

Roma Health Project

Open Society Institute

Call for Applications

The Open Society Institute's Roma Health Project (RHP) is soliciting applications from Roma activists and civil society members interested to attend the Correlation Network's conference 'Social Inclusion and Health - Crossing the Borders' in Sofia (Bulgaria) on September 27-29, 2007. RHP will fund three scholarship positions.

Description of the conference

The Correlation Network links together different initiatives to fight marginalization and exclusion of vulnerable populations. The conference 'Social Inclusion and Health - Crossing the Borders' is planned to cover a broad range of topics, targeting mainly the issue of limited access to health and social services for marginalized groups. Participants will have the opportunity to exchange information in the field of research, policy and practice, join skill building sessions on issues related to access to health and social services, participate in the debate between service users and policy makers, discuss innovative approaches and new ways of cooperation, and get an overview on the activities of the Correlation Network.

The conference will include a panel discussion on increasing access to health care for Roma. Presenters are local organizations working to increase Roma access to health services through a broad range of activities. Representatives from Initiative for Health Foundation, Center for Interethnic Dialogue and Tolerance Amalipe, and Access-Sofia Foundation will discuss harm reduction outreach models for Roma communities, promoting the health of Romani women, and using the media as an advocacy tool on Roma health.

Further information on the conference is available at http://www.correlation-net.org/sofia_conference/index.html.

What the scholarships cover

The scholarships will cover the costs of travel to and from residence to the conference site, accommodation, meals, conference materials and visa for Bulgaria (if applicable).

Who should apply

OSI/RHP is soliciting applications from Roma activists and civil society members with:

- Experience with designing and/or implementing Roma health programs;
- Demonstrated interest to learn more about health promotion work targeting Roma communities;
- Membership in an organization, network or group with the capacity to implement Roma health projects or advocate on Roma health policy;
- Proficient English speaking skills.

How to apply

Interested individuals should submit their applications **by email to efoldes@osi.hu**, no later than **Friday, June 8, 2007**. All applications must be completed in English. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Applicants will be notified of first-round results by June 25, 2007.

Applications should include the followings:

1. Contact information, including full name, address, web-site (if applicable) phone number and email;
2. Name and address of organization, network or group affiliation;
3. Short description of organization/network/group including founding date, mission statement, and information on activities promoting Roma health;
4. Personal motivation for attending conference and what you would hope to learn from the conference;
5. Future vision on promoting Roma health.

Please direct any questions to efoldes@osi.hu.

Contact information for Open Society Institute RHP offices:

**Open Society Institute
Roma Health Project**
400 West 59th Street
New York, NY, 10019, USA
Tel +1 (212) 548 0600
Fax +1 (646) 557 2614
Email: lelman@sorosny.org

**Open Society Institute, Budapest
Roma Health Project**
1051 Budapest
Oktober 6 utca 12, Hungary
Tel: +36 1 327 3100/ext. 2023
Fax: +36 1 327 3101
Email: efoldes@osi.hu

The Open Society Institute

The Open Society Institute (OSI) is a private operating and grantmaking foundation based in New York City that serves as a hub of the Open Society Network, a group of autonomous foundations and organizations in over 50 countries. This network implements a range of initiatives that aim to promote open society by shaping government policy and supporting education, media, public health and human and women's rights, as well as social, legal and economic reform. To diminish and prevent the negative consequences of globalization, the Network seeks to foster global open society by increasing collaboration between nongovernmental organizations, governments and international institutions. OSI was created in 1993 by investor and philanthropist George Soros to support his foundations in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Those foundations were established, starting in 1984, to help former communist countries in their transition to democracy. The Network has expanded its geographic reach to include foundations and initiatives in Africa, Central Asia and the Caucasus, Haiti, Latin America, Mongolia, Southeast Asia, Turkey and the United States. OSI also supports selective projects in other parts of the world.

The Roma Health Project (RHP) works to promote equal access of Roma to appropriate and quality health care services. The project focuses on the protection of the rights of the Roma population in the health care setting, by promoting involvement of Roma communities in advocating for access to health services, addressing discrimination against Roma in the health sector and raising visibility around the obstacles impeding access health care. RHP is working to affect the development of sound public health policies targeting Roma, and combating the perpetuation of myths and stereotypes about Roma communities and health.

