

GRANT AWARD NOTICE

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Ref No: 2021-09/CEB/TAM/P/LD

HOUSING AND EMPOWERMENT FOR ROMA (HERO) PILOT PROJECT

BULGARIA, ROMANIA AND SLOVAK REPUBLIC

1. Background information

The Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB) has been entrusted by the European Commission in March 2021 to manage the implementation of the Housing and Empowerment for Roma (HERO) Pilot Project in and Bulgaria, Romania and Slovakia. The project is a pilot project of the European Parliament.

HERO aims to test an innovative social investment model addressing the socio-economic exclusion of disadvantaged communities, such as marginalised Roma. The project takes a multi-pronged approach with interventions in several integration areas, supporting access to micro-loans and capacity building in the form of training, coaching and mentoring services to support access to housing, employment and education. The project will employ social innovation to empower Roma communities and promote community-led development.

HERO is implemented according to a common methodology in three countries: Bulgaria, Romania and Slovakia.

The HERO budget amounts to €2,980,000, with €2,090,000 to be disbursed in direct grants as follows:

- Component for Bulgaria: EUR 490,000
- Component for Romania: EUR 580,000
- Component for Slovakia: EUR 1,020,000.

2. Selection procedure

On 15 July 2021, the CEB launched an open Call for Proposals for the selection of implementing partnerships composed of social organisations and financial intermediaries in each target country. In response to this Call, two applications were received: one from Slovakia and one from Romania. No applications were received from Bulgaria. Following the evaluation of the received applications, CEB decided to award a grant for the Slovakia component.

Pursuant to the General Rule No. 01/2020 laying down the CEB's competitive procedures to award grants, the CEB proceeded with a direct grant award for Bulgaria and Romania component given the unsuccessful outcome of the Call for Proposal.

1. Grants awarded in 2022 under call for proposals No. 2021-09/CEB/TAM/P/LD published on 15 July 2021

Contract Number	Beneficiary(ies): name & address	Nationality (ISO code)	Country/region where the action takes place (ISO code)	Action title	Action location	Action duration (in months)	Grant amount
HERO-1-TA-ZZZ	Lead applicant: Slovenská sporiteľňa a.s. Slovakia Co-applicant: Projekt DOM.ov Slovakia	SVK	SVK	Housing and Empowerment of Roma (HERO): Country component for Slovak Republic	Eastern Slovakia	22 months	920,000

2. Grants awarded without a call for proposals in 2022

Contract number	Beneficiary(ies): name & address	Nationality (ISO code)	Country/region where the action takes place (ISO code)	Action title	Action location	Action duration (in months)	Grant amount
Project - BCR grant agreement	Lead applicant: BCR Social Finance IFN S.A., Romania Co-applicants: Resource Center for Roma Communities, Romania Habitat for Humanity Romania	ROU	ROU	Housing and Empowerment of Roma (HERO): Country component for Romania	Eastern Romania	17 months	580,000