



SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

Brussels, 4 December 2018

Today the Commission has published its Communication on the evaluation of the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020. It is based on the results of an in-depth evaluation of the relevance, effectiveness, coherence, efficiency and the EU added value of the Framework.

Key findings of the evaluation include:

- The priority areas of the Framework - access to education, employment, healthcare, and housing – have been confirmed as key to Roma inclusion and continue to be valid today. A more ambitious goal in the area of education would be warranted.

EU Roma integration goals

- 1. Ensure that all Roma children complete as a minimum, primary education.*
- 2. Cut the employment gap between Roma and the rest of the population.*
- 3. Reduce the gap in health status between the Roma and the rest of the population.*
- 4. Close the gap between the share of Roma with access to housing and to public utilities (such as water, electricity, and gas) and that of the rest of the population.*

- While antigypsyism has increasingly been recognised as a root cause for Roma exclusion, a specific non-discrimination goal alongside the four Roma integration goals and stronger focus on the fight against antigypsyism would make the Framework stronger.
- The Framework provided flexibility to Member States to adapt its objectives to specific national contexts. While this allowed Member States to follow a tailored approach, the evaluation found that it contributed to fragmented implementation, reducing effectiveness, and limiting progress towards EU Roma integration goals.
- While the Framework highlighted diversity under the broad umbrella term of Roma, it proved to have limited capacity to deal with diversity within the Roma population. It did not pay sufficient attention to targeting specific groups among Roma (Roma women, youth, children or EU mobile Roma).
- The Framework had a positive added value by putting Roma inclusion on the EU and national agendas, developing structures and increasing coherence between EU policy, legal and funding instruments that have been mobilised and aligned for Roma inclusion, such as the European Semester of Europe 2020, the Racial Equality Directive or the 2014-2020 European Structural and Investment Funds.

Roma exclusion and discrimination has existed for centuries. Overcoming it requires long-term commitment. The EU Framework is the beginning of a process that, despite many limitations and taking into account the massive task involved, has shown positive results and an initial change in trends.

Evaluation criterion	Overall assessment	Detailed assessment
RELEVANCE	Positive with limitations	4 priority areas were and remain key
		Some shortcomings in initial design
		Positive for equity between Roma and non-Roma
		Negative for not targeting specific subgroups among Roma
EFFECTIVENESS	Limited regarding progress towards Roma integration goals	Some progress towards the education goal
		No progress towards the employment goal
		Limited progress towards the health goal
		No progress towards the housing goal
	Positive regarding coordination	Positive regarding EU-level governance
		Positive at EU and national levels in promoting cooperation
COHERENCE	Positive at EU level	Coherence between EU Framework and several EU policy, funding and legal instruments (Europe 2020, ESIF, antidiscrimination legislation, enlargement)
		Variable mainstreaming into other policy instruments (insufficient e.g. under European Pillar of Social Rights, Youth Guarantee)
	Limited at national level	Insufficient mainstreaming into national public policies
		NRIS contributed to fighting discrimination, hate speech and hate crime in some MS, while their contribution was minor in other MS
		National funding has been allocated to the extent required by co-financing of ESIF. Limitations in implementation and alignment of ESIF with Roma integration goals
		Reporting developed gradually, focusing on measures rather than results. Weaknesses to be addressed
EFFICIENCY	Limited regarding reporting and monitoring systems	Comparable data for several, but not all, Member States
		Civil monitoring by coordinated NGO coalitions piloted since 2017
		Costs and benefits not conclusively evaluable, quantifiable and attributable. While costs are short to mid-term, the majority of potential benefits are long term
EU ADDED VALUE	Positive	Political
		Governance
		Financial
		Limited sustainability requires continued EU engagement

Assessment categories: very positive/positive/limited/negative/very negative

Background

In 2011 the European Commission adopted an EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies which aims to close the gap between Roma and non-Roma in four key areas: education, employment, healthcare, housing. EU-level legal, policy and funding instruments have been mobilised to promote Roma inclusion. EU legislation (including the Racial Equality Directive and the Council Framework Decision on combating racism and xenophobia) prohibits anti-Roma discrimination, hate speech and hate crime. The European Semester promotes reforms of mainstream policies supporting Roma

inclusion. The 2014-2020 European structural and investment funds (ESIFs) allow Member States to introduce a specific investment priority for the integration of marginalised communities, such as Roma.

Member States developed National Roma Integration Strategies and nominated National Roma Contact Points to coordinate their implementation and monitoring. Since 2016, they have an obligation to report annually on their integration measures to the Commission.

For More Information

2018 Communication and Staff Working Document on the evaluation of the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies [\[ADD LINK\]](#)

[2016 Council Conclusions on accelerating the process of Roma integration](#)

Other [information](#) on Roma in the EU

[European Platform for Roma Inclusion 2018](#)