



Cohesion policy support for Roma inclusion in the 2021-2027 period: Common Provisions Regulation (CPR), European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

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DG Regional and Urban Policy

Policy objectives (Art 5, CPR)

1. **A more competitive and smarter Europe** (innovative & smart economic transformation)
2. **A greener, low-carbon Europe** (including energy transition, the circular economy, climate adaptation and risk management)
3. **A more connected Europe** (enhancing mobility)
4. **A more social and inclusive Europe** (implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights)
5. **A Europe closer to citizens** (fostering sustainable and integrated development of all types of territories and local initiatives)



THEMATIC AREAS (ESF+, ERDF)

A more social and inclusive Europe implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights

EMPLOYMENT

**EDUCATION,
TRAINING**

**SOCIAL
INCLUSION**

HEALTH

Horizontal principles: Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU, equality between men and women, non-discrimination etc.

Contribution to Smarter Europe; Greener, low-carbon Europe



Relevant CPR provisions (1/2)

Partnership principle (Art 8)

Involvement in all programming stages of:

- relevant bodies representing civil society, such as:
 - NGOs and bodies responsible for promoting:
 - **social inclusion**
 - **fundamental rights**
 - **non-discrimination**
 - etc.

+ in Monitoring Committees (Art 39)

Horizontal principles (Art 9)

1. Respect for Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU
2. Equality between men and women, gender mainstreaming
3. Prevent **any discrimination based on e.g., racial or ethnic origin**

Art 8(2)

MS shall, where relevant, allocate an appropriate percentage of the resources coming from the Funds for the administrative capacity building of social partners and civil society organisations.



Relevant CPR provisions (2/2)

Content of programmes (Article 22(3)(d)(iv))

- Programmes should include for each specific objective
 - actions safeguarding equality, inclusion and non-discrimination

Evaluations by MS (Article 44(1)):

- inclusiveness and non-discrimination may be included as relevant criteria for the evaluations by MS or the MA

Selection of operations by the MA (Article 73.1):

- The MA shall establish and apply criteria and procedures which are non-discriminatory (...) and take account of the Charter of Fundamental Rights

Horizontal and thematic enabling conditions (Art 15 CPR)

- ❖ Relevant horizontal enabling conditions (for all CPR funds): EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, UNCRPD (Annex III CPR)
- ❖ Thematic enabling conditions under Policy Objective 4 (Annex IV CPR):

4.1	Strategic policy framework for active labour market policies
4.2	National strategic framework for gender equality
4.3	National or regional strategic policy framework for the education and training system at all levels
4.4	National or regional strategic policy or legislative framework for social inclusion and poverty reduction
4.5	National Roma inclusion strategic policy framework
4.6	National or regional strategic policy framework for health and long-term care

***Minimum requirements for integrated territorial development under Policy Objective 5



The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) 2021-2027: **funding opportunities for Roma inclusion**

DG Regional and Urban Policy

Recital 5 ERDF and Recital 6 CPR

“The Funds should **not support actions that contribute to any form of segregation or exclusion**, and, when financing infrastructure, should ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities.”

Recital 21, ERDF/CF Regulation

- ❖ The ERDF and the Cohesion Fund should promote the **socioeconomic inclusion of marginalised communities**, with particular attention paid to the **National Roma inclusion strategic policy framework** as referred to in Annex IV which set out integration measures, low-income households, including households at risk of poverty and social exclusion, and disadvantaged groups, including people with special needs.
- ❖ In particular, in line with principle 19 of the European Pillar of Social Rights, the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund should be able to **support the provision of social housing**.
- ❖ Taking into account challenges facing **marginalised Roma communities** in terms of access to basic services, the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund should contribute to **improving their living conditions and development prospects**.

Policy objective 4



❖ **LABOUR MARKET** (Art 3(d)(i) ERDF/CF Regulation)

4.1: enhancing the effectiveness and inclusiveness of labour markets and access to quality employment through developing social infrastructure and promoting social economy;

❖ **EDUCATION AND TRAINING** (Art 3(d)(ii) ERDF/CF Regulation)

4.2: improving equal access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning through developing accessible infrastructure, including by fostering resilience for distance and on-line education and training;

❖ **SOCIAL INCLUSION** (Art 3(d)(iii) ERDF/CF Regulation)

4.3: promoting the socioeconomic inclusion of marginalised communities, low income households and disadvantaged groups including people with special needs, through integrated actions, including housing and social services;

4.4: promoting the socio-economic integration of third country nationals, including migrants through integrated actions, including housing and social services; (Art 3(d)(iv) ERDF/CF Regulation)

❖ **HEALTH** (Art 3(d)(v) ERDF/CF Regulation)

4.5: ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care, and promoting the transition from institutional to family- and community-based care;

❖ **CULTURE AND TOURISM** (Art 3(d)(vi) ERDF/CF Regulation)

4.6. enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation.

