



European
Commission



The European Union and Roma – Factsheet Czech Republic

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

4 April 2014

1. Key Information

Roma population	
Estimate in National Roma Integration Strategy	Approximately 150 000 - 200 000
Council of Europe Estimate	Approximately 200 000 (data from 2012) i.e. 1.90 % of the population

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

2. National Roma Integration – 2014 review

	Key steps taken since 2011	Identified Gaps
Education	<p>Amendment of Decree forbidding socially disadvantaged children to be educated in programmes for pupils with disabilities.</p> <p>Amendment of Decree obliging schools to have counselling facilities to periodically review the special educational needs of pupils.</p>	<p>Further legislative efforts, effective implementation and monitoring are needed to stop Roma children from socially disadvantaged environments from being enrolled into special-needs education.</p> <p>Ensure access and promote participation of Roma children in pre-school education.</p> <p>Prioritise promotion of vocational education and training.</p>



<p>Employment</p>	<p>Active employment policy tools with labour offices paying extra attention to most vulnerable.</p> <p>Employment support programmes for Roma.</p> <p>The municipality of Ustecky kraj is looking at the possibility for employers to reserve at least 10% of job positions for long-term unemployed in public tenders. Other municipalities such as Děčín, Pžřerov or Havířov are ready to follow this initiative.</p>	<p>Improve employability of Roma.</p> <p>Further develop the capacity of public employment services; reinforce the capacity of the Agency for Social Inclusion.</p> <p>Discrimination in the labour market needs to be tackled.</p>
<p>Health</p>	<p>The Drom organisation provides social assistance to help users in excluded areas overcome barriers and systemic disadvantages when using health services. In 2012, there were 8 health and social assistants in 4 of the 14 regions of the Czech Republic. The organisation reports the following results for 2012: a total of 6 137 interventions, each assistant giving assistance to on average 70 users, in total to 420 users, 70% of whom were women.</p> <p>Notification to health insurance companies about discriminatory practices.</p> <p>Communication courses focusing on specific socio-cultural environment of a patient are compulsory in medicine, dentistry and pharmacy curricula.</p>	<p>Improve access to healthcare.</p> <p>Reinforce measures to avoid discriminatory practices within healthcare.</p>
<p>Housing</p>	<p>Awareness raising activities.</p> <p>Support to victims of discrimination provided by the Ombudsman.</p> <p>Free legal assistance provided by the Czech Bar Association.</p>	<p>Improve access of Roma to quality social housing.</p> <p>EU structural funds not to be used for any kind of sub-standard housing.</p> <p>Attention needed against unlawful practices in the property market.</p>

Anti-discrimination	<p>Awareness raising activities.</p> <p>Support provided to victims of discrimination provided by the Ombudsman.</p> <p>Free legal assistance provided by the Czech Bar Association.</p>	<p>Ensure effective practical enforcement of anti-discrimination laws.</p> <p>Further combat anti-Roma rhetoric and hate speech.</p> <p>Continue fighting segregation.</p>
Funding	<p>Roma inclusion has been supported by national and EU funds:</p> <p>€14 million for housing interventions under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)</p> <p>In the 2007-2013 financial period, Czech Republic has allocated 9.7 % (~€ 365 million) of its total European Social Fund (ESF) budget for integrating disadvantaged people.</p>	<p>Further use of EU funds to support Roma inclusion.</p> <p>The Czech Republic should allocate at least 20% of its total ESF to fighting social exclusion and poverty</p> <p>Improve cooperation and coordination between National Roma Contact Points and authorities responsible for EU Funds.</p> <p>Mobilise funding to support capacity building of Roma NGOs.</p>
Priorities for the future (Commission recommendation)	<p>Further policy reforms to support Roma inclusion.</p> <p>Adequate and sustainable funding needed.</p> <p>The impact of these measures should be monitored.</p> <p>Policies and measures should focus on the most disadvantaged regions.</p> <p>A constructive dialogue with the civil society, as well as close cooperation with local and regional authorities is necessary.</p>	

3. Contacts

Contact Points	
National Roma Contact Point	<p>Office of the Government Section for European Affairs European Policies Coordination Department http://www.vlada.cz/</p>
Managing Authorities for ESF (European Social Fund) funded projects	<p>Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Department for ESF Management Tel.: +420 226 206 841 E-mail: esf@mpsv.cz www.esfcr.cz</p>
Managing Authorities for ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) funded projects	<p>http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/manage/authority/authorities.cfm?lan=EN&pay=cz</p>

Fundamental Rights Agency
Country Report:

<http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2012/situation-roma-11-eu-member-states-survey-results-glance>

4. Promising practices

Project 'Ethnic Friendly Employer'

Since 2007, the Brno-based NGO IQ Roma Service has awarded the title 'Ethnic Friendly Employer' to employers who embrace the principle of equal treatment and do not discriminate against job applicants and employees on the basis of their ethnic origin.

The project aimed to fight employment discrimination against ethnic minorities, especially against Roma. The organisation gives Roma people a clear signal that they should not give up on their search for employment because of refusals due to their origin, since there are employers who will give them the same opportunity as everyone else.

The project focused on close cooperation with employers (non-profit sector, private sector as well as government) and is complemented with several measures improving employability of the Roma and support to job-search. The project ran from 2007 - 2013 and was co-financed from the European Social Fund.

www.ethnic-friendly.eu