

Romania

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Roma population	Estimate in the document	approximately 730 000 - 970 000
	<i>Council of Europe estimates</i>	<i>approximately 1 850 000 i.e. 8.32 % of the population</i>
Approach		National strategy

	KEY ELEMENTS	IDENTIFIED GAPS
Education	<p>The strategy includes in particular the following positive elements:</p> <p>Stimulation of the participation of Roma children in early childhood education and care, training of school mediators, training and hiring Romani language teachers.</p> <p>Dedicated places in high schools and universities for Roma students.</p> <p>Network of school inspectors belonging to the Roma community.</p> <p>Clear inclusive approach, explicitly fighting against school segregation.</p>	<p><i>The strategy does not cover completion of primary school by all Roma children.</i></p> <p><i>The strategy does not identify clear targets on the educational attainment of Roma and is not founded on an adequate evidence base. A clear link with general programmes targeting disadvantaged groups and educational infrastructure would be necessary.</i></p> <p><i>The integration into the labour market of the trained school mediators should be supported.</i></p>
Employment	<p>The strategy includes in particular the following positive elements:</p> <p>Target to increase the number of Roma employees by 60 000, and the number of Roma female employees by 25 000.</p> <p>Promoting entrepreneurship among the Roma people.</p> <p>Stimulating agricultural activities and traditional crafts.</p> <p>Providing incentives to SMEs (infrastructure investments, loans, Roma employment subsidies).</p>	<p><i>The target is not commensurate with the size of unemployment. More attention is needed to the reduction of unemployment, in particular in the case of women and youth, as well as to increasing the skills of the Roma population and to promoting transition from undeclared to regular and from short to long-term employment. Social economy structures should also be addressed. The problems of rural areas and disadvantaged micro-regions and segregated neighbourhoods should be addressed specifically.</i></p> <p><i>Possibilities of job creation in rural areas including sectors other than agriculture should be considered.</i></p>
Health	<p>The strategy includes in particular the following positive elements:</p> <p>Identification of key challenges (e.g. lack of medical staff in rural areas, and lack of health insurance among Roma).</p> <p>Target of increased access of Roma to public healthcare services and specific target on increasing the number of Roma health mediators.</p> <p>Health education campaigns in the field of prevention of tuberculosis in Roma communities.</p> <p>Vaccination campaigns for Roma children.</p>	<p><i>The proposed actions are welcome but insufficient in size and scope. The gap in access to health care and health outcomes affecting Roma should be addressed more effectively. Detailing a calendar, targets, indicators, and budget are needed to secure the effective implementation. The strategy would benefit from developing concrete measures to increase the health insurance coverage. Registration with local authorities is necessary.</i></p>

	KEY ELEMENTS	IDENTIFIED GAPS
Housing	<p>The strategy includes in particular the following positive elements:</p> <p>A number of combined programmes: social housing construction programme; social housing for Roma communities programme; social housing for tenant programme, etc.</p> <p>Regional development infrastructure project for 10 000 km of local and regional roads.</p>	<p><i>The strategy does not appropriately address access to (social) housing. Detailing a calendar, targets, indicators, and budget are needed to secure the effective implementation. The strategy could be improved by identifying areas with extremely poor communities and defining targeted measures to address the specificities of the situations.</i></p>
Structural requirements and funding	<p>Limited dialog with the local and regional authorities during the preparation of the Strategy and Action Plan.</p> <p>The civil society was formally consulted on the preparation of the Strategy.</p> <p>Specific attention is paid to the situation of children as well as to raising awareness on discrimination.</p> <p>Reference to European funding, as far as agriculture and rural development is concerned, without mentioning any amount.</p>	<p><i>The strategy does not reflect an integrated approach. The strategy would benefit from a clear prioritisation, a closer link between general and specific objectives, directions for actions and actual measures proposed, detailed description of clear targets, responsibilities, budget allocations, as well as of a robust monitoring and evaluation system.</i></p> <p><i>In the light of the considerable reliance on Structural Funds to support projects addressing the identified priorities, a significant improvement of the absorption capacity should be a priority.</i></p> <p><i>Closer involvement of the regional and local authorities and of Roma civil society in the implementation and monitoring phase should further improve the strategy.</i></p> <p><i>Effective coordination of implementation must be ensured.</i></p>