



SUPPORT TO SOCIAL INCLUSION

SUMMARY

NUMBER OF PROJECTS	TOTAL CONTRIBUTION (EUR)	BENEFICIARIES
160	2,144,164	> 7,000

TYPES OF PROJECTS

- 45 | SUPPORT TO WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP
- 43 | CITIZENS' INVOLVEMENT FUND
- 22 | SUPPORT TO YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP
- 19 | SUPPORT TO ROMA INCLUSION
- 18 | GENDER EQUALITY MECHANISMS
- 10 | VOCATIONAL TRAININGS
- 1 | LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE
- 1 | TEACHING ASSISTANTS in Bujanovac and Preševo
- 1 | IMPROVING SOCIAL INCLUSION through employment of vulnerable and marginalised groups at local level

KEY RESULTS

- 45 | women assisted in launching businesses to improve their economic standing
- 43 | projects of Local Self Governments (LSGs) and (Civil Society Organisations) CSOs improved the access to health and social services, provided opportunities for economic empowerment and deepened inter-ethnic dialogue for vulnerable and marginalised citizens
- 28 | members of vulnerable groups received grants for self-employment, enhancing their better economic standing and fuller social integration
- 22 | young persons supported in opening businesses, ultimately improving their economic standing through sustainable income generation
- 19 | projects of Roma and other CSOs improved access to employment, housing, social protection, health, education and human security for the Roma community
- 18 | local gender-equality mechanism initiatives contributed to the economic empowerment of women, improvement of women's reproductive health and reducing gender-based violence
- 10 | municipalities raised the employability of the members of the most vulnerable groups through vocational trainings
- 3 | social enterprises established, enabling permanent employment for 13 people from vulnerable and marginalised groups
- 1 | Day Care Centre for children with intellectual disabilities constructed
- 1 | project enabled Albanian children in Bujanovac and Preševo to improve their command of the Serbian language by introducing teaching assistance into regular Serbian as a non-mother tongue classes

OVERVIEW

The European Union and the Government of Switzerland, through European PROGRES, and with the assistance of external partners, invested over two million Euros into enhancing the social inclusion and empowerment of the most vulnerable citizens of 34 municipalities in Southeast and Southwest Serbia. Almost one million Euros was dedicated to over 40 partnership projects of civil society organisations and local self-governments, realised through the Citizens' Involvement Fund, focused on strengthening the cooperation between the governmental and the non-governmental actors at the local level. Similarly, one quarter of a million Euros was invested into projects helping approximately 4,000 Roma individuals in the areas of employment, housing, social protection, health, education and human security. Over half a million Euros was utilised to procure equipment in support of the self-employment of women and youth, resulting in 67 newly established businesses. Additionally, as part of a wider intervention implemented by the Centre for Social Policy on behalf of European PROGRES, 28 members of vulnerable groups were assisted in entrepreneurial ventures. Vocational trainings, organised through projects worth over 100,000 Euros, enabled more than 300 individuals to obtain knowledge and practical skills needed for securing employment and resulting in more than 100 new jobs so far.

