

Women of Drosero Association ELPIDA/HOPE"

As the President of a Cultural and Educational Association founded in the Greek Region of Thrace in 2006 by Roma women, I would like to share with you one example of civil society actions in Greece.

Our Association named "ELPIDA/HOPE" was set up with the purpose of creating a network for Roma women in Thrace where the Muslim Minority in Greece resides. Roma women is a substantial percentage of this Minority. Our vision is to promote the social inclusion of Roma in Thrace and in Greek society in general, inform our members and friends about national and EU projects in Greece designed to create better living conditions for the Roma. We also often advocate the claims of the Roma component of the Greek Muslim Minority to the Greek Authorities.

Our Association has achieved a lot in our field of action. Namely, education and creative employment of children, elimination of domestic violence cases, improvement of the infrastructure of the important Roma settlement in Drosero/Xanthi and networking with other Roma associations NGOs and Organisations in Greece and abroad.

Our experience is that official Greek authorities have never stood in the way of our Association. On the contrary, they engage with us for finding effective solutions to our problems and for implementing the National Roma Social Inclusion Strategies.

Being particularly interested in the development of the region of Thrace, we welcome the Report of the Parliamentary Committee for the Strategic Development of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace issued in 2021 and we are looking forward to the implementation of its core findings.