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PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL Report on the implementation of
national Roma integration strategies - 2019

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**COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL**

Report on the implementation of national Roma integration strategies - 2019

{SWD(2019) 320 final}

INTRODUCTION

The European Commission published an evaluation of the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies (NRIS) up to 2020¹ on 4 December 2018. The evaluation assessed the EU framework and how it mobilised other European policy, legal and funding instruments for Roma inclusion². To complete the picture, this report of 2019 focuses on national implementation of Roma inclusion measures.

The main sources of the assessment are:

- reports from National Roma Contact Points (NRCPs)³;
- civil society reports from the Roma Civil Monitor EP Pilot project⁴;
- data on the situation of Roma from the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)⁵;
- a meta-evaluation on Roma inclusion interventions⁶.

This report summarises the most important trends focusing on the four policy areas of the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies (education, employment, health, housing), as well as fighting discrimination and antigypsyism. In each area the report highlights: the situation of Roma; summarises the main types of inclusion measures, achievements and challenges of their implementation (as reported by NRCPs); and formulates policy learning highlighting promising approaches and priorities to be addressed (based on existing evaluations,⁷ feedback from civil society and NRCPs).

I. SUBSTANTIVE POLICY AREAS

This report contains the measures taken under the Council Recommendation on effective Roma integration measures⁸. The number of measures reported does not necessarily reflect the ambition or the effectiveness of efforts. In education and the fight against discrimination and antigypsyism most measures are targeted for Roma. In housing there is an even balance between targeted measures for Roma and general policy measures, i.e. mainstream measures. In employment, and to a lesser extent in health, Member States predominantly rely on mainstream measures to also promote Roma inclusion.

¹ COM (2011) 173. In line with the Council conclusions (EPSCO 106665/11) endorsing the framework, Member States were to develop “national Roma inclusion strategies, or integrated sets of policy measures within their broader social inclusion policies”. The terms ‘NRIS’ and ‘strategy’ also cover integrated sets of policy measures.

² COM (2018) 785. The term ‘Roma’ is used to refer to a number of different groups (e.g. Roma, Sinti, Kale, Gypsies, Romanichels, Boyash, Ashkali, Egyptians, Yenish, Dom, Lom, Rom, Abdal) and includes Travellers, without denying the specificities of these groups.

³ For country abbreviations see www.ec.europa.eu/eurostat. All Member States (MS) with the exception of DK, FI and IE (and MT that has no Roma community) reported in 2018. Given late submission of the DE report, it could only be included in Annex 1 (country summaries), but not in the thematic analysis reflected in the Communication and the Staff Working Document (SWD).

⁴ Annex 1

⁵ SWD

⁶ Meta-evaluation of Roma inclusion interventions, European Commission, Joint Research Centre, forthcoming 2019

⁷ Ibid

⁸ 2013/C 378/01

1. EDUCATION

Situation of Roma in education (2016)

Highest achieved education (aged 16+):

- Upper secondary, vocational, post-secondary: 18%
- Lower secondary: 38%
- Primary: 29%
- Not completed primary: 14%

Share of Roma children attending education corresponding to their age*:

- Primary or lower secondary: 86%
- Upper secondary: 30%
- Post-secondary and tertiary: 2%

Segregation in education (aged 6-15):

- Attends schools where all (13%) or most (33%) students are Roma
- Attends classes where all (13%) or most (31%) students are Roma

* Share of Roma children of the respective country specific age that corresponds to a given level of education attending this level of education, out of the total number of Roma children of that age

1.1. Focus of measures

Most Member States (MS) invest in measures to reduce early school-leaving (18 MS). The next most frequently used measures include: considering the needs of individual pupils in cooperation with their families (14MS); increasing the access to, and quality of, early childhood education and care (13 MS); and encouraging Roma participation in – and completion of – secondary and tertiary education (11MS). Efforts are also made to fight school segregation; use inclusive teaching methods; and develop skills adapted to labour market needs (12 MS each).

