





ABOUT THE STAFF

The Foundation's staff was fundamentally unchanged, only two of our 15 colleagues, who had worked with us for years, looked for jobs elsewhere. Julianna Kiss needed more time to complete her PHD, therefore she sought to find a more relevant researcher position as a part-timer. István Dandé undertook a more secure, non-project-based job elsewhere due to his new family situation. Replacing István's post in the Get Closer to Communities project, an old/new colleague György Lukács joined us.

ABOUT THE BOARD

The composition of the Board remained unchanged, all board meetings had a quorum.

ABOUT THE COMMUNICATION

A new website was created with a renewed look and compared to previous years we have created more communication materials, which we shared on social media.

Webpage: <http://autonomia.hu>
Facebook: <http://bit.ly/2jyiEm4>

ABOUT GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The foundation has been accepted as a member of the Roma Coordination Council organised by the Ministry of Human Capacities.

Though it would be important to maintain collegial relation with state agencies, due to the government's campaign against independent NGOs the general climate was not welcoming. Towards the end of the year anti-NGO voices from government seriously concerned the community and, as a response, Autonomia was one of the initiators of a regular conciliation forum with institutionalised members of the sector.

ABOUT FUNDRAISING

In 2016, 17 project proposals were made totalling 500 million HUF, mostly for foreign funds (EACEA, DG Justice, Bosch, Erasmus +, EVZ, Dutch Embassy, OSFE, EFOP, TOP, Norwegian Fund), of which many grants were successful (TOP, Norway Fund, EVZ, OSIFE). Grant contracts worth nearly 140 million HUF have been signed or can be expected in 2017.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Similar to previous years, the Foundation continues to focus on co-operation with international organisations operating in its professional area. A large part of the above-mentioned applications were elaborated and submitted in partnership with Romanian, Slovakian, Spanish, Czech, Bulgarian, Polish, Slovenian, Cypriot, Maltese, and Greek organisations.



About our programmes in 2016:

GET CLOSER TO COMMUNITIES

Reference number of the contract:
400008228/JUST/2014/RDIS/AG/DISC

Supported by: DG Justice of EU

Project period: 01.06.2016 – 30.06.2017

Total budget of the project: 288,325 EUR
(88,000,000 HUF)

Grant used in 2016: 40,213,870 HUF

The Get Closer to Communities programme aims to



launch development processes with local community involvement which enable a more efficient integration of the Roma population in 10 settlements.

Taking into account the possible dropouts, we took 15 settlements instead of 10: Babócsa, Bakonya, Báta, Bolhás, Dombóvár, Homrogd, Ináncs, Kazár, Karancslapujtó, Kővágószőlős, Kővágótötött, Káldánca, Nagymányok, Szuhogy, Tar.

In Hungary, the Hungarian National Association of Local Authorities (HNALA) was our partner and ERGO network helped us to present the results on international grounds.

The development work carried out in the settlements is documented and at the end of the project case studies and policy recommendations will be presented with the help of our partners in Hungary and Brussels.

The above mentioned settlements were chosen from among villages that are close to our Roma coordinators' places of residence as well as based on the recommendation of HNALA. Agreements were signed with 15 municipalities.

The task of Autonomia's staff was to address local Roma communities, identify key actors, assist self-organised communities, rethink local integration plans, develop local capacities, and develop cooperative skills through training, study tours and with the help of small local projects and developing applications for bigger EU calls with the involvement of communities.

In the summer of 2016 we held a project design training course for 56 people from the 15 settlements and organised study tours to show them exemplary initiatives. During the development process one of the settlements, namely Nagymányok decided to step back as the mayor of the settlement did not share our ideas of integration.

In the summer of 2016 we offered 15 settlements a new type of art workshops not yet known to them, thus helping to launch a dialogue between the Roma and non-Roma communities and providing a positive community experience. 11 settlements took advantage of the opportunity, offered space, and organised events with the support of local Roma activists and institutions.

In the absence of open calls in 2016 we primarily assessed local opportunities and mapped which project would mean an opportunity in which settlement. In one of them a workshop was organised in relation to the long-awaited settlement rehabilitation programme, where dozens of interested municipalities participated.

Despite the fact that the available resources were very limited, in cooperation with Dombóvár, the largest settlement involved in the programme, we were successful in submitting three settlement rehabilitation applications worth a total of 200 million forints. If approved, these projects will help the housing and integration of Roma people living in the segregated parts of town.

