



European
Commission



The European Union and Roma – Factsheet Slovakia

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

4 April 2014

1. Key Information

Roma population	
Estimate in National Roma Integration Strategy	Approximately 440 000
Council of Europe Estimate	Approximately 490 000 (data from 2012) i.e. 9.02 % of the population
National Strategy	http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/roma-integration/slovakia/national-strategy/national_en.htm
Funding	http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/roma-integration/slovakia/index_en.htm

2. National Roma Integration – 2014 review

	Key steps taken since 2011	Identified Gaps
Education	Implementation of the programme 'Raising social and cultural capital'.	End enrolment of Roma children into special-needs education for mentally impaired pupils. Reinforce inclusive pre-school education for Roma. Consider new school facilities in Roma-populated areas (school buses) to avoid segregation. Reduce secondary school dropout rates and promote vocational training.
Employment	Labour market activation policies in place. Workshops on life-long career and counselling.	Monitor the impact of these measures. Implement Roma targeted labour market policies for Roma. Continue to fight against discrimination in the labour market.

Health	Programme of health mediators targets marginalised Roma	Take a systematic approach. Consider measures aimed at healthcare professionals
Housing	Housing Development grants for the construction of rental flats. New Construction Act in preparation. State housing allowance for those in need.	Housing policies should be part of an integrated approach with the long-term objective of desegregation. Eliminating informal accommodation should go together with adequate flanking measures. Implement land legalisation for the construction of basic accommodation.
Anti-discrimination	Awareness-raising activities. Training of Roma on their rights. Training of public servants and the judiciary.	Enforce anti-discrimination law. Combat anti-Roma rhetoric and hate speech with effective measures. Need to tackle segregation. Pay strong attention to eliminating discriminatory practices in the employment and housing areas.
Funding	Roma inclusion has been supported by national and EU funds under various mainstream policies, including social inclusion measures. Allocation of 10.9% (~EUR 162 million) of its total European Social Fund (ESF) budget for integrating disadvantaged people (2007 – 2013).	Should allocate at least 20% of its total ESF budget to fighting social exclusion and poverty.
Priorities for the future (Commission recommendation)	Policy reforms should contribute to supporting Roma inclusion. Measures targeting Roma should be supported by adequate funding. The impact of these measures should be monitored. Policy-making should focus on the most disadvantaged regions. A dialogue with civil society, as well as close cooperation with local and regional authorities is needed. Need to develop anti-discrimination campaigns and actions presenting Roma integration as a win-win situation.	

3. Contacts

Contact Points

National Roma Contact Point

Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Government for Roma Communities
Office of the Slovak Government

<http://www.romovia.vlada.gov.sk>

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Managing Authorities for ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) funded projects	<p>http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/manage/authority/authorities.cfm?lan=EN&pay=sk</p>
Fundamental Rights Agency Country Report:	<p>http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2012/situation-roma-11-eu-member-states-survey-results-glance</p>

4. Promising practices

Getting more Roma into employment and education

A national project called ‘Inclusive model of education at pre-primary stage of school system’ aimed at improving the educational level of children coming from marginalised Roma communities. Through tuition provided by teaching and professional staff and the development of competences, pupils are prepared for their entrance in primary schools. The allocation provided was EUR 5 065 310.

Slovak authorities have been implementing a two-year social innovation project (Investing in the early years) aimed at integrating Roma children into early childhood education and care. The project focuses on children’s physical, social, emotional and cognitive development. It aims particularly at empowering families (mothers especially), preparing children for transition to compulsory education, improving teacher-parent cooperation, changing the approach to raising children in segregated Roma communities, establishing a support network for Roma mothers within the communities and raising awareness of the importance of education within the Roma community. The two-year project, launched in 2013, is financially supported by the European Commission through the Progress programme and through other national funds. The overall budget is close to EUR 1 million.

Another project is run by Banska Bystrica Regional Development Agency, aiming at providing job placements, supporting personal development and fighting marginalisation. The project ran between April 2012 and November 2013 with a budget of EUR 600 000 (co-financed by the ESF). The 40 participants – who were all dependent on social benefits – received coaching to help them acquire basic work skills.