Distribution of education measures by relevance to the respective sub-areas of the Council Recommendation

Thematic sub-area	MS	Number of measures	Enlargement countries	Number of measures
Fight early school-leaving	AT, BE, BG, CY, ES, EL, HU, HR, IT, LV, LT, LU, NL, PT, RO, SE, SK, UK	66	AL, BiH, KOS, ME, MK, RS, TR	25
Consider the needs of individual pupils	AT, CY, CZ, ES, HU, IT, LV, LT, LU, PT, RO, SE, SI, UK	35	AL, BiH, KOS, ME, MK, RS	26
Encourage Roma participation in – and completion of – secondary and tertiary education	AT, BG, HR, CZ, ES, HU, LV, LT, PT, RO, SK	35	AL, BiH, ME, MK, RS, TR	21
Increase the access to and quality of early childhood education and care	AT, BG, HR, CY, CZ, ES, HU, IT, LU, NL, RO, SI, SK	34	AL, BiH, ME, MK, RS	16
Eliminate school segregation	AT, BE, BG, CZ, EL, ES, HR, IT, LU, NL, RO, SK	27	AL, ME, MK, RS	6
Use inclusive and tailor-made teaching and learning methods	AT, BG, HR, CY, CZ, LT, LU, NL, RO, SI, SK, UK	23	AL, KOS, ME, MK, RS, TR	15
Support the acquisition of skills adapted to labour market needs	AT, BG, CZ, EL, ES, LT, LU, NL, PT, RO, SI, SK	22	AL, MK	5
Support transition between educational levels	AT, BG, CZ, ES, HU, HR, IT, LU, NL, PT, RO, SK	21	AL, BiH, KOS, ME, MK, RS	15
Encourage parental involvement	AT, BE, BG, CY, ES, HR, LV, LT, LU, RO, SK	18	AL, KOS, ME, MK, TR	11
Improve teacher training	AT, BG, CY, CZ, ES, LT, RO, SE, SI, SK	18	AL, MK, RS	4
Promote extracurricular activities	AT, BG, CY, EL, IT, LV, LT, RO, SI, SK	15	AL, KOS, ME, MK, RS, TR	11
Widen access to second-chance education and adult learning	AT, BG, CY, CZ, EL, ES, HR, LT, LU, UK	14	AL, ME, MK, RS	9
Fight illiteracy	AT, BG, CY, HU, ES, HR, NL, RO	11	AL, ME, MK, RS	6
Prevent inappropriate placement of Roma in special needs schools	AT, CZ, ES, HR, RO, SK	9	MK, RS	2

Source: EC (2018), NRCs' reporting on Roma integration measures implemented in 2017.

What about the substantive focus of the measures beyond the above goals? Here we find that Member States most often opt for measures to improve educational attainment: fighting drop-out; encouraging transition to – and completion of – secondary and tertiary education; or providing support to compensate for educational gaps, or material disadvantage. Taken together these types of

measures account for 36% of all education measures. Other significant groups of measures focus on: the transition from education to employment by supporting vocational education; career development and lifelong learning; and capacity development of professionals (9-11%). Less widespread measures focus on integrated inclusion interventions and introducing Roma history and culture in the curricula (6-6%).

1.2. Achievements and challenges

The most widespread achievement mentioned by NRCPs in the area of education is mediation⁹. Other achievements include: development of kindergarten capacities¹⁰; improved support to fighting and monitoring early school-leaving¹¹; and including Roma inclusion and non-discrimination related topics in teacher training or national curricula¹².

The most significant challenges highlighted by NRCPs include: school participation, absenteeism, early school-leaving, the transition from primary to secondary and the completion of secondary education.¹³ Other challenges include: fighting segregation¹⁴; ensuring and developing human capacities¹⁵; cooperation among stakeholders¹⁶; promoting early childhood education and care;¹⁷ adult learning and second chance education¹⁸; and data availability¹⁹.

1.3. Policy learning

Education is the area with the highest number of interventions and evaluations. It is therefore also the area with a relatively greater number of promising approaches and policy lessons common to several countries. Some of the important policy lessons in this area include: the importance of early intervention and prevention; the need to ensure participation and empowerment of Roma parents (as a key element of supporting children in each stage of education); the role of extracurricular activities for strengthening identity and social networks of Roma children; the relevance of continuous complex support measures (tutoring combined with scholarship and removal of other cost barriers) in promoting the transition between educational levels and to employment. Although affirmative action has helped to improve Roma participation in education, it is important to avoid dedicating specific places for Roma who would have qualified for regular admittance.

