



European
Commission

The European Union and Roma – Factsheet Romania

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

4 April 2014

1. Key Information

Roma population	
Estimate in National Roma Integration Strategy	Approximately 730 000 - 970 000
Council of Europe Estimate	Approximately 1 850 000 (data from 2012) i.e. 8.63 % of the population
National Strategy	http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/roma-integration/romania/national-strategy/national_en.htm
Funding	http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/roma-integration/romania/index_en.htm

2. National Roma Integration – 2014 review

	Key steps taken since 2011	Identified Gaps
Education	<p>Increasing use of Romani language in education at all levels: Romani being taught in over 300 schools.</p> <p>Extensive training of Roma mediators: a total of 1 010 school mediators have received training, of which 420-460 per year work in the education system.</p> <p>In higher education, dedicated places for Roma are offered in public universities: 564 places granted in 2012-13.</p> <p>Summer kindergartens to prepare Roma children for a successful start in primary school</p>	<p>Initiatives should be scaled up and backed by adequate and sustainable funding.</p> <p>Expand programmes aimed at providing access to good quality early childhood education and childcare and second chance education.</p> <p>Further efforts to address segregation, including through enforcement of legislation.</p> <p>Monitor the impact of the measures.</p> <p>Put in place a comprehensive strategy to tackle early school leaving.</p>

Employment	Three one-stop employment workshops in selected regions: Central (Alba County), North West (Bihar county), South West (Gorj) including development of a methodology to be used in employment workshops, drafting a vocational counselling manual, and training personnel for the workshops.	<p>Reinforce access of Roma to health insurance coverage.</p> <p>Needs to improve the access of Roma to medical services.</p> <p>Need for campaigns to raise awareness of preventive health care. Employing Roma mediators could help.</p>
Health	<p>Health mediators programme in place.</p> <p>Implementation of 35 projects funded from the state budget (following an initiative taken by the National Agency for Roma).</p>	Should further improve Roma healthcare.
Housing	Housing policies exist.	<p>Housing policies should aim at tackling long-term segregation: need to be backed by adequate and sustainable funding.</p> <p>Prioritise regularisation of Roma settlements as a legal precondition for the construction of basic infrastructure.</p> <p>Reinforce housing conditions and access of Roma to social housing.</p>
Anti-discrimination	<p>Awareness raising activities; for example “See me as I am!”, a project dedicated to International Woman’s Day with the main objective of bringing Roma women into the spotlight.</p> <p>Roma women are often seen in a negative light, as beggars for example. The project revealed another image, almost invisible and of which Romanian society is too little aware: that of people with an active role in Romanian social and economic life.</p>	<p>Enforce anti-discrimination law.</p> <p>Combat anti-Roma rhetoric and hate speech with effective measures.</p> <p>Need to tackle segregation. Pay strong attention to eliminating discriminatory practices in the employment and housing areas.</p>

<p>Funding</p>	<p>Roma inclusion has been supported by national and EU funds.</p> <p>In the 2007-2013 financial period, Romania has allocated 11.8% (~ EUR 433 million) of its total European Social Fund (ESF) budget to integrating disadvantaged people.</p>	<p>Ensure sufficient allocation of EU Funds.</p> <p>As of now, Romania should allocate at least 20% of its total ESF budget to fighting social exclusion and poverty.</p> <p>Measures to support Roma inclusion should also increasingly rely on national funds.</p> <p>Needs strong cooperation and coordination between the National Roma Contact Point and the authorities responsible for the management of EU Funds.</p>
<p>Priorities for the future (Commission recommendation)</p>	<p>Continue policy reforms which support Roma inclusion. Policy-making should focus on the most disadvantaged regions.</p> <p>Measures should be supported by adequate and sustainable funding.</p> <p>Need to monitor the impact of these measures.</p> <p>A constructive dialogue with civil society, as well as close cooperation with local and regional authorities is necessary.</p>	

3. Contacts

<p>Contact Points</p>	
<p>National Roma Contact Point</p>	<p>Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Protection Secretary of State</p> <p>http://www.mmuncii.ro/en/</p>
<p>Managing Authorities for ESF (European Social Fund) funded projects</p>	<p>Managing Authority for the Sectoral Operational Programme Human Resources Development Tel. : (+40) 21 315 02 01; (+40) 21 315 02 14; (+40) 21 315 02 30 Fax: (+40) 21 315 02 06; E-mail: posdru@fseromania.ro www.fseromania.ro</p> <p>Managing Authority for the Operational Programme Administrative Capacity Development Tel: (+40) 21 314 39 29 Fax: (+40) 21 310 40 61 E-mail: amdca@mai.gov.ro http://www.fonduriadministratie.ro</p>

Managing Authorities for ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) funded projects

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/manage/authority/authorities.cfm?lan=EN&pay=ro

Fundamental Rights Agency Country Report:

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

4. Promising practices

Focusing Roma child education

Pre-school attendance of Roma children in Romania is only a quarter of the national figure, and this feeds through to later schooling where Roma enrolment and drop-out rates from primary and secondary schools are very high. With the help of the European Social Fund, the Amare Rromentza NGO helped change this by encouraging young Roma to receive a complete education. The 'Quality in education – a step to equality' project aimed getting more Roma and non-Roma children into education and keep them there, starting at the pre-school phase.

Concentrating on four counties, the project applied an intercultural curriculum in 40 kindergartens covering 800 children. For the youngest Roma children from more traditional communities speaking only Romani, the project offered help to make the transition into kindergarten. A model was developed to identify and support pupils at risk of dropping out. The project also trained teachers to apply intercultural curricula, supported bilingual teachers and set up support groups that include parents.

Romania was also involved in the transnational project 'A Good Start', which is run by the Roma Education Fund. The activities of this project included community motivation events on education and health issues for parents, parenting education, home visits, assistance to families in enrolling their children to pre-schools, as well as different forms of support for pre-school. The project directly targeted 4000 disadvantaged Roma and non-Roma children from birth to 6-7 years old and their parents or care givers by offering pre-school, community, and home-based services. As a result of the project, enrolment and regular attendance rates in pre-schools improved.