

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the role of a member of the Roma Sounding Board?

A Roma Sounding Board member is invited to share her/his expertise on the Roma inclusion agenda with World Bank management and project teams during formal and informal meetings to improve the Bank's ability to support the Roma agenda in Romania.

Roma Sounding Board members. The members furthermore support the Bank in connecting with communities for direct consultations and engagement as part of the Bank's work in Romania.

Why did the World Bank establish a Roma Sounding Board?

The Bank's twin goals are to eradicate extreme poverty and promote shared prosperity. In Romania, the Roma agenda is at the core of these twin goals, as over 70 percent of Romanian Roma live in poverty (FRA 2016). The Bank has a long-standing commitment to support the Roma inclusion agenda. It became clear that the Bank can better deliver on this commitment if it brings in the voices, perspectives and insights from Roma civil society to guide the Bank's engagement to ensure that Bank projects benefit Roma communities.

What is the time that a member of RSB should allocate for working in the RSB?

The majority of the work of the Roma Sounding Board takes place during the Board meetings. In addition, members will be asked to provide written comments and inputs to Bank documents. Active participation during Roma Sounding Board meetings is at the core of the mandate. Roma Sounding Board members are expected to join all formal meetings of the Board and non-participation should only occur on exceptional circumstances and with prior notice. Failure to join in person or via video connection more than two consecutive meetings, without notice, can result in the organization being asked to leave the Board. Meetings are scheduled in a participatory manner to take availabilities of the individual members into account. The frequency of meetings varies, some periods are busier than others. Generally, the Roma Sounding Board members should have about two hours per month available for the work with the Roma Sounding Board.

Are there any financial benefits for the RSB members?

There are no financial benefits for RSB members. Membership is a voluntary engagement.

What are the benefits of an organization to be a member of RSB?

Being a member of the RSB means organizations are directly connected to the World Bank's operational work and policy dialogue in Romania. The RSB provides perspectives and suggestions to Bank management and task teams. Through participation in the RSB, member organizations get an in-depth understanding how projects are being designed, how and where they can be adapted to integrate the Roma agenda and identify practical ways to integrate visibility and relevance of the agenda.

How long is the mandate of a RSB member?

The mandate for the second cohort of the RSB will be until June 30, 2023, in line with the timeframe of the 2019-2023 World Bank's Country Partnership Framework for Romania.

What happens to current members of the Roma Sounding Board?

Active members who have been part of the first cohort of the Roma Sounding Board have been invited to re-confirm their interest to remain in the Roma Sounding Board. Upon this reconfirmation, they will continue to serve as members of the Roma Sounding Board in the second cohort.

What are the policies/operations that RSB members can influence?

The Bank's portfolio is guided by the 2018- 2023 Country Partnership Framework with the Government of Romania and aims to build stronger institutions fit for a prosperous and inclusive Romania. The Bank is providing technical advice and supports the Government in preparing and implementing investment projects that (i) ensure equal opportunities for all, (ii) catalyze private sector development and (iii) build resilience to shocks (natural, economic and health shocks).

What is the working language of the RSB?

Romanian and English. Simultaneous translation is provided at all formal meetings.

Does the member need BA to be part of RSB?

Formal education is not part of the selection criteria.

Are online meetings possible?

Yes, most meetings will be held online. Only a limited number of meetings will be held face to face. Travel expenses for these meetings will be reimbursed.

Only Roma individuals representing NGOs can be part of RSB?

No, the ethnic background of the individual representative does not matter. A member needs however to be part of a Roma or pro-Roma organization.

What is the necessary expertise that Roma NGOs should have to be part of RSB?

Experiences in working in and with Roma communities on social and economic projects that can be proven through a portfolio of activities. Experiences with managing externally funded projects a plus.