Especially in Member States with a high share of Roma pupils, a systematic, complex and long-term approach is needed to fight school and class segregation, which remains a pressing problem that undermines the success of other inclusion measures. Key parts of this approach include: providing early and free access to quality inclusive early-childhood education and care in integrated settings (both to prepare Roma children, and to overcome prejudice between Roma and non-Roma children and parents in order to prevent later segregation); supporting Roma parents in school choice; gradual closing of segregated schools by educational authorities; and distributing Roma children across several schools (through the reorganisation of school catchment areas). These active desegregation measures should be accompanied by additional financial and professional support to promote the social and academic integration of Roma children in mainstream schools such as: covering costs of transportation, school materials, meals, extracurricular activities, supplementary classes; training pre-school staff and teachers in new methods of teaching in integrated school settings (including overcoming stereotypes); facilitating communication between parents and schools; informing parents of the benefits of integrated education; student mentoring, after-school

⁹ AT, FR, EL, ES, IT, LV, RO

¹⁰ e.g. CZ, SK

¹¹ e.g. HU, ES, LV

¹² e.g. AT, ES, IT, PT

¹³ AT, CY, EE, EL, ES, FR, HR, LT, NL

¹⁴ EL, ES, HR, RO

¹⁵ EL, LV, SE, SK

¹⁶ ES, LT, LV, PL

¹⁷ BG, EL, ES

¹⁸ AT, BG, EL

¹⁹ HR, IT, PT

support for Roma children, employment of teacher assistants; measures to sensitise the general public on the importance of educational inclusion and intercultural education for community relations via campaigns and media²⁰.

Promising approaches:	Priorities to be addressed:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BG, CZ, DK, EL, FI, FR, HR, HU, LT, PL, SK: Introduction or extension of obligatory (free) pre-school, ESIF funded development of kindergartens, training for kindergarten teachers • CY, EL, ES, IE, IT, HR, HU, LT, LV, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI: Programmes aimed at preventing school drop-out of Roma (girls) through after-school support, tutoring, scholarships, mentoring, mediation, assistants, second chance education, teacher training, support to families • AT, CY, FI, HU, IE, IT, PT, RO: Introducing Roma history (including the Holocaust) and/or culture in national curricula • IE, HR, RO: Allocation of places to Roma in secondary and tertiary education • LT: Network of schools attended by Roma children receiving capacity building and competence development • SE: Teachers training (Södertörn University) and secondary-level adult education in Romani 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support home parenting and early-childhood learning as part of comprehensive early intervention and prevention programmes • Introduce or further extend quality, inclusive, free and obligatory pre-school and remove financial and non-financial barriers to access • Promote quality, inclusiveness and results in education through incentives (funding and reform of teacher training), attracting the best teachers to disadvantaged schools/regions • Systematically monitor and fight school and class segregation with long-term comprehensive, preparatory and accompanying measures supporting Roma families • Build public support and cooperation of all stakeholders to complement explicit active desegregation measures • Combine scholarships, tutoring and extracurricular activities to prevent early-school-leaving and promote transition to the next stage of education • Target Roma girls, their parents and teachers to fight gender stereotypes and reduce early school-leaving • Promote transition to – and completion of – upper secondary and further education including by career guidance for Roma students and their families

2. EMPLOYMENT

Situation of Roma in employment (2016)

Share of Roma in paid work (aged 20-64): 43% (women: 29%, men: 56%)
Share of Roma youth not in education, employment or training (aged 16-24): 63% (women: 72%, men: 55%)
Roma women not in employment or looking for work because of taking care of children/elderly/sick relatives (aged 16-64): 40%

2.1. Focus of measures

The two largest groups of measures implemented by most Member States aim at removing barriers to the labour market (15MS) and individualised support for job-seekers (13 MS). Fewer, but still significant number of countries invest in vocational training (9MS), lifelong learning and skill development (10MS) and self-employment and entrepreneurship (8MS). The growing rates of Roma youth not in education, employment or training would certainly require even more efforts in supporting a first work experience (10MS). Two other areas that should be prioritised are: safeguards and personalised services to ensure that mainstream public employment services effectively reach out to disadvantaged Roma job-seekers; and positive action to promote Roma employment in the civil service.