Policy objective 4



- Measures should be connected across thematic areas, including, **education, employment, social housing, health and social care, anti-discrimination etc.**
- ERDF can support **infrastructure development, equipment and access to quality mainstream services** in all areas above
- Should **not lead to further segregation/isolation of marginalized communities** and building parallel services
- **Requirement:** fulfilment of thematic enabling conditions under PO4

Thematic investment areas

- Regeneration of deprived urban and rural areas
- Shift from institutional to community-based services
- Addressing educational and spatial segregation
- Support for business start-ups

Territorial instruments:

- ❖ ITI
- ❖ CLLD
- ❖ SUD



Policy objective 4



Examples of **ERDF-supported measures** for Roma inclusion:

- ❖ **Building/refurbishing/renting individual social housing** in the mainstream community / non-segregated areas + **complementary measures** in education, employment, health and social care ([also in the scope of desegregation measures](#))
- ❖ Extension of capacities of **mainstream kindergartens, schools, afternoon schooling, VET, labour market institutions, health and social care facilities** etc.
- ❖ **Bus transport** for people in marginalized communities to access the mainstream services above
- ❖ **IT equipment** to support access to distant and online education
- ❖ **Building family- and community-based** services for people with disabilities, children deprived of parental care, elderly (individual apartments, day centres, equipment, accessible transport etc.)

The needs of Roma communities can be also addressed through **territorial instruments** which provide for the possibility of designing place-sensitive response to local challenges with strong involvement of local actors.

Main features for Cohesion Policy support for integrated territorial development:

- ❖ Interventions should be part of **territorial or local strategies** under the responsibility of relevant territorial authorities or bodies
- ❖ Locally coordinated interventions through an **integrated approach** (cross-sectoral, multi-stakeholder, multi-territorial)
- ❖ Relevant **local or territorial bodies involved** in project selection
- ❖ **Partnership with relevant actors** to be ensured at local level

On addressing segregation



- ❖ **Segregation** = the **physical and social separation** of members of a marginalized group from members of non-marginalised groups and **unequal access to mainstream, high-quality services**.
 - ❖ **Desegregation** = actively eliminating or at least significantly reducing existing isolated settings with the use of EU Funds. Preferably, the actions should consist **of direct relocation of inhabitants** of segregated settlements into the mainstream neighbourhoods or of **pupils from segregated schools or classes into the mainstream classes**.
- !! In all housing and education operations the **desegregation principle** should be prioritised.**

Designing desegregation interventions – WHEN?

- Programming and implementation (including call for proposals)
- Amendment of the programmes
- Review of horizontal and thematic enabling conditions
- Infringement proceedings (which may also require programme modifications)
- Complaints and follow-up actions
- Audit and follow-up actions

Housing and education segregation

Housing and education interventions should lead to decreasing the spatial and educational segregation and should avoid perpetuating, strengthening or creating new forms of segregation of marginalised communities.

- In order to support desegregation through relocation of families, soft measures (ESF+) like community development, should come before the infrastructural developments (ERDF), e.g. social housing, in the scope of the **integrated approach**.
- Relocation from segregated neighbourhoods to mainstream neighbourhoods, e.g. through provision of social housing by new construction, purchase of second hand homes, rent for accommodation etc.
 - Social housing facilities should not be provided in isolated areas

- **Mapping** of available infrastructure and services, including of segregated educational facilities, housing stock and neighbourhoods (indicators)
- Specificities of **different forms of spatial segregation**
- Links between spatial and education segregation in the scope of an **integrated approach**
- Involvement of external **experts** (by Managing Authorities, beneficiaries)
- Direct **involvement** of representatives of the communities in all stages of the process
- Facilitation of public debate at local, regional or national level in order to **involve all stakeholders** in the dialogue

Role of local authorities:

- ❖ In **supporting the implementation of integration policies designed by national and regional authorities**, and also **developing their own local policies**.
- ❖ When implementing national or regional integration policies, local authorities are responsible for **translating policies into the local needs and context, in particular in service provision**.
- ❖ Local authorities should **address the needs of marginalised groups** in local development strategies and facilitate access to inclusive and non-segregated education and housing services.
- ❖ **To ensure the applicability of international, European and national law at the local level:** “local arms of the state”, local authorities must put in place actions that ensure the fulfilment of their legal obligations.
- ❖ **Partnership and cooperation** between national, regional and local authorities, as well as engagement and consultation with the **local communities** in order to respond to the local needs.

Examples of desegregation measures in different territorial settings

- A. Integrated (non-segregated) urban and suburban neighbourhoods with segregated school(s)
- B. Large deprived and segregated urban and suburban neighbourhoods
- C. Small deprived and segregated urban and suburban neighbourhoods
- D. Small rural localities with segregated neighbourhoods
- E. Segregated villages/settlements in deprived micro-regions

Translating the scenarios at the programming level



Scenario B - Large deprived and segregated urban and suburban neighbourhoods

Key principle: facilitate access to non-segregated social housing and inclusive education

Example of measures:

ERDF

- building/refurbishing/purchasing social housing in non-segregated areas
- Extension of capacity of mainstream school facilities
- School bussing

ESF+

- Access to labour market, teachers training in mainstream schools, afternoon schooling

