Cultural and Educational WomenAssociation of Drosero Xanthi "ELPIDA" ("THE HOPE")



570 R/N 7 January 2019

TC

Ms. Aurora Ailincai Head of the Strategic Partnerships Unit Support Team of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Roma Issues Council of Europe

Dear Ms. Ailincai,

Following up on the telephone conversation you had with my secretary, I am writing to provide you with some background information on our organization: The Roma Women's Association of Drosero, known as ELPIDA.

ELPIDA is an NGO, formed by a group of Roma women in the settlement of Drosero, on the outskirts of Xanthi, Greece, in 2006. Since its inception, Elpida has worked to educate the children of the community, address the social issues of the community, and defending the rights of its inhabitants.

ELPIDA has received funding from various sources, among them the Stavros Niarchos, Bodossakis and Leventis Foundations, the Council of Europe, and the Dutch and US Embassies in Greece.

Currently we are seeking funding for various projects, key among them the operation of a preschool center in the settlement. Preschool education is a crucial foundation for the children of the community, if they are to succeed in subsequent stages of education.

We would greatly appreciate your assistance in identifying funding resources available through the Council of Europe that will allow us continue and strengthen our programs.

I attach a document we use as our association's identity, which gives more detailed information on our actions about the problems we deal with in our settlement, the challenges faced in obtaining adequate education and our efforts in this area.

Sincerely,

The President of the Women Association of Drosero Xanthi «ELPIDA»

Souteiman Sabicha

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