

ANNEX: Examples of promising practices

All programmes and projects referenced in the table are described in more detail below (for comprehensive descriptions, the project websites should be consulted), illustrating how different strands of action can be combined to tackle multiple challenges:

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ROMACT Council of Europe; Bulgaria, Romania.	EaSI 2014-2020; 1.5M EUR; 2022 - ongoing.	Active involvement of local authorities Active involvement of Roma communities Approach tailored to specific needs of the beneficiaries	The programme's aim is to build the capacity of local authorities to develop and implement plans and projects for Roma inclusion, based on local marginalised Roma communities' concrete needs and priorities. Beneficiaries: Local authorities. https://www.coe-romact.org/about-romact
LEADER / CLLD DG AGRI; Implemented by around 2800 Local Action Groups (LAGs), covering 61% of the rural population in the EU.	Co-financed from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD); 5% of EAFRD budget of the MS; 2021-2027.		LEADER programme – local development method engaging local actors in the design and delivery of strategies, decision-making and resource allocation for the development of their rural areas. LEADER extended in the 2014-2020 programming period, under the broader term Community-Led Local Development (CLLD), to three additional EU Funds: the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF); the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF); and the European Social Fund (ESF). Beneficiaries: Any kind: private, civil society and public. https://ec.europa.eu/enrd/leader-clld_en.html
TSI – Strengthening the management of the education system (...). Romanian Ministry of Education and	TSI; 700,000 EUR; 2022-2024.	Active involvement of local authorities	TSI – Strengthening the management of the Romanian education system by developing and implementing an efficient local and regional governance model in the pre-tertiary education system and enhancing the equity of the education system. The project addresses the following: ▪ lack of reliable legal, policy and institutional frameworks capable of ensuring an

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UNICEF; Romania.			<p>efficient management educational system at the local and regional level;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the need for a comprehensive analysis of the regulatory framework regarding the allocation of competencies between bodies responsible with local and regional governance, lack of reliable legal, policy and institutional frameworks capable of ensuring the monitoring, combating and preventing of school segregation on multiple criteria in the education system in Romania; limited capacity of the education system to monitor, combat and prevent segregation to enhance its overall equity; developing the training packages for the professionals (school principals, teachers, county school inspectors, and staff of MoE) in the education system on the new legal and policy framework on school desegregation. <p>Beneficiaries: Ministry of Education, schools, local authorities.</p> <p>https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/technical-support-instrument/technical-support-instrument-tsi_en</p>
Rehousing marginalised people living in settlements in the regions of Madrid; Social Housing Agency of the region of Madrid in Spain.	ERDF; 30,000,000 EUR; 2014-2020.	<p>Integrated intervention combining different measures</p> <p>Active involvement of Roma communities</p> <p>Building positive relationships among Roma and non-Roma residents</p> <p>Stable, long-term approach</p>	<p>The programme aims at relocating socially excluded families living in slums into normalised housing as a first step towards their full inclusion into mainstream society. To this end, dwellings are purchased by the Social Housing Agency of the region of Madrid on the second-hand real-estate markets. The programme includes a solid social action plan with a social pre-diagnosis, and an active social accompaniment. It is supported by ERDF which contributes to financing the costs of construction, acquisition and rehabilitation of the houses necessary to rehouse the beneficiary families.</p> <p>Beneficiaries: Social Housing Agency of the region of Madrid; Roma from settlements.</p>

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			https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/technical-support-instrument/technical-support-instrument-tsi_en
<u>ACCEDER training and employment programme;</u> Fundación Secretariado Gitano (FSG), Spain; 14 regions with 64 employment teams across Spain.	ESF; ESF+; Operational Programmes 2000-ongoing	Integrated intervention combining different measures Active involvement of employers Long-term intervention	The programme aims to promote the effective access of Roma into the labour market, notably through salaried employment (it also includes lines of work related to Work Integration Social Enterprises (WISEs) and to self-employment). To this end, individual work with Roma men and women (through personalised employment and training pathways) is combined with close cooperation with companies and other relevant actors. It also develops actions to raise awareness and address prejudices and discriminatory practices of which Roma men and women are victims, as well as to promote favourable active policies for the Roma population. New actions and adaptations have been incorporated over the years to adapt to changing socio-economic contexts (e.g. in terms of innovation, digital aspects, green jobs...). A gender perspective is incorporated throughout the whole programme. Beneficiaries: Roma; employers. https://www.gitanos.org/que-hacemos/areas/employment/acceder.html.en
<u>Calí</u> Fundacion Secretariado Gitano, 32 cities across Spain	ESF; ESF+ Programme periods 2016 – 2027 ca. 15, 000, 000 euros (EU Funds)	Integrated intervention combining different measures Stable, long-term approach Approach tailored to specific needs of the beneficiaries	Calí programme promotes equal opportunities and socio-labour inclusion of Roma women, notably those in the most vulnerable situations (including situations of domestic violence or victims of discrimination) and to address the multiple discrimination they face. The programme focuses on the work with Roma women, based on the development of personalised support pathways that contribute to promoting their access to employment through actions that contribute to the development of their social, employability and personal skills and that promote gender

