



Ladislav Miko, Head of the European Commission Representation in Slovakia declares:

"I am glad that once again we can support the Roma Spirit project, which shows annually how the Roma community can enrich our society and overall life in Slovakia. I believe that we also contribute in this way, together with the Roma Spirit participants, to improve the situation and integration the Roma into the majority of society. Such projects have a deep and long-term meaning, the patronage of the EC Representation in Slovakia is a matter of course for me, and it naturally also refers to European policies and objectives in this area."

Hilda O'Rian, Head of the Irish Embassy:

"Promoting human rights, equality and diversity is at the heart of Ireland's foreign policy. As the Ambassador of Ireland to the Slovak Republic, I am proud to represent Ireland and our values, especially to support the integration and inclusion of the Roma community in Slovak society. We are pleased to be working with Roma Spirit because their approach to using positive examples to demonstrate the benefits of an inclusive society is very successful."

Jarmila Váňová, Director of ROMED declares:

"Roma Spirit is a unique project that has already crossed the borders of Slovakia. I appreciate the courage of the organizers, who are not afraid to speak positively about the Roma issue, and each year they involve more and more notable people in the social, cultural and political life of our country. It is one of the few projects that does not lose the timeliness, quality, enthusiasm and strong impact on the whole society."

Braňo Tichý, Director of People in Need declares:

"In our work with excluded Roma communities, we face daily the need to show 'that it is possible' - that changes in communities are actually happening, though sometimes slower than we all would like. Therefore, the organization People in Need is pleased to accept the offer to become a partner of the Roma Spirit Award, which recognizes people and institutions contributing to change with their own personal examples."