

GUIDELINES

Call for Concept Papers: Barvalipe Schools - Generation 2015

Roma Initiatives Office

The Roma Initiatives Office (RIO) aims to support Barvalipe Schools that provide a reflective, dynamic, and creative experience for Roma university graduates who want to progress from scholarship to public leadership. In pursuit of this goal, RIO invites proposals from Roma NGOs in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Slovakia, Spain, and Turkey for projects that will provide opportunities for rebuilding dignity and pride, as well as developing confidence, competence, and self-reliance among Roma university graduates between the ages of 25 and 35.

OBJECTIVES

All proposals should explain how applicants' ideas will support groups of Roma graduates in:

- **Articulating a collective narrative** that can build on the historical achievements of Roma intellectuals and leaders; building pride in belonging to Roma communities that are rich in diversity but share much and are able to resist oppression; nurturing self-worth, self-definition, and self-respect; finding strength to imagine a better future and deepen their own desire to search for dignity and fulfillment.
- **Building a sense of collective purpose** among various communities, local cultures, and political orientations. The schools should help with critical reflection about the key collective challenge of the Roma in each country, and promote courage, a sense of urgency, and a shared commitment to engaging throughout the school. The groups should transform the brilliance of individuals into the brilliance of the collective.
- **Leadership confidence:** The schools should not define leadership as people in positions of formal authority. They should promote leadership as readiness to take the risk and responsibility of working with others to act upon a collective purpose and accumulate the collective power of knowledge, skills, time, connections, and material resources. Applicants should describe the opportunities they will provide for the group to gain skills and practice in:

- *Leading people* – informal self-organized movements of students, residents, citizens, political constituents, or voters.
- *Leading organizations* – building organizational strategy, internal accountability, and fundraising strategy; working in formal (existing or start-up) advocacy or social entrepreneurship organizations.
- *Leading policy ideas* – writing a policy brief with new ideas about the work of public institutions; reaching relevant stakeholders who could act upon these ideas.

PARTICIPANTS

Participants in Barvalipe Schools should be Roma university graduates between the ages of 25 and 35 who have leadership and advocacy potential or experience and who have demonstrated a commitment to public affairs. Preference should be given to candidates who have taken part in programs of the Open Society Foundations, the Roma Education Fund, and the European Roma Rights Centre, but other candidates should be also considered. The principles of gender balance and geographic balance should be applied in the selection of participants.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

Lead applicants should be Roma NGOs registered in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Slovakia, Spain, or Turkey. RIO defines a Roma NGO as an organization in which at least 50% of the membership (in the case of associations), the governance body, and the senior management openly declare their Roma ethnic origin. Organizations should meet the following two main criteria: have the necessary understanding, expertise, and experience to conduct projects related to this call; have a history of undertaking programs that align with the objectives of Barvalipe. Organizations registered in non-eligible countries, international organizations, universities, and other relevant institutions may be partners in a project. Organizations may participate in more than one proposal.

DURATION OF PROJECTS

Projects may last up to 36 months, starting no earlier than October 2015. This length takes into consideration the possible need for an initial phase to design a curriculum, approaches, and methods.

BUDGET AMOUNTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

There are no restrictions regarding the amount of support available for a given project. In their concept papers, applicants should provide minimum and maximum budget estimates for completing their projects. Administrative costs should not exceed 10% of a project budget.

All projects are expected to have an own contribution of minimum 10%. This can be through in-kind resources (e.g., meeting spaces, volunteer time), donated goods and services, and financial contributions from funders other than the Open Society Foundations. Projects showing financial contributions from other sources, beyond the 10% minimum requirement, will be assessed more positively. Preference will be given to organizations with planned spending for 2016 that includes funding from the Open Society Foundations amounting to less than one-third of their total expenditures during their last closed fiscal year.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

- 1. Organizational integrity** – good governance practices, financial stability, accountability and transparency, and sound and credible leadership
- 2. Organizational alignment** – previous work and track record that shows that the applicant organization has Roma youth, students, or graduates as at the core of its work.
- 3. Conceptual alignment** – objectives of this call are aligned with the vision of the proposal and its methods.
- 4. Innovation** – using new ideas, concepts, and tools; introducing new leadership approaches; and forming new partnerships. RIO recognizes that innovation may involve certain risks; therefore, the presence of risk, when acknowledged and explained well, will not have negative consequences on the assessment of a project.
- 5. Participation by Roma women** is strongly encouraged.
- 6. Budget and cost-effectiveness** – beyond the total amount of the budget, the assessment will also consider the weighting of various budget items. RIO encourages adequate investment into activities that will provide leadership opportunities to the participants and constituents, not only the payment of salaries and expert fees. Applicants will be expected to explain the difference between minimum and maximum budgets, and how this difference would influence the effective implementation of the project.

STAGES OF REVIEW AND APPROVAL

- 1. Concept paper submission.* The submission deadline for concept papers is **July 1, 2015 (by midnight CET)**. The review process for the pre-selection of concept documents may take up to four weeks. If you have not heard from RIO within four weeks, then you have not been pre-selected to submit a full proposal.
- 2. Notification of approved concept papers.* Organizations with approved concept papers will be invited to submit full proposals. An invitation to submit a full proposal does not mean that a project has been approved for funding.
- 3. Consultations before full proposal submission.* RIO staff will speak with pre-selected applicants online or in face-to-face meetings in their respective countries. These consultations are for providing feedback on concept papers, gaining greater knowledge of applicants, and stimulating potential linkages with other applicants in the country. Applicants invited to submit full proposals will be provided with a manual developed after the first three Barvalipe summer programs as a potential resource that for the development of their proposals.
- 4. Full proposal submission.* Following consultations, applicants will have two weeks to submit a full proposal

BARVALIPE WORKSHOPS

All organizations that are awarded grants will be invited to take part in a workshop before the start of their projects. The aim of the workshop will be to further develop plans for the forthcoming Barvalipe programs.

HOW TO APPLY

The deadline for submitting concept papers is **July 1, 2015 (by midnight CET)**.

Concept papers must be submitted online through the Open Society Foundations' [Applicant/Grantee Portal](#) using the template provided.

Concept papers should not exceed four pages, and we therefore ask applicants to write briefly and clearly. Only applicants whose concept papers are pre-selected will be invited to submit full proposals. Help with submitting a concept paper and managing your profile is available throughout the Portal. Orange “help bubbles” provide information about completing specific fields, and general instructions for using the Portal are also available.

In addition to the required concept paper, applicants have the option of presenting their proposals in a video up to 10 minutes long. If you choose to post your video on YouTube, please be sure to check that it:

- is 5-10 minutes long;
- is in .AVI, .MOV, .WMV, or .MPG file format;
- is not set to “private”; your video should be “public” or “unlisted” (Making a video unlisted means that anyone who has the link to the video can view it. Unlisted videos shouldn't show up in YouTube's search results unless someone adds your unlisted video to a public playlist.);
- does not contain any copyrighted music, video, images or text. (If your video contains inappropriate or copyrighted material, YouTube will remove the video.)

If you need help uploading a video to YouTube, visit the YouTube Help Center at <http://support.google.com/youtube/?hl=en>

If you encounter any problems during the application process, please contact us at roma@opensocietyfoundations.org