



The European Union and Roma – Factsheet Croatia

<http://ec.europa.eu/justice/roma-integration/croatia/>

4 April 2014

1. Key Information

Roma population	
Estimate in National Roma Integration Strategy	<p>9 463 Roma (2001 Census; results of the 2011 Census pending publication)</p> <p>15 615 Croatian citizens of Roma origin with permanent residence in Croatia (Ministry of the Interior, 2010)</p> <p>21 381 Roma recipients of welfare support in 2002/2003 school year (Ministry of Labour and Welfare)</p> <p>30 000–40 000 Roma (figure adopted by the National Programme for Roma)</p>
Council of Europe Estimate	<p>35 000 Roma (data from 2012)</p> <p>i.e. 0.79% of the population)</p>

National Strategy	http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/roma-integration/croatia/national-strategy/national_en.htm
Funding	http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/roma-integration/croatia/index_en.htm

2. National Roma Integration – 2014 review

	Assessment of Strategy	Identified Gaps
Education	<p>Focus on pre-school education; After-school programmes; Raising awareness among Roma parents and teachers; Roma assistants;</p> <p>Scholarships to support secondary education.</p>	<p>Develop systematic measures to reinforce inclusion in compulsory education.</p> <p>Ensure access to high quality and inclusive early childhood education and care, as well as pre-school education.</p> <p>Ensure the correct monitoring of enrolment and attendance.</p> <p>Reinforce integration.</p>

Employment	Employment policy measures specifically targeting Roma.	Complement inclusion policies focusing on the effective integration in the labour market. Ensure the proper functioning of the 29 Support Centres for vulnerable groups, including Roma through adequate and sustainable funding.
Health	Improved healthcare of Roma, especially women and children. Roma healthcare assistants.	Improve access to healthcare. Reinforce training of healthcare professionals.
Housing	Legalisation of current Roma settlements as a condition to build basic infrastructures. Renovation and construction of houses for Roma.	Support implementation of regional programmes with adequate and sustainable funding. Consider the accurate mapping of socio-economic and living conditions in Roma settlements.
Funding	Croatian authorities have allocated national funds (~ HRK 45 million / ~ EUR 6 million) for activities exclusively targeting Roma. As of now, Croatia should allocate at least 20% of its total European Social Fund budget to fighting social exclusion and poverty. The programming process for Croatia's EU funding for 2014-2020 is still in progress.	
Priorities for the future (Commission recommendation)	All policy reforms should support Roma inclusion. Measures targeting Roma should be carried out through an integrated approach, and supported by adequate and sustainable funding. The impact of these measures should be monitored. Territorial aspects of policy making should focus on the most disadvantaged regions. Constructive dialogue with civil society, as well as close cooperation with local and regional authorities should be ensured.	

3. Contacts

Contact Points

National Roma Contact Point	Director of the Office Government Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities Mesnička 23, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia branko.socanac@uljppnm.vlada.hr
Managing Authorities for ESF (European Social Fund) funded projects	Ms Ana ODAK Head of Independent Service for Information and Educational Activities Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds (MRDEUF) Tel: +385 1 6400 687 E-mail: ana.odak@mrrfeu.hr www.mrrfeu.hr
Fundamental Rights Agency Country Report:	http://fra.europa.eu/en/country-data/2013/country-thematic-studies-situation-roma

4. Promising practices

Including Roma in education, employment and housing

Mursko Središće is a small town in Medjimurje County in northern Croatia, bordering Hungary. The majority of inhabitants are ethnic Croats, while some 460 (15 percent) have identified themselves as Roma. Some 400 Roma live in the Sitnica locality and another 60 in Hlapičina.

Mursko Središće has chosen three long-term priorities in terms of Roma inclusion: education, employment, and housing. The most successful efforts have been made in the area of pre-school and primary education. Work towards the full inclusion of Roma children into regular kindergarten began in 2007, with funding and expertise from the Roma Education Fund. Gradually all costs were integrated into the municipal and national budget, allowing all Roma children of preschool age to attend a regular kindergarten. In turn, this has contributed to an approximately 98% enrolment rate of Roma children in primary school. These good practices include educating kindergarten teachers about innovative teaching methods, after-school mentoring, introducing Roma teaching assistants in the classrooms, and free transportation to primary school. Roma parents have participated as volunteers in the school programmes. Annually, EUR 25,000 is allocated to the preschool programme from the municipal budget.