



Implementation of Basic Income Guarantee for marginalized households - B/I/G/ Pilot Project

CONTEXT



A Pilot project on Implementation of Basic Income Guarantee for Marginalized Households (BIG) promoted by the **European Parliament** and implemented by **ACRA & ARS Progetti Consortium**.

The aim of the project is to explore an innovative way to deliver welfare benefits to **marginalised households in Bulgaria, Romania and Slovakia**, including families belonging to the Roma community. Roma people, indeed, are particularly vulnerable, often victim of stigmatization and excluded from economic and working contexts.

The project tests an alternative delivery mechanism of welfare benefits (through E-pay cards), combined with activation measures supporting beneficiaries' empowerment and socio-economic advancement, including self-development coaching work and financial literacy trainings; and helping build the capacity of marginalized people to integrate into the labor market and to promote their social inclusion.

- Starting from the assumption that **Poverty is a multi-dimensional phenomenon**, the methodology to be applied for the assessment of families take in account not only incomes but all aspects of life. For this reason the pilot project will rely on the Poverty Stoplight approach (developed by Fundacion Paraguaya and implemented in over 40 countries) which enables families to assess their levels of poverty and to carry out personalized strategies to overcome their specific deprivations. Furthermore, through individualized coaching, families are informed of public services available to them in the community and encouraged to actively seek these services. For more information: www.povertystoplight.org

- Participation in the project is voluntary.

OBJECTIVE



The project develops a **pilot action**, with the aim of developing and testing an innovative approach in the distribution of welfare benefits (through e-pay cards) to families in extreme poverty conditions; in combination with activation measures to support their socioeconomic development, and overcome their social exclusion stemming from a situation of long-term poverty.

DURATION

30 months starting from December 2022

WHERE?

Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia

The Consortium of ACRA and ARS Progetti implements the activities working with three local organizations:

Integro Association in Bulgaria, **Amare Rromentza** in Romania and **Skola Dokoran** in Slovakia.

Furthermore, the **World Bank** provides advisory services and technical assistance to the project.



ACTIVITIES



Methodological development

- Drafting of a methodological handbook
- Setup of delivery system of welfare benefits and allowances via e-pay cards

Analysis

- Enrolment of the participants/beneficiaries (selection of the families)
- Detailed mapping of participants' living conditions
- Detailed mapping of existing resources and capacities of participants

Design and implementation of personal development plans

- Elaboration of personal development plans for each family
- Provision of/training/mentoring/coaching to the adults of participating families
- Payment of welfare benefits and allowances to the beneficiaries (via e-pay cards)
- Support in identifying and transferring innovative solutions to address local needs

Stakeholders' management

- Stakeholders' engagement
- Awareness raising activities targeting local communities
- Setup of local "task-forces" in each municipality

IMPACT



Direct beneficiaries:

500 adults individuals and 75 families for country (Bulgaria, Romania and Slovakia) in conditions of extreme poverty, with few employment and inclusion opportunities (of them, at least 10% are Roma people).

Indirect beneficiaries:

Population living in the involved municipalities, thanks to community engagement and socio-economic improvement of marginalized households.

Given the potential **replicability** of the project, the final goals are long-term sustainability and the involvement of local authorities, government and civil society in its future implementation at national level.

Donor:

European Union
DG Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion



Methodological partner:

Fundacion Paraguaya (Paraguay)

Consortium:

ACRA (lead applicant - Italy)
ARS Progetti (Italy)

Other involved entities:

World Bank

Local organizations involved:

Amare Rromentza (Romania)
Integro Association (Bulgaria)
Skola Dokoran (Slovakia)