



European Commission



The European Union and Roma – Factsheet Lithuania

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

4 April 2014

1. Key Information

Roma population	
Estimate in National Roma Integration Strategy	No estimate
Council of Europe Estimate	Approximately 3 000 (data from 2012), i.e. 0.09% of the population

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

2. National Roma Integration – 2014 review

	Key steps taken since 2011	Identified Gaps
Education	<p>Amendments to the 2012 law on education; provision of Roma assistants where needed.</p> <p>Review of Roma children integration into educational system.</p> <p>Education for pre-school aged Roma children as well as adults provided by the Roma Community Centre.</p> <p>Teaching material prepared on Roma history and culture.</p>	<p>The outcome of the education review on Roma children needs to be taken into consideration in the implementation of policies.</p> <p>Should reinforce measures on desegregation.</p> <p>Awareness-raising measures needed among Roma parents and youth.</p> <p>Attention needed to tackle illiteracy and offer second chance education to adult Roma.</p>



<p>Employment</p>	<p>Support provided to Roma within employment policy measures</p> <p>Continuation of the project 'European Roma culture and business park Bahtalo Drom' in the Vilnius region, funded by EU structural funds.</p>	<p>The impact of these measures on Roma needs to be monitored.</p> <p>Consider relevant training to increase employability of Roma.</p>
<p>Health</p>	<p>Support provided to Roma within health policy measures.</p> <p>Actions to combat HIV and other illnesses among Roma, as well as lectures to raise awareness of health issues.</p>	<p>The impact of these measures on Roma needs to be monitored.</p> <p>Develop activities to raise awareness of preventive healthcare. Consider training of healthcare professionals on the health needs of vulnerable groups, such as Roma.</p>
<p>Housing</p>	<p>Support provided to Roma within housing policy measures.</p>	<p>Needs to develop housing policies to improve access of Roma to quality housing.</p>
<p>Anti-discrimination</p>	<p>Adoption of an inter-institutional Action Plan 2012–2014 to promote non-discrimination.</p> <p>Action taken by Equal Opportunities Ombudsman on complaints lodged by Roma.</p> <p>Launch of the Dosta! campaign</p> <p>Concert and exhibition of Roma artworks, organised for International Roma Day on 8 April 2013</p> <p>Brochure about Roma victims of the Holocaust (print copies will be distributed to history teachers)</p>	<p>Needs to enforce anti-discrimination laws.</p>
<p>Funding</p>	<p>Roma inclusion has been supported by national and EU funds under various measures, including social inclusion measures.</p> <p>Allocation of 5.8 % (~€ 59 million) of its total European Social Fund (ESF) budget to the integration of disadvantaged people (2007–2013).</p>	<p>Should allocate at least 20% of its total ESF budget to fighting social exclusion and poverty</p>
<p>Priorities for the future (Commission recommendation)</p>	<p>Monitoring the impact of policy measures is necessary.</p> <p>Ensure constructive dialogue with civil society and close cooperation with local and regional authorities.</p>	

3. Contacts

Contact Points	
National Roma Contact Point	Ministry of Culture Division of national minority issues www.lrkm.lt
Managing Authorities for ESF (European Social Fund) funded projects	Ministry of Finance Finansų ministerija Tel. (370-5) 219 44 37 http://www.esparama.lt/en/
Managing Authorities for ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) funded projects	http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/manage/authority/authorities.cfm?lan=EN&pay=lt
Fundamental Rights Agency Country Report:	http://fra.europa.eu/en/country-data/2013/country-thematic-studies-situation-roma

4. Promising practices

The project 'Face Roma' for Roma inclusion

The project 'Face Roma: Innovative measures for Roma inclusion in the labour market' ran from 2009-2012 and was funded by the European Social Fund. Partners included the United Nations Development Programme Lithuania, the Roma Community Centre, the public body SOPA and the Vilnius Municipality. The aim of the project was to develop a specific approach for the inclusion of Roma into the labour market as well as motivating and supporting them in keeping their job positions and the application of methodologies for participation in the social sphere. Projects also targeted employers to promote a tolerant attitude towards Roma employees.

Moreover, the Ministry of Culture is financially supporting Roma Cultural projects annually. In 2013, the Ministry paid special attention to the empowerment of women, more specifically to the 'Roma integration Home project'. The project focused on the involvement of Roma women in various activities, as well as cherishing traditional crafts.