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			<p>equality, participation, and work-life balance. This is complemented by actions aimed to combat discrimination and promote equality (by informing, assisting and accompanying victims of all kinds of discrimination) and initiatives to promote changes in society as well as in structures, systems and policies.</p> <p>Beneficiaries: Roma Women (Spanish and of immigrant origin) with particular attention to the most vulnerable ones.</p> <p>https://www.gitanos.org/que-hacemos/areas/gender_equality/cali_programme.html</p>
<p>Promociona Programme</p> <p>Fundación Secretariado Gitano, 58 cities in 13 Spanish regions</p>	<p>ESF; ESF+ Operational programmes 2016 - 2027 ca. 27, 000 000 euros (EU Funds)</p>	<p>Integrated intervention based on personalised support pathways and combining different types of interventions</p> <p>Close cooperation with families, education centres and other relevant actors.</p> <p>Stable, long-term approach</p>	<p>The programme aims to ensure that young Roma complete compulsory education and continue studying in order to reduce early school drop-out and improve the Roma's access to the labour market by promoting equal opportunities. The programme addresses one of the main structural problems faced by the Roma population throughout the EU. It pays particular attention to assuring that Roma girls successfully complete compulsory education. FSG has been successfully implementing this programme, demonstrating the importance of carrying out stable and scaled projects with a specific targeted approach to Roma girls, who suffer from greatest multiple disadvantages and gender inequality.</p> <p>Beneficiaries: Roma students; education centres, families, and other stakeholders.</p> <p>https://www.gitanos.org/que-hacemos/areas/education/promociona.html</p>
<p>EURoma Network</p> <p>Spanish Government, Fundación Secretariado Gitano, Spain;</p>	<p>ESF; ESF+; 2007 - ongoing.</p>	<p>Network connecting the authorities in charge of Roma policies with those responsible for the EU Funds, promoting their alignment</p>	<p>EURoma has been working since 2007 to improve the use of European Cohesion Policy Funds (mainly ESF+ and ERDF) to promote the social inclusion, equal opportunities and fight against discrimination of Roma. It brings together public authorities responsible for Roma policies (notably National Roma Contact Points) and those in charge of European Cohesion Policy</p>

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15 European Member States.		<p>Contributing to the F capacity-building of relevant actors</p> <p>Capitalising on experience and lessons learned in different national contexts</p> <p>Stable, long-term approach</p>	<p>Funds (notably ESF/ESF+ and ERDF) from 15 EU Member States. It also counts on the participation and support of the European Commission, in particular of the Directorate-Generals with competences as regards Roma inclusion and equality and/or European Cohesion Policy Funds (notably ESF+ and ERDF). The Fundaci3n Secretariado Gitano (FSG) is in charge of the Technical Secretariat.</p> <p>Beneficiaries: Authorities responsible for Roma policies (notably National Roma Contact Points) and authorities in charge of EU Funds (notably ESF+ and ERDF) from 15 Member States.</p> <p>https://www.euromanet.eu/</p>
<p>ESF+ Social Inclusion and Dignity Programme</p> <p>Capacity building in the Programmes for Romania</p>	ESF+ 2021-2027	<p>Active involvement of different actors in local action groups</p> <p>Stable, long-term approach</p>	<p>The Education and Employment Programme entails support to the civil society working with marginalized communities (IF 155) under Priority 1, with an overall amount of EUR 850 500 to finance analysis of human resources needs, professional training and exchange of best practices.</p> <p>The Social inclusion and Dignity Programme also envisaged support to the civil society under Priority 1, with an overall amount of EUR 4 400 000 to support urban Local Action Groups for strategy development, collaboration between Local Action Groups and their operations.</p> <p>https://mfe.gov.ro/pids-21-27/; https://oportunitati-ue.gov.ro/en/program/programul-incluziune-si-demnitatie-sociala</p>
<p>Roma Civil Monitoring Consortium of organisations:</p> <p>Central European University, ERGO Network, Fundaci3n Secretariado</p>	Funded by European Parliament as Preparatory Action	<p>Capacity building and empowerment of CSOs</p> <p>Small scale projects delivered by CSOs</p>	<p>The initiative contributes to the ambitious objectives of the EU Roma Strategic Framework in several ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening the capacities of mainly Roma CSOs to provide independent assessment, monitoring and reporting on the implementation of national strategies for Roma equality, inclusion and