Distribution of employment measures by relevance to the respective sub-areas of the Council Recommendation

Thematic sub-area	MS	Number of measures	Enlargement countries	Number of measures
Eliminate labour market barriers, including discrimination	AT, BE, BG, CY, CZ, EL, ES, HR, HU, LT, LU, NL, PT, RO, SK	49	AL, KOS, ME, MK, RS, TR	24
Provide personalised guidance to individual job-seekers	AT, BG, CZ, EL, ES, HU, HR, LV, LU, NL, RO, SI, SK	41	AL, ME, MK, RS, TR	11
Support vocational training	AT, BG, CY, ES, LV, LU, NL, RO, SK	20	AL, KOS, ME, MK, RS, TR	8
Support lifelong learning and skills development	AT, BG, ES, HR, HU, LV, LT, LU, NL, PT	18	AL, ME, MK, RS	7
Support self-employment and entrepreneurship	AT, BG, HR, CZ, EL, ES, HU, LT	18	AL, BiH, KOS, ME, MK, RS, TR	11
Support first work experience	AT, BG, CY, CZ, EL, ES, HR, LU, RO, SK	16	AL, KOS, ME, MK, RS	9
Support on-the-job training	BG, CZ, ES, HU, LV, LU, SK	14	AL, KOS, MK, RS	4
Provide equal access to mainstream public employment services	BG, HR, CZ, HU, LV, SK, ES, UK	13	AL, KOS, ME, MK, RS	16
Promote employment opportunities within the civil service	EL, HU, NL, SK www.parlament.gv.at	8	AL, ME, RS	5

What about the substantive focus of the measures? Here we find that Member States most often opt for individually oriented forms of support, such as employment subsidisation, other forms of cost sharing, career-development support (mentoring, coaching) and vocational training (altogether 35% of all measures). More general measures to promote social inclusion, community development, adult qualification and catch-up education make up 8-9% of the measures. Only one fifth of the measures target young people, which is clearly insufficient, given the challenges of Roma youth in employment.

2.2. Achievements and challenges

In their reporting on 2017, several NRCPs referred to the positive impact of economic growth on the prospects for Roma employment²¹. But even more NRCPs referred to targeted measures, such as regional employment programmes (career-counselling, vocational or on-the-job training and job matching tailored to Roma or vulnerable job-seekers)²². Such measures are even more effective when Roma are involved as mediators, social workers, or other service providers.

NRCPs emphasise three main types of challenges: capacity of implementing structures²³; discrimination against Roma²⁴; and attitudes and trust of Roma themselves²⁵.

2.3. Policy learning

Ensuring effective transition from education to the open labour market, tackling discrimination by employers, and ensuring meeting of demand for labour with supply (especially among Roma youth not in education, employment and training) appear to be the most critical points in employment. In order to reduce the gender gap in employment and the rate of Roma youth not in education, employment or training it is essential to incentivise and cooperate closely with private employers and to explicitly target Roma youth and women under mainstream policies (rather than creating parallel employment structures). Improving Roma employability should also include development of IT and foreign language skills. To ensure employment, however, other barriers also need to be addressed, in particular discrimination by employers, limited social network of Roma job-seekers or traditional gender roles in Roma communities. A combination of training, supported internships and antidiscrimination measures targeting employers can play an important role.

