



This project is funded by the European Union



## Inclusion of informal Roma waste collectors into the formal waste schemes

(Start/End date: 12/2012-02/2014)

Budget: 77750 Euro

There are around 5000 informal waste collectors in the country, almost all of them Roma, that are marginalized, discriminated and with limited social rights. Their inclusion in the formal waste management scheme at local government level will contribute towards enabling possibilities for them and their families to exercise their basic human rights: employment, education, social and health welfare. Firstly, by pooling capital, establishing microenterprises, and forming partnerships with compliance schemes, municipalities, public utility companies, informal waste collectors increase their selling power. Secondly, by securing uniforms, safety equipment, and work permits, informal collectors increase workplace dignity and safety. And thirdly, by demanding recognition for their environmental and economic contributions, informal collectors increase political might.

This project intends to enable informal waste collectors to become part of a formal waste management on local level by introducing model developed by municipalities, private/public utility companies, representatives of employment agencies, Association of Informal Waste Collectors, private recycling companies and civil society.

This Project aims at engaging local stakeholders' activities that will lead towards long – **term employment of the marginalized Roma in formal recycling sector**. This process will be available for other communities and will lead to more **effective poverty reduction on local level**. This is a good opportunity for local governments to engage in finding a long- term solution for and initiate employment of informal collectors of recyclable waste.

The **overall project objective is to** develop sustainable model for inclusion of Roma informal waste collectors in the formal waste management system at local level that will contribute towards enabling possibilities for them and their families to exercise their basic human rights: employment, education, social and health welfare in: Municipality of Kocani, Municipality of Strumica and City of Skopje.

The **project's expected results** are:

- ❖ Dialogue among the stakeholders, civil society and public institutions on local level established in the area of waste collection established;
- ❖ Capacity of the civil society and public institutions on local level in the area of waste collection increased;
- ❖ Created guideline how to incorporate the informal waste collectors into formal waste management system and
- ❖ Develop and adopt Action Plans by Municipal council and public utility Company, containing a detailed description of procedures necessary to formalize the informal waste collectors.

The project's **target groups** are Roma informal waste collectors, local governments, public utility companies, recycling industry, Roma NGO's and other civil society organizations.

### Final beneficiaries

- Roma informal waste collectors
- Municipalities – The project will work in the city of Skopje (10 municipalities) and in the municipalities of Strumica and Kocani.
- Public utility companies
- Recycling industry
- Civil society organizations

This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of MDC-Ti.Net and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.



“,Now I can collect packaging waste freely and legally without bothering for the police stopping and banning to practice collecting packaging waste. Previously the police used to stop me and punish me, since i signed an agreement with Komunalna Higijena I have a license and a region in the town from where I collect Packaging waste legally. this way of collecting packaging waste has given me sense of identity and a steady income” – said Hadzi Alija Dando, who has been collecting packaging waste for years.

Although informal sector activities very often take place outside official and formal channels, unlicensed and untaxed, they nevertheless contribute significantly to the national economy. Informal waste collectors are entrepreneurs who add value merely by collecting and then transforming waste into tradable commodities.

**Main project activities are:**

- Facilitate the process to establish stakeholder municipal working group consisted of all relevant stakeholders
- Facilitate and foster participation among the stakeholders
- Capacity building of the members of the stakeholder municipal working group focused on development of long-term, sustainable solutions for inclusion of informal collectors on municipal level
- Situation analysis that will provide information on: existing policies on municipal level that could serve as a basis for developing the strategies and action plans of inclusion of informal waste collectors; assessment of municipal capacities; capacities of the public/ private utility companies to absorb new employments; capacities of the recycling industry for absorbing new employments
- Develop and adopt guidelines and Action Plan on municipal level for inclusion of informal waste collectors in the formal waste management.
- Implement awareness campaign entitled “Partnership for inclusion”

**MDC-Ti.Net** is responsible for the implementation of the project **“Inclusion of informal Roma waste collectors in formal waste schemes”**, funded by the European Union through the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights.

For more information please visit [www.mdctinet.org.mk](http://www.mdctinet.org.mk) , or contact us at [office@mdctinet.org.mk](mailto:office@mdctinet.org.mk).



This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of MDC-Ti.Net and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.