

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: EXTERNAL EVALUATION OF THE ROVA PROJECT

Deadline to apply: 15 November 2025

Budget: Maximum €13,000

Evaluation period: Flexible, finalised by December 2027

The European Roma Grassroots Organisations (ERGO) Network is seeking an experienced external evaluator to conduct an evaluation of the ROVA project (2025–2027). The EU-funded project supports 120 Roma and pro-Roma civil society organisations and 15 national Roma coalitions across the EU through grants, capacity-building, and coalition building, with a total budget of €6.2 million.

About the evaluation

The evaluator will assess the project's relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability, applying methods of empowerment evaluation and involving end beneficiaries. The process should include desk review, interviews, focus groups, and a final evaluation workshop with the project consortium.

The evaluator will:

- Propose and implement an evaluation framework that they will implement in partnership with the project consortium
- Measure progress on both quantitative and qualitative indicators
- Assess the impact on third-party grantees, and where possible on their target groups
- Provide strategic recommendations for future grant-making

Consultant profile

- Proven experience with programme evaluations, ideally with re-granting
- Strong understanding of Roma issues and EU policies
- Experience with civil society, advocacy, and capacity-building
- Excellent research, analytical, and communication skills
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively with diverse stakeholders

How to apply

Interested consultants or teams should submit:

- A proposal outlining methodology, timeline, and budget
- CV highlighting relevant experience
- References or sample of previous evaluations

Please send your application to rova_ergo@ergonetwork.org **by 15 November** with the subject line: ROVA Evaluation Proposal.



TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

EXTERNAL EVALUATION OF THE ROVA PROJECT

(2025–2027)

Issued by: ERGO Network

Maximum budget: €13,000

Deadline for proposals: 15 November 2025

Evaluation period: Flexible, to be finalised by December 2027

1. PROJECT SUMMARY

ERGO Network together with five national member organisations implements the EU-funded project “ROVA” from January 2025 to December 2027, providing financial support and capacity-building to 120 Roma CSOs and 15 national coalitions across the European Union.

Local Roma civil society organisations are at the forefront of the fight for human rights in their communities. Their work against educational segregation, child poverty, and hate speech, or for more local democracy and solidarity benefits all disadvantaged groups and society at large: it will lead to more inclusive and equal communities that are based on EU values and fundamental rights. However, local Roma civil society is up to many challenges. The problems they are addressing are so urgent and manyfold that there is neither time nor resources to strengthen their infrastructure and to become more resilient. Often, these organisations only consist of a handful of activists, who struggle to find volunteers; most Roma, struggling to make ends meet, do not have time for volunteering. Often activists have to leave the country for better income opportunities elsewhere. Donors are often wary of giving funds to organisations who do not have staff with higher educational qualifications.

The ROVA project aims to support Roma and pro-Roma civil society to become more effective and resourceful in their promotion of EU values. **The project will support 120 local Roma and pro-Roma civil society organisations and 15 national Roma coalitions in Spain, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Slovakia and across the EU through grants and a capacity-building programme tailored to their needs.**

This will equip them with the capacities and resources to better work towards issues such as:

- Access to fundamental rights
- Promotion of equality
- Improved civic participation and democracy
- Increased awareness of the human rights situation of the Roma
- Better monitoring of the implementation of national Roma strategies
- Improved dialogue between Roma and authorities.

Project partners:

- ERGO Network
- Autonomia Foundation, Hungary
- Nevo Parudimos, Romania



- Integro Association, Bulgaria
- FAGIC, Spain
- Romanonet, Czech Republic (grant-giving includes Slovakia)

Third party projects:

- 15 projects of national Roma civil society coalitions (grants of 15,000€) will be implemented between November 2025 and August 2027)
- 60 projects of local and national Roma and pro-Roma NGOs (grants between 20,000€ and 30,000€) will be implemented between January 2026 and August 2027)
- 60 projects of local and national Roma and pro-Roma NGOs (grants between 20,000 and 25,000€) will be implemented between August 2026 and August 2027

Capacity-Building:

- 6 webinars for each grant cohort (on national level for BG, CZ/SK, HU, RO, ES; and on EU level for other countries)
- Individual expert advice and mentoring
- Networking meetings

Quantitative indicators:

- Number of direct participants (in meetings, webinars, etc.) – disaggregated by sex, age, and ethnicity. Minimum 2860, with a minimum of 50% women participation
- Number capacity-building sessions held per country: 12 webinars per country
- Number of grantees having received individual capacity-building: minimum 10
- Number of projects successfully completed per country: 20
- Number of people reached through Third Party projects: minimum 12,000
- Number of CSOs reached through financial support to national coalitions: minimum 105 (minimum seven CSO members per supported national coalition)
- Number of people reached through awareness-raising and visibility activities (disaggregated by country, sex, age and ethnicity where possible): Minimum 10,000 in total, minimum 50% women.