Selection criteria

- Decrease of segregation in education and housing
- Existence of mapping of infrastructure and services
- Desegregation criteria/measures/plans introduced in the urban development strategies

Indicators

- X number of families are relocated
- X number of kids are moved to mainstream schools
- X volume of capacity increased in mainstream schools
- X number of segregated schools that were closed down



Scenario E - Segregated villages/settlements in deprived micro-regions

Key principle: overview and mapping of facilities at micro-regional level

Example of measures:

ERDF

- building/refurbishing/purchasing social housing in non-segregated areas
- Extension of capacity of mainstream school facilities
- School bussing

ESF+

- Access to labour market, teachers training in mainstream schools, afternoon schooling

Selection criteria

- Decrease of segregation in education and housing
- Existence of micro-regional mapping of facilities

Indicators

- X number of families are relocated
- X number of kids are moved to mainstream schools
- X volume of capacity increased in mainstream schools

Considerations for programming(I)



- **Commitment/statement** in the PAs and programmes that all measures should follow the principle of desegregation; + corresponding **desegregation and non-discrimination measures**.
- **Alignment with the Annex D** and relevant national strategies, lessons learnt from the 2014-2020 period and the implications of the infringements (where applicable).
- A solid **intervention logic**: consistency between the identified challenges and the proposed measures under all social inclusion areas.
- **Integrated approach**.
- **Specific desegregation targets** both in education and housing, supported by indicators.
- Measures are designed as a result of the outcomes of **mapping of infrastructure and service needs**, as well as **mapping of segregated education facilities, housing stocks and neighbourhoods** at all territorial levels, including at the micro-regional level.

Considerations for programming(II)



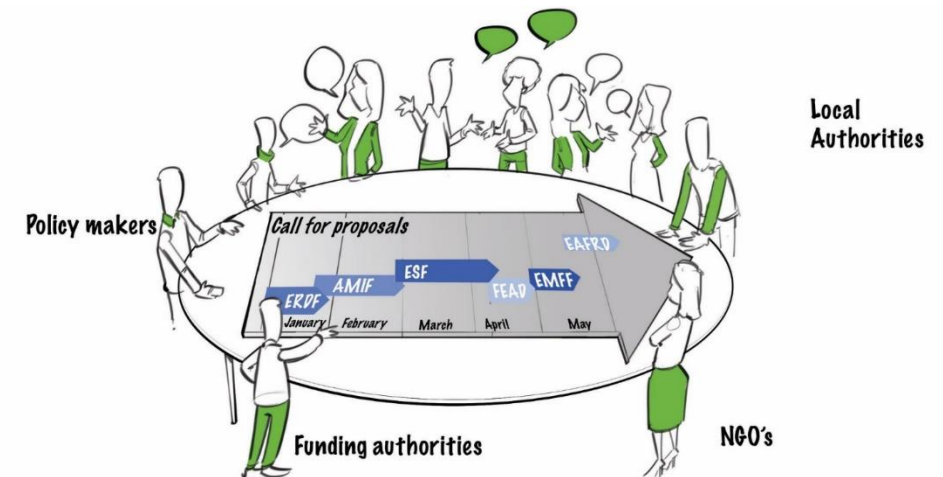
- **Regular monitoring on the levels of segregation** (e.g. whether it increased/decreased) as a result of Cohesion policy measures (based on pre-defined indicators of segregation).
- **Combination of mainstream and targeted measures** aiming for desegregation.
- Effective **coordination mechanism** between funding authorities (ERDF, ESF+) and bodies responsible for the relevant policy areas.
- **Use of territorial instruments** fostering integrated actions, supported by complementary measures under ERDF and ESF+.
- Involvement of the **relevant stakeholders in the programming and implementation** of the PAs and programmes.
- Enhancing the **administrative and technical capacity** at all levels, including at local level, through capacity building for national/regional/local authorities, (grass-roots) civil society organisations, fundamental rights bodies, and other relevant stakeholders.

Mainstream vs. targeted approach

- **Mainstream actions** should not exclude facilitating access to marginalized communities to mainstream services + **targeted actions** should not contribute to further segregation of Roma communities
 - Targeted actions are part of the mainstream action:
 - Example: mobile health screening buses for outreach services in Roma neighborhoods (**targeted**), as part of the nationwide health screening program (**mainstream**)
 - Targeted actions ensuring access to mainstream services
 - Example: school buses carry children living in marginalized areas (**targeted**) to mainstream, inclusive schools (**mainstream**)
- Mainstream actions include targeted actions to ensure equal access for Roma communities
 - Example: Refurbishment of primary schools (**mainstream**) include desegregation measures of Roma schools (**targeted**)
 - *Indicators:* e.g. number of desegregated schools

Useful links

- Final texts of 2021-2027 CPR, ERDF, ESF+ regulations: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L:2021:231:FULL&from=EN>
- [How to access EU funds?](#)
- **ERDF** ([website](#)) support [in your country](#); [project examples](#); [publications](#)
- Shared management → call for proposals are published by [managing authorities](#)
- [Open Data Platform](#) (by theme, country, fund)



Thank you!