

Recent developments in Portugal concerning Roma communities



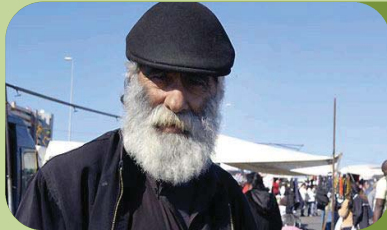
Who we are

High Commission for Immigration and Intercultural Dialogue
ACIDI IP

ACIDI is a Public Institute integrated in the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, and its mission shall be to cooperate in the creation, implementation and evaluation of sector, crosscutting and public policies concerned with the integration of immigrants and ethnic minorities, as well as to promote the dialogue between various cultures, ethnic groups and religions.



Support Office for Roma Communities
GACI



ACIDI created this office in January 2007 in order to respond to the needs related to Roma communities' inclusion and it is the office responsible for the promotion of intercultural dialogue in this thematic field.

What we do

- Know Roma communities effective needs
- Advising local authorities and NGO's
- Establishment of partnerships
- Promote Roma communities participation
- Share knowledge
- Inform



Program for Municipal Roma Mediators

ENGLISH only



Launched in 2009, the Program comes from positive experience from the past concerning mediator's intervention in multicultural contexts and it aims to facilitate Roma communities access to services and local equipment, and to promote equal opportunities and intercultural dialogue by introducing Roma mediators in municipalities.

Who can apply?

Can apply municipalities, in partnership with civil society organizations, and must identify a local Roma mediator and define a local action plan.

Why municipalities?

Municipalities know better local Roma communities effective needs and have all the resources and partnership networks available to respond properly and quickly to all kind of situations.

Program's Partnership



Municipalities must allocate a coordinator who will give support to mediator's work, and it is responsible to establish and evaluate, together with the mediator and partners, a local action plan in the priority fields of Education, Housing, Health, Training and Employment, Citizenship and Intercultural Dialogue.



Programing period and Municipalities

I Phase

It started in October 1st 2009 and it is on its fourth year of implementation

II Phase

It started in October 1st 2011 and it is on its second year of implementation



Mediators' profile



- Must facilitate communication between Roma communities and local authorities and civil organizations;
- Must promote consensus and mediate conflicts;
- Must promote intercultural dialogue as a strategic methodology of work and intervention;
- Must promote and facilitate Roma communities' access to local services and organizations.

Program results

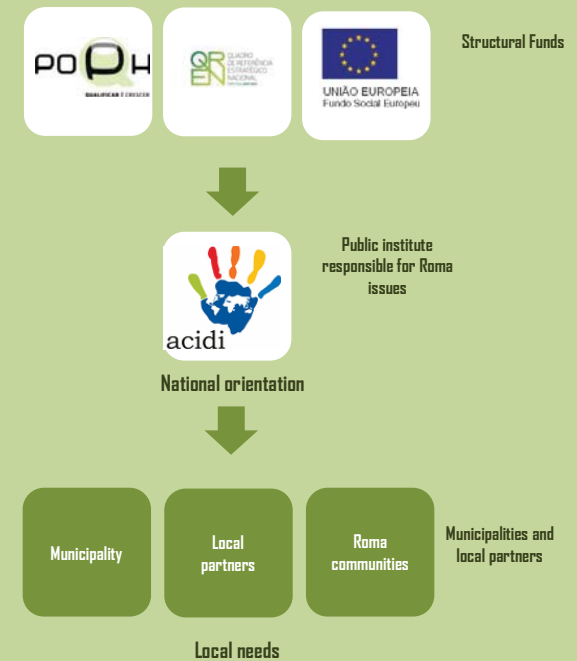
- Mediators are contributing to the improvement of knowledge of Roma communities' culture and needs among public services;
- Mediators are promoting more adequate solutions with the participation of Roma communities;
- Mediators are facilitating the access of Roma communities to public services and resources;
- Mediators are facilitating the participation of Roma communities in decision-making processes.



Working together

It is a Program where national and local authorities, civil society organizations and Roma communities work together. Allows articulation between entities responsible for European funds, national authorities responsible for monitoring Roma communities' issues and Roma communities, civil society organizations and municipalities that know local, immediate and real needs.

Program's Funding Structure



National Roma Communities Integration Strategy



Accordingly to Commission's communication COM(2011) 173, 5th April, like other Member-States, Portugal presented its National Roma Communities Integration Strategy.

Like the majority of other Member-States, Portugal designed its strategy around the thematic fields recommended by the Commission, namely education, employment, healthcare and housing, but added also a crosscutting pillar in order to articulate all areas.

Thematic Pillars of the Strategy
Crosscutting Pillar
Dimension I – Knowledge of socioeconomic context of Roma communities and follow-up mechanism of National Strategy
Dimension II – Discrimination
Dimension III – Education for Citizenship
Dimension IV – Roma history and culture
Dimension V – Gender Equality
Dimension VI – Justice and Security
Dimension VII – Mediation
Dimension VIII – Social Security
Education Pillar
Housing Pillar
Employment and Training Pillar
Healthcare Pillar

ACIDI is the Portuguese National Focal Point for the National Roma Integration Strategy and it is directly responsible for the implementation of the dimensions I, II, III, IV and VII.