Qualitative indicators:

- Improved performance of Roma and pro-Roma CSOs (e.g. additional funding secured, new internal processes set up, more visibility, etc.)
- Improved knowledge, skills and attitudes of individuals who took part in capacity-building activities.
- Increased interaction between Roma CSOs and public stakeholders regarding public policies targeted at Roma inclusion.
- Increased cooperation between (pro-)Roma CSOs
- Increased awareness of EU values among selected third parties, their target groups and (pro-)Roma civil society in the target countries.

2. PURPOSE OF THE EVALUATION



The purpose of the external evaluation is to provide an independent, in-depth assessment of the project's:

- **Relevance** to the needs of the target groups and EU values
- **Effectiveness** in reaching its goals
- **Efficiency** in use of resources
- **Impact** on grantees and their communities
- **Sustainability** of the project outcomes

The evaluation will serve both learning and accountability purposes and provide concrete **recommendations** for future programmes involving re-granting and civil society support.

Given the scope of the project and the limited budget for evaluation, we expect the consultant to develop an evaluation framework that includes an active role for the partners in the continuous evaluation of the project.

3. SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

The external evaluator will:

- Propose and agree an evaluation framework with ERGO Network, that will be implemented together with the consortium partners
- Review project documentation and monitoring data
- Assess the quality and outcomes of activities implemented by the intermediaries and third-party grantees
- Assess the impact on third-party grantees (and where possible on their target groups)
- Gather data from key stakeholders through interviews, surveys, and focus groups
- Facilitate a final evaluation workshop with the project consortium (online)

Specific objectives:

- Evaluate progress toward quantitative and qualitative indicators
- Assess the impact on the capacity and effectiveness of Roma civil society
- Analyse the experiences of grantees and their target groups
- Identify success factors, challenges, and lessons learned
- Provide actionable recommendations for the consortium partners

4. METHODOLOGY

The evaluation should follow a **multi-layered and participatory methodology**, including:

- Desk review of project reports, materials, and outputs
- Online and/or in-person interviews or focus groups with:
 - Consortium members
 - Third-party grantees
 - Other stakeholders, if relevant
- Use of surveys and participatory methods
- Facilitation of a final online workshop with the project consortium



5. DELIVERABLES

- **Inception report** (by February 2026)
 - Detailed methodology and timeline
 - Task distribution between consortium partners and evaluator
- **Interim findings brief** (mid-2027)
- **Final evaluation report** (by December 2027), including:
 - Executive summary
 - In-depth assessment
 - Case examples/stories of change
 - Recommendations for future programming

All deliverables should be in **English**.

6. BUDGET

The maximum budget available for the external evaluation is **€13,000**, inclusive of all fees, taxes, travel, and other costs. The payment schedule will be defined in the contract with the selected consultant.

We expect that the consultant ideally travels to at least 2 of the partner countries for in-person interviews with partners and third party grantees.

7. CONSULTANT PROFILE

We are looking for a consultant with:

- Proven expertise in evaluation methodology and practice
- Experience with EU-funded civil society projects, including re-granting schemes
- Knowledge of Roma issues and EU Roma policy frameworks
- Experience working with grassroots civil society organisations
- Excellent research and analytical skills
- Fluency in English and ability to work independently

8. APPLICATION PROCESS

Interested consultants should submit the following to **rova_ergo@ergonetwork.org** by **15 November 2025**

- Technical proposal (max 3 pages), outlining methodology, proposed timeline, and understanding of the ToR
- Financial proposal
- CV(s) of consultant
- Examples of previous relevant evaluations
- Two references



Please include **“ROVA Evaluation Proposal”** in the email subject line.

