthcare center, as well as a center for culture and education. The facility has playrooms and sleeping rooms, a music hall and a gym, halls for parents' meetings and events and festivities. The educational facility will be further funded by a state delegated budget once the ZOV Programme is completed.
- ❖ Supported by ZOV, the Roma Academy for Culture and Education - RACE, completed a comprehensive mapping to identify children to be enrolled in the nursery and kindergarten.
- ❖ The team met 380 families and identified 290 children aged 0-3 and 193 children aged 3-6, eligible for enrolment in nursery or kindergarten. The social and economic status of families was also assessed and their needs for aid specified. The final selection of children was made by the municipality.

- ❖ The municipality of Sliven is responsible for applying the regular procedures for selecting children to be enrolled in the nursery and the kindergarten. It has attempted to enroll the neediest children, striking the balance between less and most needy parents. Currently, nearly 80 children were enrolled and the number is expected to increase to 134. A director and staff - 4 pedagogical and 4 support professionals, have been appointed.



#### HEALTHCARE ACTIVITIES

- ❖ The Healthcare Center in the new multifunctional building will host 3 medical offices and 4 doctors – a gynecologist, a pediatrician and 2 general practitioners. 4 health mediators will be also involved at the Center.
- ❖ According to ZOV mapping data, one half of the women in the *Nadezhda*, who visited a gynecologist, have a gynecological problem at the time of the research. Only 40% of Roma women are aware of the right to a free medical checkup, which is valid also for uninsured women - during the period of their pregnancy. 33 % of the respondents had no health insurance.

- ❖ Since the project's start in 2015, representatives of the local branch of the French "Doctors of the World" Association and the "The Health of Roma" Foundation, are actively working in Sliven. The two organizations and their mediators are supported by ZOV Programme in their work with uninsured and pregnant Roma women, as well as in their prevention activities on early marriages and pregnancies.
- ❖ So far, the "The Health of Roma" Foundation has carried out 1000 HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis B and C tests for persons in risk living in the community.
- ❖ Nearly 1000 people from *Nadezhda* have visited the Information Center of "Doctors of the World" to attend discussions on family planning and reproductive health. More than 3200 individual consultations on this topic were provided and 260 gynecological exams were carried out since the start of the project.
- ❖ A team of health mediators and a nurse are engaged in improving awareness on family planning. Round tables on the topics of risky behavior, family planning and early pregnancies with the participation of religious leaders and Roma community leaders from the neighborhood are regularly held. The access to free contraception (pills, IUDs, condoms) will help women avoid unwanted pregnancies and plan their families.



#### ROMA CULTURE AND IDENTITY

- ❖ The local ZOV team with the participation of RACE organizes events related to the history of Roma, their holidays, rituals and traditions: of Bango Vasil, Hederlezi, 8 April – the International Roma Day. Roma culture and traditions are presented during the traditional Roma Culture Days in Sliven.

- ❖ The new Culture Center in Nadezhda will continue this important work after ZOV is completed. The Centre for Culture and Education will be organized in two rooms: an information centre for work with the Roma community and a multi-purpose room intended for group events for children and parents.

#### KEY INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT

##### THEMATIC FOCUS

Integration, social inclusion and living conditions improvement of Roma and other vulnerable groups in Ruse region

##### BUDGET

CHF 1 642 344

##### AMOUNT OF THE SWISS GRANT

CHF 1 395 993

##### BULGARIAN CO-FINANCING BY

- ❖ Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (MLSP)
- ❖ Ministry of Education and Science
- ❖ Ministry of Health

##### PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Programme Management Unit hosted at MLSP

##### EXECUTING AGENCY

Municipality of Sliven

##### PROJECT PARTNERS

- ❖ Roma Academy for Culture and Education (RACE) – Sliven
- ❖ "Doctors of the World" Association – Sliven Branch
- ❖ "Health of the Roma" Foundation – Sliven Medical

##### DURATION

June 2015 – April 2019

<http://zovprogramme.bg/en/>

November 2018



BULGARIAN-SWISS COOPERATION PROGRAMME  
БЪЛГАРО-ШВЕЙЦАРСКА ПРОГРАМА ЗА СЪТРУДНИЧЕСТВО