²¹ BG, ES, HR

²² AT, BG, CZ, ES, FR, HR, HU, LV, NL, SK

²³ AT, EL, PL, PT, SK

²⁴ EE, ES, LT, LV, NL, PT, RO

²⁵ BG, EE, FR, NL, PT

Promising approaches:	Priorities to be addressed:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BG, CY, ES, IT, LV, NL, PT, SI: Regional or local employment programmes (individualised counselling) to promote active job-seeking or self-employment • HU, EL, ES, FR: Targeted programmes to improve the employability of Roma women (in the social sector) • IT, LT, HU: Examples of cooperation with employers for job placements for Roma and fighting stereotypes • SK: Amendment of the Act on Public Employment Services providing for an individual action plan to support labour market integration binding the jobseeker and the labour office • BE: Since 2016, Roma have access to the ‘integration path’ set up for people of foreign origin in Wallonia (courses on French language, basic knowledge of society; support to find employment and children’s schooling). Municipalities employ Roma mediators in public social assistance centres, prevention or proximity services • HR: Ombudsman’s office gives antidiscrimination training to public employment officers and other civil servants • UK: Race disparity audit and website to collect and disseminate information on discrimination in employment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable mainstream public employment services to effectively support Roma job-seekers’ integration in the primary labour market • (Continue to) train and employ Roma and youth mentors, mediators to support transitions in education and to the labour market • Target Roma (youth and women) more explicitly with active labour market policies, including the Youth Guarantee • Sensitise and incentivise employers to employ Roma • Systematically monitor and fight discrimination in labour market access and at the workplace • Combine job placement support (internship) with IT and language training and work with employers • Prioritise (re)integration in the primary labour market over parallel systems (e.g. public or informal work) • Work on integrated solutions to tackle the vulnerable situation of undocumented mobile Roma, including by transnational cooperation

3. HEALTH

Situation of Roma in health (2016)

Share of Roma with coverage by the national basic health insurance scheme: 76%
Share of Roma assessing their health in general as ‘very good’ or ‘good’: 68%
Share of Roma who felt limited in their activities because of their health: 28%
Share of Roma who have some longstanding illness or health problem: 22%

3.1. Focus of measures

The two most significant types of measures reported by a majority of Member States focus on removing general barriers to healthcare and promoting health awareness (13-14 MS), representing a balance between supply and demand-side interventions. Other relevant measures include targeted vaccination programmes and access to specialised health services (6-7 MS).

Distribution of health measures by relevance to the respective sub-areas of the Council Recommendation

Thematic sub-area	MS	Number of measures	Enlargement countries	Number of measures
Remove barriers to healthcare	AT, BE, BG, CZ, EL, ES, HR, HU, IT, RO, SE, SK, UK	45	AL, BiH, KOS, ME, MK, RS	15
Promote health awareness	AT, BG, CZ, EL, ES, HR, HU, IT, LV, NL, SE, SI, SK, UK	41	AL, BiH, KOS, ME, MK, RS, TR	17
Improve access to free vaccination programmes targeting children and groups most at risk	AT, BG, EL, HR, HU, SK, UK	11	AL, KOS, ME, MK, RS, TR	14
Improve access to medical check-ups, prenatal and postnatal care and family planning	AT, ES, HU, SI, SK, UK	11	AL, BiH, KOS, ME, MK, RS, TR	13

What about the substantive focus of the measures? Here we find that Member States most often opt for measures improving the supply side (staff, facilities) of health provision (26% of measures). They also address the demand side by health awareness and information campaigns (21%). Other significant groups of measures include general actions to improve health and sanitation infrastructure at local level, and provision of preventive services (16-17%). Highly important interventions – providing Roma with health insurance and targeting health care professionals with antidiscrimination campaigns – are much less widespread (6-7%).

3.2. Achievements and challenges

The achievements most often mentioned by NRCs are: vaccination campaigns²⁶; other prevention and detection programmes²⁷; improving hygiene, health conditions and access to healthcare²⁸; awareness raising²⁹; health mediation³⁰; and multi-stakeholder cooperation involving national and local authorities and civil society³¹. There was a notable lack of reference to antidiscrimination efforts; improving hygienic living conditions; and access to healthy food.

Challenges reported include: lack of coordination and effective communication between the national and local levels; maintaining appropriate (national or EU) funding or staffing³²; lack of self-consciousness on health matters³³; lack of health insurance coverage among Roma³⁴; and insufficient knowledge of health professionals on Roma issues.³⁵ There was also concern about low vaccination rates among Roma, which in some countries are reported to contribute to higher premature mortality and morbidity rates³⁶. Participation and empowerment of Roma in health care initiatives is considered challenging, also due to low literacy and language barriers³⁷.

3.3. Policy learning

Both measures and evaluations are scarce in the area of health (as well as housing), limiting opportunities for policy learning and transfer. The most broadly used promising practices focus on prevention via vaccination campaigns and the training and employment of Roma health mediators. It is important, however, that targeted support services actively aim to improve health awareness, change behaviours and build long-term self-reliance and ability of Roma to engage with mainstream institutions, instead of dependence on permanent intermediaries and long-term parallel structures. Antidiscrimination measures targeting healthcare professionals should be prioritised.