PROMOTING LOCAL DIALOGUE IN ROMA VILLAGES THROUGH NEW TYPES OF ART WORKSHOPS

Supported by EEA/Norway Funds, Prime Minister's Office

Reference number of the contract:
HU07-0209-B2-2016

Project period: June 2016 – April 2017

The total budget of the project: 40,737,902 HUF

Grant used in 2016: 18,981,086 HUF

A new type of community-building artistic initiatives aimed at bringing people together were offered to settlements which had been working with us in the Get Closer to Communities programme. The aim was to persuade locals that cultural and artistic community activities can give hope and opportunity to create new, sustainable, mutually appealing communities and cultural traditions that will open new horizons for the members of the community.

The school-aged Roma and non-Roma children, between the age of 6 and 16 were our most important target group in each settlement. However, we also paid attention to the inclusion of socially disadvantaged, less active adults who are left out of social dialogues and are rarely capable of leaving their settlements, but could be moved to participate in the community programmes.

In the summer of 2016, eight types of activities (juggler, puppets, nature art, documentary, slam poetry/rap and movie, music workshop, free dance, story-telling) were selected by the settlements in a

way that some activities were introduced in several settlements and some only in one. Contracts were signed with the training teams for the trial period. The Roma coordinators, locals and training leaders organised 33 trial sessions at the 11 partner settlements.

Based on the demands, together with the training leaders and the Roma coordinators it was decided which activity to bring to which settlements.

The training teams, in consultation with local people, prepared a regular schedule of activities that started in autumn 2016. One activity consists of 9–10 occasions.



Implementation locations: Babócsa, Bakonya, Báta, Bolhás, Homrogd, Ináncs, Kazár, Karancslapujtő, Kővágószőlős, Kálmánca, Szuhogy.

The frequency at which the sessions took place was dependent on local needs and the nature of the activities. Some of them were held monthly, in every two weeks or every other month, and some were organised as a camp taking several days.



ACTIVATE YOUR COMMUNITY!

Project duration: November 2016 - May 2018

Sponsor: Budapest Open Society Institute Foundation

The amount of support: 64 million HUF

Grant used in 2016: 521,174 HUF

The project focuses on ten disadvantaged settlements densely populated by Roma people, where community involvement can lead to dialogue and cooperation with public institutions in order to improve public services and make them more accessible to the local community.

The goal is to promote issues important to local groups with weak interest representation capability by reinforcing and involving local communities and thereby strengthening the culture of democratic practices, civic participation, dialogue, and cooperation.

In the project we work with members ensuring community involvement, who work on important issues for the local community, initiatives to integrate Roma, explore and reveal health and educational problems affecting Roma and working on these solutions.

In 2016, preparations for the programme were made, Roma integration organisations and experts were asked for recommendations concerning potential settlements and staff, and the application and selection procedure was launched.



**Sponsor: EEA/Norway Financial
Mechanism Office, Brussels**

Total amount of grant: 133,787,400 HUF

Grant used in current year: 33,842,301 HUF

The overall goal of the EEA/Norwegian Civil Aid Fund is to “help develop the civil society in Hungary and strengthen its participation in shaping social justice, democracy and sustainable development”. According to the donors’ decision, the Fund pays particular attention to human and minority rights (based on ethnic, religious, linguistic and sexual orientation), good governance, and transparency, combating racism, xenophobia, discrimination, and social inequalities, taking action against poverty and exclusion, and gender equality including sexual assault and domestic violence. For this purpose, the Fund provides support for projects developed in the following areas:

- human rights and democracy;
- women’s rights and equal opportunities;
- organisation and community development;
- youth and children;
- environmental protection and sustainable development;
- welfare services for socially vulnerable groups;
- strengthening socially vulnerable groups (focus: Roma integration).

In the programme started in 2013, in 2016 Autonomia Foundation continued to be responsible for small and medium-sized projects related to welfare services for socially vulnerable groups and those strengthening socially vulnerable groups with a focus on Roma integration. In 2016 we continued to follow up projects that were supported during the calls for proposals between 2013 and 2015. Running projects have been visited and their submitted

reports processed. All of the supported projects were completed by 30 April 2016, their financial closure was the most important task of the year. By the end of the year more than ninety percent of funded projects had been closed.

The projects completed in 2016 provided welfare services for a total of 75,000 persons, while some 2,000 people became new active participants of organisations and communities.

