

Project Brief Number 28



Economic development possibilities

Income generating measure for the Roma population: Iron works

Description:	Valorisation of the traditional skills of the Roma population
Beneficiaries:	Roma population
Project Implementer:	Astra Museum
Co-implementer:	Roma ONG from the area
Timespan:	12 months
Estimated Cost:	5,000 dollars for each workshop to be improved
Partners:	Roma ONG, Roma craftsmen from the area
Origin:	Astra Museum

1. Title of the Project


Income generating possibilities for the Roma population: Iron works

2. Location of the Project and Area of Coverage

Villages on the Hartibaci Valley

3. Justification

Many Iron workers are presents in the region of Sibiu. Preserving their know-how, organizing the production and the sale of their products is essential for the preservation of the traditional culture of the Roma population (most of the Iron workers are Roma craftsmen). In order to achieve this goal is essential:

- To prepare a technical manual with all the models and products realised in Iron by the local craftsman (gates, hedges, gratings for stoves, household objects, accessories for the kitchen and for hunting.
 - To organize theoretical and practical courses.
 - To manufacture instruments and installations to ensure the process of production of this Iron products.
 - To organise courses in traditional and modern design.
 - To introduce in the tourist circuit the network of individual workshops.
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- To prepare a business plan in order to meet the demands of the customers and to tourists and to ensure diversification of the Iron products offered by the local craftsmen.
 - To organize an annual Trade Market in Sighisoara or another city of the region and to participate in the other Trade Markets in Romania and abroad.
 - To publish an illustrated brochure of the individual workshops and the Iron products produced in the region.

4. Objectives of the Project

a. Long-term objective

- To contribute to improving the tourism potential of the region and the souvenirs market for the tourists;
- To protect and valorise, in a modern market economy, the know-how of the traditional handicrafts of the guilds of the region;

b. Immediate objectives

- To provide employment opportunities to the local available workforce in order to ensure a better quality of life for the local population;
- To protect the skills of local Iron craftsmen;
- To transform the region into an important centre of handicrafts of Iron products based on the local traditions and oriented towards the national and international market;
- To use, at the local level, all the resources and increase the possibilities offered by the region.

5. Activities of the Project

- To produce the technical manuals that will present in an organized manner the processes used in the traditional production of iron products;
- To provide the complete equipment of the workshops to be included in the project;
- To coordinate the production process by a qualified and skilled person in the production, organization and management fields;
- To adapt and organize the workshops to be used in individual housings;
- To organize a school workshop for those participating in this project;
- To produce a documentary film about the entire production process.

6. Inputs

- a. Human
 - To convince the best qualified Roma Iron workers to participate in the implementation of this project;
- b. Material
 - A technical manual will provide all the material inputs to be acquired for the implementation of the project;
- c. Financial
 - Depending on the number of the workshop that will be included in the project, with a minimum amount of US\$ 5,000 necessary for each workshop that will be improved and adapted by this project.