

The European Roma and Travellers Forum (ERTF), the International Roma Women's Network (IRWN) and Phenjalipe, the Informal Network of Romani Women are calling for applications from Romani women from the Czech Republic, Finland, Hungary, Romania and Sweden to act as National Roma Women Contact Point for the project "Making Roma Women's Voices and Votes Count", implemented with the support of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland.

WHY... ARGUMENTS...!

The full and equitable participation of women in public life is essential to building and sustaining strong and vibrant democracies. There is strong evidence that as more women are elected to office, there is also a corollary increase in policy making that emphasizes quality of life and reflects the priorities of families, women, and ethnic and racial minorities. By reason of their gender and their low social and economic status, Roma women remain one of the most marginalised groups in Europe. They are underrepresented in Europe's national and local political bodies, and are excluded from the political process.

The current process of political participation in Europe represents a unique opportunity for Roma women to be part of the decision making processes and play a key role in improving the situation of Roma women, integrate and empower communities and support democracy.

The pilot project aims to support Roma women's role in their political participation at local, national and European level and to build their capacity to engage in effective political and advocacy activities regarding gender equality but also the empowerment and active participation of women and of Roma communities in general.

THE PROJECT

The target countries include the Czech Republic, Finland, Hungary, Romania and Sweden. The pilot project focuses primarily on increasing the effectiveness of advocacy activities with the political parties at a local, national and European level and in supporting Romani women in acquiring the tools and creating the premises necessary to participate successfully in all aspects of the political process.

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To that aim, up to five Roma women will be recruited amongst the Roma community in each country of the project.

THESE NATIONAL ROMA WOMEN CONTACT POINTS WILL:

- Define a common working strategy;
- Play a key role in the project at the local/national Level and will be responsible for establishing and maintaining contacts with the national political parties, the Roma community and the Roma and non Roma women NGOs;
- Be involved in the creation of a manual on the development of strategies for Strengthening Roma women's skills to participate in local processes;
- As a follow-up to the project and based on the manual, organise trainings that would focus on basic issues such as rights awareness, source of funds in local government offices and human rights provisions country of the project.

PROFILE OF THE APPLICANT:

- Relevant experience in at least two of the following fields:
 - community development, political participation;
 - work with Roma communities and NGOs for at least three years;

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- work with local authorities and/or political parties and/or alternatively member of local councils or political parties;

- effective advocacy and campaigning;

- Good working level in English (verbal and written);

- Sound computer skills of standard tools in office applications (word processing, internet);

- Good interpersonal skills; capacity to recognize and respond appropriately to ideas, interests and concerns of others;

- Ability to establish and maintain working relations with people in a multi-ethnic, cultural environment with sensitivity and respect for diversity;

- Flexibility to travel as needed.

DEADLINE: Applications (CV & Motivation letter) must be sent by email (info@ertf.org) no later than 12 January 2015

* This position is not remunerated, thus the applicant should be ready to work on a voluntary basis. Travel costs will be covered by the Project.