Background information on the Open Society Institute (OSI) can be found at www.soros.org. Information on the Roma Health Project (RHP) is available at <http://www.soros.org/initiatives/health/focus/roma>.



The Decade of Roma Inclusion

This grant is made to your organization by the Roma Health Project of Open Society Institute under the Decade of Roma Inclusion.

The Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015, an initiative supported by the Open Society Institute and the World Bank, is an unprecedented international effort to combat discrimination and ensure that Roma have equal access to education, housing, employment and health care. Launched in February 2005 and endorsed by nine Central and Eastern European countries, the Decade of Roma Inclusion is also supported by the European Commission, the Council of Europe, the Council of Europe Development Bank, and the United Nations Development Program.

Decade partners are united by a common vision to close the gap in welfare and living conditions between the Roma and the non-Roma and to break the cycle of poverty and exclusion over a period of 10 years. The declared objective is to accelerate progress in improving the social inclusion and economic status of Roma.

The Decade is driven by a commitment to shared values of social inclusion and anti-discrimination, to promote equal opportunities and bring an end to segregation. Central to the values and vision of the Decade is a commitment to embrace innovative approaches, foster international cooperation, and promote transparency and Roma participation.

The vision and values statement of the Decade of Inclusion places great emphasis on Roma participation: *“Nothing about us without us: Roma participation will make or break the Decade. Roma representatives and civil society organizations are involved in every stage of the Decade. Roma shaped and defined the vision from the very outset. Roma civil society groups and experts identified policy priorities and played a key role in defining Decade goals and targets. Roma participation will be central to regular oversight and monitoring of the process over the next ten years.”*

I Dekada Vash i Romani Inkluzija

Kadava granto si kerdo vash tumari organizacija katar o Romenge Sastimasko Projekto andar o Instituto vash jekh Putardo Khetanipen telal in Dekada palal e Romengi Inkluzija.

I Dekada vash e Romengi Inkluzija 2005-2015, jekh iniciativa vastjardi katar o Instituto vash jekh Putardo Khetanipen thaj i Lumjaki Banka, si jekh nevo maskarthemutno zoripen te achavel pes i diskriminacija thaj te ristjarel pes so e romen si len barabar putardo drom vash o sikljaripen, o beshipen, i buki thaj o sastipen. I Dekada sas putardi and-o Februaro 2005 thaj 9 thema andar o Centro thaj o Esto e Evropako len kotor andre. I Dekada si zurjardi katar i Evropaki Komisia, o Konsilo e Evropako, e Barjarimaski Banka katar o Konsilo e Evropako thaj e Barjarimasko Programo e Unisarde Nacjengo.

E Dekadake partenerura si len jekh khetani vizija te phandaven i hiv and-o barvalipen thaj trajo mashkar e roma thaj e gadze thaj te pharaven i truj e chororimaski thaj e ekskluziako and-e 10 bersha. Sar sas mothovdo, objketivo si te sigjarel pes o progreso vash te lacharel pes e romengi socialo inkluzika thaj ekonomikano statuso

I Dekada si tradini katar jekh angadzamento vash khetane valore palal i socialo inkluzija thaj mamuj-diskriminacija, vash barabar sajutnimata thaj te achavel pes i segregacija. And-o mashkar e Dekadake valorego thaj vizijako si o mangipen te adoptisaren pen neve bukiake mekanisme, te zurjarel pes i mashkarthemutni kooperacija, thaj te kerel pes promocija vash transparenca thaj romani participacija.

I vizija thaj valorengi deklaracija vash e Inkluziaki Dekada del jekh bari importanca palal e Romani participacija: *“Khanch vash amenge bi amaro: i Romani participacija ka kerel vaj ka musarel i Dekada. E romane reprezentantura thaj civilo organizacije len kotor and-e savore nivelura e Dekadake. E roma kerde i vizija katar o astaripen e Dekadako. E civilo romane grupura thaj ekspertura arakhle prioritetura vash politike thaj khelde jekh sherutno rolo vash te arakhen pen e Dekadake obiekktivura thaj celura. I Romani participacija avela but importante and-e procesoske supervizija thaj monitorizacija and-e avutne desh bersha.”*