Promising approaches:	Priorities to be addressed:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BG, CZ, DK, EL, FR, HU, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK: Training and employment of Roma health mediators (assistants, visitors, bridge builders) to promote Roma access to healthcare • AT, BG, EL, FR, HU, HR, PL, SK, UK: Vaccination campaigns targeting Roma (girls, women), and those living in marginalised areas • CZ, IT, RO, SI, SK: Long-term national health programmes, action plans, strategies • ES: Ensuring Roma and civil participation in the design of health prevention and training programmes for social service professionals • FI: Roma Wellbeing Study by the National Institute for Health and Welfare • PT: Evidence-based planning of interventions to fight health inequalities of Roma, including information and awareness raising materials on teenage motherhood, paediatric follow-up and healthy eating habits • LT: Health awareness seminars on preventive care, sexual and reproductive health and childcare targeting Roma women and youth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase health insurance coverage, fill gaps in primary and specialised care provision, including reproductive and sexual health in disadvantaged areas • Step up efforts to prevent and fight drug addiction, smoking, HIV, hepatitis, tuberculosis, cardio-vascular diseases, premature birth • Monitor and fight discrimination in access to health and sensitise health professionals to Roma needs • Ensure that targeted Roma health mediators help build the long term self-reliance of Roma • Improve nutrition and fight unhealthy living conditions targeting Roma women and families with children

²⁶ EL, FR, HU, HR

²⁷ HU, PL, SI

²⁸ AT, HU, RO

²⁹ CZ, HU, LT, SI

³⁰ FR, RO, SE, SK

³¹ BG, RO

³² EL, HU, LT, SE, RO

³³ BG, CZ, EL, HR

³⁴ BG, ES, HR, RO

³⁵ AT, CZ,

³⁶ ES, EL

³⁷ BG, PL, SK,

4. HOUSING

Situation of Roma in housing (2016)

Share of Roma who live in a neighbourhood where all or most neighbours are Roma: 67%
Share of Roma living in households with:
○ Tap water (inside): 70%
○ Indoor (flushing) toilet: 55%
○ Indoor shower or bathroom: 60%
Share of Roma living in households with:
○ Leaking roof or damp walls/floors/foundation or rot in window frames or floor: 32%
○ Pollution, grime or other environmental problems: 25%
○ Crime, violence and vandalism in the local area: 23%
Share of Roma living in overcrowded households (Eurostat definition): 78%

4.1. Focus of measures

The measures most commonly reported by Member States aim to: ensure access to public utilities (water, electricity, gas) and infrastructure for housing; support desegregation; promote non-discriminatory access to social housing (10-12 MS). Only a minority of Member States invest in integrated housing interventions targeting marginalised communities in the framework of local urban regeneration projects (7MS) or use ESIF for community-led local development or integrated territorial investments (4 MS). Only 2 Member States reported on provision of halting sites for non-sedentary Roma.

Distribution of housing measures by relevance to the respective sub-areas of the Council Recommendation

Thematic sub-area	MS	Number of measures	Enlargement countries	Number of measures
Ensure access to public utilities and infrastructure for housing	BE, BG, CY, EL, ES, HR, RO, SI, SK, UK	26	AL, BiH, KOS, ME, MK, RS	9
Eliminate spatial segregation and promote desegregation	AT, BE, BG, EL, ES, HU, IT, LT, RO, SK, UK	25	AL, ME	3
Promote non-discriminatory access to social housing	AT, CZ, EL, ES, HU, IT, LT, LV, RO, SI, SK, UK	22	AL, ME, KOS, MK, RS	11
Ensure that urban regeneration projects include integrated housing interventions for marginalised communities	BE, BG, ES, HR, HU, IT, SK	12	AL, BiH	2
Promote community-led local development and/or integrated territorial investments supported by the ESIF	ES, HR, HU, IT	9	MK, RS	2
Provide halting sites for non-sedentary Roma	AT, UK	5		0

What about the substantive focus of the measures? Here we find that Member States most often focus on maintenance, provision and repair of municipal and social housing (27%); infrastructure in Roma settlements (16%); as well as legislative measures, construction permits or legalisation of informal housing (13%). Explicit active desegregation, including the removal of slums, as well as integrated territorial measures or social/infrastructural support for the homeless is much less common as a central focus of investment (7% each).