In addition to grant management the programme also included:

- a series of international events on ‘no hate’ actions (autumn 2016): ‘with civilian eyes’ video contest for supported organisations,
- “The foreign is beautiful” good practices and exchange of experience seminar
- workshop for young workshop leaders (July 2016)

The implemented complementary activities, workshops and other events reached out to hundreds of people altogether.

The documentation and the promotion of good practices: on norvegiminta.blog.hu the main results, values and tools of supported projects were presented by written and audio-visual tools in a clear and concise form.

Monitoring the programme: in 2016 a survey was carried out with the aim of exploring the effects and results of the programme.

During the year a significant part of the research activities were realised and the completed research report will be presented at the closing event of the programme in April 2017.

Details on the projects are available at www.norveg-civilalap.hu under the supported projects menu.



ELTÁV – ON THE LEAVE

Project duration:
January 2016 – February 2017

Sponsor: EVZ

Total amount of grant: 12,936,000 HUF

Grant used in current year:
6,146,285 HUF

Katona József Theatre and Autonomia Foundation worked on a development project in SzűcsBányatelep. The purpose of the project was to use the theatre as a form of expression to open doors between the theatre and the people of the segregated settlement. It is important that through common experience and common work, both young people and adults coming from different socio-cultural backgrounds get to know each other. With the help of the theatre the inhabitants of the settlement can leave the settlement in their mind and then with the help of the local people they can leave the settlement in reality. The elite high school students from Budapest can step out of their own closed intellectual circle to get acquainted and become familiar with young people of the same age who live in completely different life situations and circumstances. In addition to familiarisation and cooperation, young people and viewers who followed the project could experience how changes in active civic engagement can be induced and lead to changes in a peripheral, abandoned community.

The project focuses on a theatre pedagogical series held by Katona's young actors and on the financial development project of Autonomia Foundation. Within the two main activities, a number of volunteers from Budapest participated in the sessions, and a local mutual saving bank was created.

In 2016, the project success was also due to the contribution of the 80 volunteer workers of Prezi.com and a 2.4 million forint support for the materials needed to create local community spaces. British

Petrol also joined with its volunteers to renovate the property of local residents, for which material costs were collected through the adjukossze.hu crowd funding portal.



INTEGROM PROGRAMME/HROM

Supported by: Magyar Telekom, Boston Consulting Group

Project period: 2014-2016

Total amount of grant: 1,500,000 HUF

Amount used in current year:
1,247,342 HUF

The programme is an experimental Roma employment programme that supports young Roma people with secondary or higher education in getting hired by large companies for office work in administrative or professional positions.

The programme is implemented in a framework of cooperation between Autonomia Foundation and Boston Consulting Group, and local Roma organisations and organisations supporting Roma university students are involved in motivating and reaching the participants.

Many partner companies play an important part in preparing the participants. Hays prepares participants for the recruiting process, while Dramatrix provides communication training.

Nearly 20 companies joined the programme as potential employers.

The programme's third and last year took place in 2016.

Three training sessions were organised in which young Roma were strengthened in order to be more successful in the recruitment processes. Companies were regularly consulted to ensure that candidates were able to properly hold positions and, if necessary, handle the selection process flexibly. Regular negotiations took place with the civil partners on the recruitment processes and the needs of the Roma youth.

The programme in numbers: 36 participants attended the three training sessions in 2016. During the three years, 16 had been successful placed in companies.

Media and Awards

The programme received significant media attention in 2016, articles appeared on hvg.hu and the HR portal. The project received a prize of € 2,000 in SozialMarie.

The European Commission has identified the project as an interesting practice in implementing the National Roma Strategies.

Continuation of the programme

The project can open the way for significant professional development. From 2017, thanks to an awarded multi-annual EU grant, the project will morph into a new project called HRom.



**NEW SOLUTIONS TO OLD
PROBLEMS — EXCHANGE OF
EXPERIENCE BETWEEN GHENT'S
ROMA INTEGRATION INSTITUTIONS
AND AUTONOMIA**

Project duration: March 2016 – June 2017

Supported by the Flemish Foreign Ministry

The amount of the grant is 6,000,000 HUF

Amount used in current year:
3,272,286 HUF

In Ghent a significant number of Slovakian, Romanian and Bulgarian Roma people have settled over the past 10 years and several institutions and programmes have been established for their integration. The aim of the project is to get acquainted with the Roma integration experiences accumulated at the institutions of the city and at Autonomia, identify initiatives that can be adopted, and develop joint projects.

In 2016 mutual study tours were organised. In the new year further trips and joint project design workshops will be held.