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Gitano and European Roma Rights Centre			<p>participation, as well as other policies with impact on Roma;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting participating CSOs in their advocacy work making the public policy more effective ; Empowering the Roma and pro-Roma civil society to engage in dialogue and cooperation with public authorities responsible for the Roma equality and inclusion. <p>Beneficiaries: More than 120 Roma civil society organisations across the EU</p> <p>https://romacivilmonitoring.eu/</p>
ESF+ Programmes for Bulgaria Human Resources Development Programme, Programme Education	ESF+ 2021-2027	Capacity-building of relevant actors Integrated intervention combining different measures	<p>The programme focuses on capacity building for different target groups/beneficiaries in its priorities, notably in Technical Assistance Priority.</p> <p>Programme Education also envisages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building capacity and qualifications of pedagogical professionals and non-pedagogical staff, including educational mediators to work in a multicultural educational environment under the ESF+ SO j “Promoting the socio-economic integration of marginalised communities, such as Roma people”. <p>Human Resources Development Programme envisages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> capacity building of the social partners; strengthening capacity of officials from administrations, policy makers related to the HRD objectives; and activities to increase the capacity of beneficiaries, applicants and their partners in preparing project proposals, management of EU resources and implementation of the objectives set out in the priorities of the Programme. <p>https://romacivilmonitoring.eu/</p>
Operation “Strengthening intercultural education,	ESF+ 16 MEUR	Integrated intervention combining different measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening intercultural education, through joint activities of schools with a concentration of Roma children and those where there is no such concentration,

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through culture, science and sport”, Programme Education, ESF+ Bulgaria	2023 – 2027 41.000 participants Roma targeted operation	Active involvement of Roma Building positive relationships among Roma and non-Roma in educational environment Sustainable approach	including exchange visits, excursions, green schools, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The capacity building is envisaged for the pedagogical specialists and non-pedagogical specialists staff trained to work with children and pupils from vulnerable groups, in particular towards the realisation of intercultural education in a school environment. Educational mediators are included in this training. Short training for parents related to the education of their children, including through the participation of educational mediators is also envisaged. https://romacivilmonitoring.eu/
HERO - Housing and Empowerment for Roma Pilot project implemented in Bulgaria, Romania and Slovakia	2021- ongoing Indicative EUR 3 MEUR Partnership EC (coordination), EP (funding), CEB (supervision), local authorities (implementation)	Active involvement of local authorities Active involvement and empowerment of Roma Integrated intervention combining different measures Sustainable approach	The objective of the project is to strengthen financial and technical capacity of beneficiaries to secure ownership of land and self-constructed housing, as well as to gainful employment to repay a loan. Main activities include cooperation with local authorities to identify and facilitate land ownership transfer to future Roma homeowners; support for savings scheme; ensuring micro-loans to selected beneficiaries and monitor its repayment; and support and advice on construction. Milestone: 95 built or renovated houses in 3 countries https://hero-project.org/
Catching-up Regions Initiative Slovakia Project implemented with support from the World Bank Piloted in Poland and Romania, gradually	DG REGIO’s Technical Assistance For Slovakia and for all components tackled: 9.2 MEUR since 2018 2018-2025 Implementation period for SK	Horizontal support to project development and implementation: one of the supported groups are marginalised Roma communities. Methodology developed and tested under CuRI has been taken over by the Roma Plenipotentiary to	Slovakia: Catching-up Regions Initiative (CuRI) aims at providing hands-on technical support to less developed regions in the Slovak Republic to overcome selected developmental bottlenecks identified by regional authorities. The Initiative was launched in mid-2018 by the European Commission and implemented in close collaboration with local authorities, the authorities of self-governing regions, national-level actors coordinated by the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic, and the World Bank.

