

## SLOVAK REPUBLIC

	Key steps since 2011	Assessment
<b>Education</b>	<p>Introduction of premium for teachers teaching in normal classes at primary schools with "individually incorporated disadvantaged pupils".</p> <p>Pedagogical Guidelines for 2013/2014 explicitly called for the prohibition of all forms of discrimination and segregation.</p> <p>New Recommendations to the Centres of Pedagogical and Psychological Counselling and Prevention to improve diagnosis of school abilities of children from socially disadvantaged environment.</p> <p>All day programmes tested in 200 elementary schools.</p> <p>Building of prefabricated, modular elementary schools where needed.</p> <p>Implementation of programmes towards inclusive education "Investment into Early Childhood – Support of Social Innovations and Integration of the Roma".</p> <p>Adding of Culture and Roma language and Literature to subjects of the school-leaving exam.</p>	<p><i>In spite of positive incentives a systematic approach combined with effective implementation and proper monitoring are needed to eliminate the enrolment of Roma children from socially disadvantaged environments into special-needs education for mentally impaired pupils.</i></p> <p><i>Ensuring access and promoting participation of Roma children to quality inclusive pre-school education needs to be reinforced. Alternative options to building new school facilities in predominantly Roma-populated areas (such as providing school bus for children above a certain age) should be considered to avoid segregation.</i></p> <p><i>Reducing secondary school dropout rates, promoting vocational training should be prioritised.</i></p>
<b>Employment</b>	<p>Amendment of the Act on Employment Services reforming the active labour market policies.</p> <p>Amendment of the Act on Social insurance facilitating the employment of long-term unemployed by exempting the employers and employees from paying social security and health insurance contributions for 12 months.</p> <p>Amendment of the Act on Assistance in Material Need.</p> <p>Implementation of the social field work projects.</p>	<p><i>Measuring the impact of the amendments of existing law on the situation of marginalised Roma is necessary.</i></p> <p><i>Targeted active labour market policies for Roma focusing on personalised services, and quality training in line with labour market demand should be planned in order to ensure effective integration in the open labour market.</i></p> <p><i>Using social considerations in public procurement, promoting social enterprises and Roma entrepreneurship, reaching out to private employers, targeting Roma under the Youth Guarantee, training and employing Roma civil servants as more efficient alternatives to public work schemes should be considered. Fighting and monitoring discrimination in the labour market needs to be ensured.</i></p>
<b>Health</b>	<p>Preventive outreach measures targeting marginalised Roma are solely implemented by the program of health mediators.</p>	<p><i>A more systematic integrated approach with clear measurable targets, a timeframe for implementation, appropriate financial allocation and effective monitoring should be taken. Measures towards healthcare professionals could also be considered.</i></p>
<b>Housing</b>	<p>The Housing Development Programme provides grants to villages and towns for the construction of rental flats of normal and lower standard. Within the programme a grant for technical equipment to enhance</p>	<p><i>Housing interventions should be part of an integrated approach with the long-term objective of desegregation. An adequate system of supervising and monitoring the construction, maintenance and upgrading of</i></p>

	<p>the socio-cultural level of Roma settlements is provided up to 80% of the acquisition cost.</p> <p>The new Construction Act is being prepared.</p> <p>In order to increase affordability of housing the state offers a housing allowance for those in material need amounting to €55.80 a month for an individual and €89.20 for a household with more than one member.</p>	<p><i>existing low-standard flats should be put in place.</i></p> <p><i>Abolishment of informal dwellings in the Roma settlements should be accompanied by adequate accompanying measures</i></p> <p><i>Legalisation of the land as the legal precondition for the construction of basic infrastructure is necessary.</i></p>
<b>Anti-discrimination</b>	<p>Amendment of the Antidiscrimination Act which introduces temporary equalising measures (positive action) which can be adopted on the grounds of ethnicity in all areas protected by the Act, i.e. employment, education, healthcare, social security and access to goods and services.</p> <p>Efforts to mainstream antidiscrimination in gender equality policies.</p> <p>Promoting cultural activities.</p>	<p><i>Temporary equalising measures are welcome. However, in order to be effective, they need to be well promoted.</i></p> <p><i>The effective practical enforcement of anti-discrimination law needs to be ensured.</i></p> <p><i>Effective measures should also be taken to combat anti-Roma rhetoric and hate speech.</i></p> <p><i>Desegregation measures should be accompanied by awareness-raising activities and appropriate training.</i></p>
<b>Funding</b>	<p>Roma inclusion has been supported by national and EU funds under various types of mainstream measures, including social inclusion measures.</p> <p>In the 2007-2013 financial period, Slovakia has allocated 10,9% (~€ 162 million) of its total ESF budget for integrating disadvantaged people.</p>	<p><i>Sufficient allocation of European Structural and Investment Funds, including in the specific investment priority for the integration of marginalised communities such as should be ensured in the 2014-2020 programming period. Furthermore, Roma inclusion should be mainstreamed into all relevant policy areas, including under the thematic objectives on social inclusion, education and employment. All existing possibilities to support Roma inclusion, including under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) should be considered.</i></p> <p><i>Strong cooperation and coordination between the National Roma Contact Point and the authorities responsible for the management of European Structural and Investment Funds is necessary to ensure the successful mobilisation of EU funds for Roma inclusion, efficiency and sustainability of measures as well as proper monitoring of their impact.</i></p>
<b>Structural priorities that should be considered</b>	<p><i>Mainstream policy reforms, particularly in the fields of education, employment, health and housing should contribute to support Roma inclusion. Measures targeting Roma should be carried out within an integrated approach supported by adequate sustainable funding. The monitoring of the impact of these measures should be ensured. Mapping and strengthening the territorial aspects of policy making should focus on the most disadvantaged regions. A constructive dialogue with the civil society, as well as close cooperation with local and regional authorities should be ensured. Anti-discrimination campaigns and actions presenting Roma integration as a benefit for everyone should be developed.</i></p>	