



Progress made by EU Member States in Roma integration

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Věra Jourová

Commissioner for Justice, Consumers
and Gender Equality



Justice and Consumers
Directorate General



The 2015 Report on the Implementation of the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies

In 2011, the European Commission adopted an [EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies](#). It sets out a comprehensive approach which interlinks the fight against discrimination and social and economic inclusion.

All EU Member States have adopted National Roma Integration Strategies or integrated sets of policy measures based on this Framework and the Commission annually assesses the progress.

The role of the European Commission in EU Roma integration

The European Commission gives guidance to Member States under both the EU Framework and the Europe 2020 strategy. It provides funding linked to policy priorities, facilitates the Network of [National Roma Contact Points](#), and holds bilateral meetings with Member States.

In May 2015, the Commission addressed [Country Specific Recommendations](#) to promote the participation of Roma children in quality inclusive early childhood and school education for the five countries with the largest Roma communities and most acute challenges: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia.

1. New approaches to funding Roma integration

With the new funding cycle 2014-2020, the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies has for the first time had an impact on the way EU funding has been allocated.

Key tools to improve the efficiency of EU funds for Roma inclusion:

- To receive funding under the new investment priority on socio-economic integration of marginalised communities such as Roma, Member States must have an **effective policy framework with achievable goals, and strong monitoring methods in place**. Member States must ensure that **civil society, local authorities and social partners** are involved in the planning, implementation and monitoring of EU-funded action.
- Funds target the **specific needs of disadvantaged micro-regions** most affected by poverty and **groups at highest risk of social exclusion**;
- **Funds are concentrated on a limited number of priorities** to prevent fragmentation.

Over €90 billion is being invested for the 2014-2020 period in building human capital and promoting social inclusion and fighting poverty by Member States through the European Social Fund and the European Regional Development Fund – and one of the investment priorities in this area is the integration of marginalised communities, such as Roma.

PROMISING PRACTICES

Bulgaria

Roma civil society has been involved in planning the use of EU funds for Roma integration.

Slovakia

€ 450 million investment for Roma will focus on 150 municipalities with the most deprived marginalised Roma communities.

<http://www.minv.sk/?operacny-program-ludske-zdroje-2014-2020>

Spain

Planned actions aim at personalised labour market integration, fighting early school leaving, or supporting vocational training.

2. Cooperation and coordination

National strategies are increasingly being turned into local action plans, and the National Roma Contact Points are more involved in planning the use of EU funds.

Several Member States have developed coordinated structures for Roma integration involving stakeholders; however these now need to become more effective, and ensure that all relevant stakeholders are involved. The Commission will support Member States to develop national platforms for Roma inclusion.

PROMISING PRACTICES

Austria

The Roma dialogue platform organised by the National Roma Contact Point involves representatives of national, regional and local levels, civil society and academia.

<https://www.bka.gv.at/site/7660/default.aspx>

Germany

Several federal states provide support to local authorities and Roma and Sinti communities. The Land of Baden-Württemberg established a Council for German Sinti and Roma Affairs involving relevant stakeholders and providing state financial support of € 500 000 per year.

<http://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/>

3. Fight against discrimination

Anti-Gypsyism, hate speech and hate crime have been on the rise across Europe.

The Commission has stepped up its efforts to ensure that EU anti-discrimination legislation is properly transposed and enforced in the Member States, including at local level. The Commission is currently conducting several investigations on discrimination against Roma concerning access to education or housing.

In several Member States, a majority of people hold unfavourable views on Roma (Italy: 85 %, France: 66 %, Greece: 53 %, UK: 50 %).¹

Segregation of Roma children in education continues to persist: many marginalised Roma children attend segregated schools or classes (Slovakia: 58 %, Hungary: 45 %, Greece: 35 %, Czech Republic: 33 %, Bulgaria: 29 %, Romania: 26 %).² In the Czech Republic and Slovakia, more than 20 % of Roma children up to the age of 15 attend special schools and classes for children with mental disabilities.

The majority of marginalised Roma (54 %) feel discriminated against when looking for paid work (Czech Republic: 74 %, Greece, Italy, France, Poland: 64-68 %).³

Awareness-raising and antidiscrimination measures are currently not given enough priority within most strategies and under the planned EU-funded interventions.

PROMISING PRACTICES

Croatia

A system for collecting data on discrimination and equality was set up to fight hate crime. Most reported cases are solved within a year.

Ireland

The Irish Immigrant Support Centre carried out an anti-racism training to 20 police officers in Cork. Lessons learned will be used to develop a training toolkit that will be rolled out nationally.

<http://www.nascireland.org/latest-news/nasc-deliver-anti-racism-training-to-gardai/>

Multi-country

The transnational NET-KARD Project funded by the EU Fundamental Rights and Citizenship Programme and coordinated by the Spanish Fundación Secretariado Gitano aimed to prevent anti-Roma discrimination and promote cooperation among key actors, including via practical guides for lawyers and jurists, police services, Roma associations and media professionals.

https://www.gitanos.org/romania/informacion/net_kard_project.html

¹2014 Global Attitude Survey, Pew Research Center, <http://www.pewglobal.org/2014/05/12/chapter-4-views-of-roma-muslims-jews/>.

²Roma survey – Data in focus: Education: the situation of Roma in 11 EU Member States, FRA, 2014. The survey question refers to all/many of classmates being Roma. Since the sampling methodology covers areas where Roma live in higher density than the country average, answers could reflect a higher proportion of Roma children in a school or kindergarten. Nevertheless the data is indicative in terms of cross-country comparison.

³Roma survey — Data in focus: Poverty and Employment: the situation of Roma in 11 EU Member States, FRA, 2014.

4. Monitoring results on the ground

The EU Framework called on Member States to include strong monitoring methods to evaluate the impact of Roma integration actions, including civil society monitoring.

From 2016, the Member States will report on measures they have taken under the **Council Recommendation on effective Roma integration strategies**, which will serve as a framework for monitoring. This will contribute to a transparent monitoring system, whereby reporting from Member States and civil society will feed into the Commission's annual assessment.

PROMISING PRACTICES

Hungary

The Hungarian Central Statistical Office included questions on ethnicity in large sample surveys. The information will make it possible to calculate outcome indicators for monitoring the implementation of the national strategy.

Romania

The Romanian Institute for Research on National Minorities started a two-year project on mapping of Roma Communities for community-level monitoring. A set of indicators for monitoring progress of Roma inclusion at the local level will be developed. <http://www.ispmn.gov.ro/page/socioromap>

Slovakia

A national project on monitoring and evaluation of Roma inclusion policies will be realised from EU funds covering monitoring consultation and data collection activities, analytical work and an information portal on the strategy.

5. Enlargement countries

Roma integration goals are equally relevant to enlargement countries. The Commission will provide more and better targeted funding in this area. In October 2014, the Commission presented the 'Award for Roma Integration in the Western Balkans and Turkey' (see [IP/14/1064](#)) to raise awareness of the challenges faced by Roma and the contribution made by NGOs.

The way forward

To achieve tangible and sustainable results, the Commission encourages Member States to:

- Set up national Roma platforms to promote mutual learning at local level and ensure broad involvement of all stakeholders and Roma communities;
- Make full use of the new tools and EU funds;
- Fight against discrimination and segregation;
- Monitor and fight hate speech and anti-Gypsyism;
- Finalise national monitoring systems to be able to grasp the results of their strategies and the use of EU funds;
- Scale up successful and proven practices;
- Support the achievement of Roma integration goals through inclusive mainstream policy reform and sustainable national funding.