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extended to Croatia, Slovakia, and Greece. Baltics under preparation to start in 2024.		<p>implement projects under 21-27 programming period.</p> <p>Design of National Projects (ESF+) inspired by CuRI approach, such as the Land settlement; Assistance to municipalities with project management; and Development teams supporting the preparedness of municipalities for applying for integrated ERDF calls.</p> <p>Design of integrated ERDF calls, which reflect on the bottlenecks identified by CuRI.</p>	<p>Without these close interactions it would have been more difficult to solve concrete problems due to centralisation and/or fragmentation and complexity of knowledge required. This has been the role of the CuRI Steering Committee to discuss problems and solve them. The initiative also helped identify institutional gaps, build up organisational capacity at local level and prepare a robust project pipeline in strategic areas for EU funding. One of the important areas of support is also social inclusion of MRC (as one of the components under CuRI).</p> <p>Thanks to CuRI and its identified bottlenecks and lessons learnt, it greatly helped the national authorities to improve the implementation structure for the new programming period 21-27, which should enhance spending of EU funds not only under this priority.</p> <p>https://www.worldbank.org/en/region/eca/publication/slovakia-catching-up-regions</p>
Housing First, Romodrom, Nová možnost-New possibility, Czechia	ESF 2019-2022 ESF+ 2022-2026, OP Employment	<p>Integrated intervention combining different measures</p> <p>Cooperation with private landlords</p> <p>Building positive relationships among Roma and non-Roma residents</p>	<p>The project had two objectives. The primary objective was to obtain and permanently maintain standard housing for the most vulnerable people; the secondary objective was to improve the overall situation of the supported target group in all other key areas of their lives (e.g., employment, financial situation, family relations, etc.). The aim was to make clients as independent as possible and to help them maintain their new housing even after the end of their participation in the project. Thanks to the project and the cooperation with private landlords, housing for 45 Roma households was provided in four towns of the Moravian-Silesian region who often do not meet the conditions for the allocation of municipal flats or do not have enough money to find adequate housing.</p> <p>https://romodrom.cz/en/our-activities/housing/housing-first/</p>

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<p>Development Teams</p> <p>Office of the Plenipotentiary for Roma communities of Slovakia</p>	<p>ESF+ 2021-2027</p>		<p>Supporting a comprehensive approach in the area of interventions for inhabitants of municipalities with the presence of Marginalised Roma Communities ("MRC"). Placement of expert teams in municipalities who will help with specific problems related to improvement of the quality of life of all inhabitants.</p> <p>Národný projekt Rozvojové tímy I. - NOVÉ Úrad splnomocnenca vlády SR pre rómske komunity (gov.sk)</p>
<p>Catching Up Settlements (FETE) programme Hungary</p>	<p>ESF+ and ERDF 2021-2027</p>		<p>The complex interventions of the FETE programme aim at helping improve the situation of the people living in impoverished small settlements where the Roma population is high (often in segregated villages).</p> <p>The basis of the FETE programme is an intensive social work carrying out coordinated human and related infrastructural activities. These activities are implemented with the help of the local community. The activities' main features are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - diagnosis based planning, - providing services at the local level, building on each other, - focussing primarily on children, Opening Presence Points as community place for, - helping access to quality social services, - strengthening local communities with community development services and programmes, - providing health improving, - providing prevention activities (e.g. crime prevention, drug prevention), - preventing school dropout, - increasing employability, - improving housing conditions. <p>In the implementation of the FETE programme, the monitoring and evaluation system of the FETE programme is built up with the creation of a joint thematic subcommittee of the Monitoring Committee Human Resources and Development Operational Programme Plus and of the RRF C Component with the independent evaluation of the FETE program until the end of 2027. The results and effects of the interventions are aimed</p>

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			to be presented to decision-makers and the public in order to promote the sustainability of the FETE programme.