List of projects

No.	PROJECT TYPE	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	EP CONTRIBUTION (EUR)	PROJECT DESCRIPTION
1.	Support to Women Entrepreneurship	45	356,404	Forty five women were supported in starting their own businesses to ensure gender equality and boost the entrepreneurial spirit in Southeast and Southwest Serbia. The recipients of grants, through the "Time for successful women", initiative received the necessary equipment, mentoring support and professional assistance in business management, bookkeeping, marketing and other services. The intervention both secured employment for the direct beneficiaries and generated potential for opening additional jobs in the newly launched businesses.
2.	Citizens Involvement Fund	43	810,427	Forty three partnership projects between CSOs and LSG institutions were supported through two Calls for Proposals within the Citizen's Involvement Fund. The intervention facilitates employment and economic empowerment of vulnerable and marginalised groups, their better social inclusion through improved accessibility to and increased efficiency of various public services, as well as development and promotion of interethnic dialogue.
3.	Support to Youth Entrepreneurship	22	189,166	Twenty two individuals under the age of 30 received equipment to start their own businesses. To ensure the sustainability of intervention, aside from the requested equipment, the beneficiaries received training and mentoring support, as well as professional assistance in business management, marketing, planning and other business specific services.
4.	Support to Roma Inclusion	19	243,954	<p>Nineteen Roma and other civil society organisations (CSOs) were financially supported with 145,000 Euros to implement projects in the areas of employment, housing, social protection, health, education and human security that contribute to improving socio-economic status of Roma at local level in line with the Strategy for Roma Social Inclusion. The beneficiaries were also included in a mentoring process that enhanced their capacity them to represent the interests of the local Roma community.</p> <p>Additionally, the Programme provided 77,740 Euros to support the initiative of the Music Art Project Association aimed at introducing the inclusive El Sistema programme into the music education in Vranje and surrounding municipalities. The project included young artists who sing and play wind instruments and aimed to facilitate inclusion of children from disadvantaged groups into the education system.</p>
5.	Gender Equality Mechanisms (GEMs)	18	55,757	Nineteen local projects focused on strengthening GEMs and their effectiveness, as a part of the local self-government gender equality activities, were implemented to promote gender equality principles and, ultimately, improve position of women in local communities.
6.	Vocational trainings	10	98,428	Ten LSGs were supported in an initiative to improve knowledge, skills, and competencies of unemployed vulnerable persons in line with active labour policy measures in their respective Local Employment Action Plans (LEAPs). The support aims to reduce the identified mismatch between demand and supply on the labour market and enhance employability of the vulnerable and unemployed groups - mainly those with lower levels of education, youth, older than 50 years of age, social welfare recipients, Roma and long-term unemployed, in accordance with the need of the local labour market. A total of 343 professional practices, trainings for known employers, and trainings for the labour market, should result in around 200 new jobs.

List of projects

No.	PROJECT TYPE	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	EP CONTRIBUTION (EUR)	PROJECT DESCRIPTION
7.	Local Infrastructure	1	109,900	One of 18 priority municipal infrastructure projects supported through the Programme produces a direct effect on the quality of social inclusion of vulnerable children in one of the Programme municipalities. The construction of the House for Children with Disabilities in Brus will make an enormous improvement in the quality of life of 30 beneficiary children and up to 200 family members. The project was developed and carried out in partnership between Brus Municipality and local Association for Mental Disabilities.
8.	Teaching Assistants to Local Teachers in Elementary Schools of Preševo and Bujanovac Teaching Serbian as Non-Mother Tongue	1	110,128	Over 1,000 Albanian children of primary school age were directly helped to improve their command of the Serbian language by engaging six language assistants in four primary schools in Bujanovac and Preševo. Moreover, around 2,800 Albanian children in 16 schools in Bujanovac, Preševo and Medveđa were supported through the donation of textbooks and educational material for learning Serbian as a non-mother language.
9.	Supporting Municipalities in Improving Social Inclusion through Employment of Vulnerable and Marginalised Group	1	170,000	The project, implemented by Centre for Social Policy contributes to greater social inclusion of vulnerable and marginalised groups by increasing capacities of LSGs and other relevant institutions to assess and adequately respond to beneficiary's needs through development of relevant local policies and activities and by establishing business start-ups owned by members of vulnerable and marginalised groups. Additionally, through a public call, 28 beneficiaries received grants for launching their own businesses.

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CITIZENS' INVOLVEMENT FUND	43	810,427
SUPPORT TO YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP	22	189,166
SUPPORT TO ROMA INCLUSION	19	243,954
GENDER EQUALITY MECHANISMS	18	55,757
VOCATIONAL TRAININGS	10	98,428
LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE	1	109,900
TEACHING ASSISTANTS IN BUJANOVAC AND PREŠEVO	1	110,128
SUPPORTING MUNICIPALITIES IN IMPROVING SOCIAL INCLUSION THROUGH EMPLOYMENT OF VULNERABLE AND MARGINALISED GROUPS	1	170,000
TOTAL	160	2,144,164