



EU POLICY on ROMA INCLUSION

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ERASMUS +

- Key Action 1: Learning Mobility of Individuals
- Key Action 2: Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices
- Key Action 3: Support for policy reform

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Sport



Europe for Citizens



Eurydice



EU Aid Volunteers



Creative Europe

Media
Culture





LIFELONG LEARNING PROGRAMME 2007-2013

Key Activity 1 – Policy Cooperation and Innovation

- *Three Calls for Proposals – 2011, 2012 and 2013*
- *Budget: 5 534 000€*
- *25 co-funded projects*
- *Three main topics of intervention:*
 - *Educational systems and early school leaving*
 - *Local authorities and institutions*
 - *Family background and gender issues*





ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME

Call for Proposals 2015 - Forward-looking Cooperation Projects

1st Priority → *"Reducing disparities in learning outcomes affecting learners from disadvantaged backgrounds"*

↪ *11 selected projects - 1 focusing on Roma issues*

! New Call for proposals in December 2015 – supporting the conclusions of the Paris Declaration on promoting citizenship and the common values of freedom, tolerance and non-discrimination through education



ROMA INCLUSION – NATIONAL DIMENSION

- Roma diverse in terms of lifestyle, culture and level of social integration → *policies for Roma integration need to take contextual differences into account if they aim to be effective*
- Education – a national competence - is key to a successful and sustainable inclusion
- When it comes to social inclusion of Roma, educational, social, health and housing services of the local municipalities as well as the school authorities are at the forefront



SUPPORTING THE ROMA - THE EU APPROACH

- *"explicit, but not exclusive targeting"* of Roma by EU policies and programmes
 - ➔ Roma are European citizens with the same rights as any others





IMPORTANT POLICY INITIATIVES

- Directive 2000/43/EC – "Racial Equality Directive" - key piece of EU legislation for combating discrimination on the grounds of racial or ethnic origin
 - ↳ Infringement proceedings for discrimination of Roma children in education against CZ and SK
- 2011 - EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies focussing on four key areas: education, employment, healthcare and housing





FUNDING INSTRUMENTS (1)

European Structural and Investment Funds (ESF, ERDF, EAFRD)

- 25% of the total ESF budget 2014-2020 (€ 20 billion) have been allocated to social inclusion, where a specific investment priority is foreseen for ***integration of marginalised communities***
- € 10.8 billion from ERDF are allocated to promoting **social inclusion and combating poverty**
- The programmes under EAFRD of the most concerned MS – BG, CZ, HU, RO, SK – include measures targeting the **integration of marginalised groups including Roma**



FUNDING INSTRUMENTS (2)

European Structural and Investment Funds (ESF, ERDF, EAFRD)

↳ New conditionality clause to ensure effective and efficient use of EU money:

- policy framework with achievable goals regarding the improved access of Roma to education, employment, healthcare and housing
- appropriate targeting of disadvantaged regions, segregated neighbourhoods or deprived communities
- strong monitoring and evaluation of impacts
- involvement of civil society and local authorities
- capacity-building support to stakeholders



Member States not meeting these criteria have to revise and re-submit their plans in 2016



FUNDING INSTRUMENTS (3)

- Rights, Equality and Citizenship Funding Programme (*finances projects aimed at promoting equality and the rights of persons*)
- Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) Programme (promotes quality and sustainable employment, guarantees adequate and decent social protection, combats poverty and social exclusion, and fights to improve working conditions)
- Public Health Programme (regularly finances initiatives to fight against inequalities in access to health)
- Culture Programme (supports projects that promote intercultural dialogue with Roma and other communities)
- Erasmus+ Programme (supports projects, which develop lifelong learning measures for Roma integration through education)





BARRIERS TO SUCCESSFUL INCLUSION

Institutional	Socio-psychological
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Socio-economic situation in the Central and Eastern European Countries• (Lack of) political will and resentments among the non-Roma population• Weak or inefficient policies and programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Intergenerational transmission of poverty• Lack of appreciation of education• Mistrust in authorities





SUCCESSFUL POLICY CONDITIONS

- Roma civil society participation in decision-making *(BG)*
- Horizontal (multi-sector) approach to social inclusion
(inclusive reform of mainstream policies, targeted actions alone cannot achieve sustainable results in inclusive education for instance)
- Effective vertical (with regional and local levels)
coordination of policy implementation *(National Roma Contact Points)*
- Sustainable inclusion policies *(Funding)*



"I think it's time that we the Roma do something as well...

We Roma, should have our own schools with highly qualified teachers. Furthermore to work with parents to make them understand how important education is for their children to stand up against racism. This would be the only way out, EDUCATION for Roma children.. I don't see a problem with Roma kids being in Roma school. If anything it would preserve our culture which is slowly but surely disappearing... and we don't know who we are..."

Comment posted in a forum of the Open Society Foundation