4.2. Achievements and challenges

NRCs reported that the most significant achievements³⁸ were in access to social housing. Another important cluster of achievements mentioned by several NRCs was the elimination of slums and spatial segregation³⁹. NRCs also referred to results in the provision of halting sites⁴⁰, access to

³⁸ AT, CZ, EL, HU, LV, LT, PT, RO

³⁹ ES, FR, HU, IT, LT

public utilities (such as water, electricity and gas) and infrastructure for housing⁴¹; the legalisation of housing⁴²; and in urban regeneration⁴³.

Reported challenges include: spatial segregation⁴⁴; barriers for Roma to access housing in the private sector⁴⁵; as well as public support for and legislation on access to social housing⁴⁶.

4.3. Policy learning

Housing is the policy with the fewest examples of promising approaches common to several countries. It is also the area where a long-term, integrated and comprehensive approach has been found to be especially critical, including: complementing provision of housing with accompanying support combining elements of employment, education, health and community development; and embedding interventions in broader national policy and legislation on land and social housing. Promoting spatial desegregation requires a targeted, coordinated, and participatory process: engaging Roma beneficiaries in the design and implementation of community and individual housing options; combining infrastructural and human investments; and awareness raising to reduce ethnic tensions and overcome resistance from majority society. Other areas that need to be prioritised include: developing the social housing stock ensuring improved access for Roma; preventing forced evictions as part of a multi-stakeholder, broad housing approach; and providing sufficient and culturally appropriate halting sites for non-sedentary Roma.

Promising approaches:	Priorities to be addressed:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ES: Local and regional governments with NGO support have significantly reduced the prevalence of shanty towns over the past 15 years leading to desegregation as part of an integrated approach with sustainable improvements in education, health and employment • CZ: ESIF support scaling up local ‘housing first’ initiatives, built on models of successful social housing pilot by local governments and social rental agency by NGOs, excluding housing in segregated areas (methodology to identify residential segregation piloted by the Ministry of Labour and 12 municipalities) • EL: New regulations to promote: relocation from camps and settlements; improvement of infrastructure; creation of self-management and protection system of residential complexes; and rent subsidy for finding a home in integrated settings • FR: Multi-stakeholder comprehensive ‘housing first’ approach in Toulouse to help Roma move from camps to integrated areas, accompanied by social support, literacy and other training, access to education, employment and healthcare • SI: Public tenders for basic communal infrastructure (water, electricity, roads) targeting municipalities where Roma live • LT: Desegregation process in the Kirtimai settlement in Vilnius by relocation combined with offer of social housing with subsidised rent to families with many children. • SE: Guidance and training for landlords to increase knowledge and fight discrimination against Roma 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in affordable and appropriate social housing stock in integrated areas, and ensure that eligibility criteria are accessible for Roma • Provide housing assistance targeting the most vulnerable • Legalise housing and prevent forced evictions • Combine comprehensive long-term desegregation with preparatory and accompanying measures building public support and interethnic community relations and ensure participation of communities in design and implementation • Ensure access to clean water, basic amenities and essential public services for all, with explicit safeguards for Roma • Fight discrimination in access to (social and private) housing • Ensure the provision of sufficient, properly serviced and culturally appropriate halting sites for Travellers

⁴⁰ FR, NL

⁴¹ SI

⁴² HR

⁴³ BG

⁴⁴ BG, CY, ES, SK

⁴⁵ ES, LT, LV, NL

⁴⁶ CZ, BG

II. FIGHTING DISCRIMINATION AND ANTIGYPSYISM

Discrimination experience of Roma (2016)

Share of Roma with discrimination experience in past 5 years:

- When in contact with their children's school: 12%
- When attending education: 12%
- When looking for work: 43%
- When at work: 19%
- When trying to rent or buy housing: 43%
- When entering a restaurant, night club or hotel: 21%
- When entering a shop: 17%
- When in contact with public administration: 16%

Share of Roma who felt being discriminated and reported the incident: 12%

Share of Roma experiencing harassment in person due to Roma background in past year:

- Offensive or threatening comments: 20%
- Offensive gestures or inappropriate staring: 23%
- Being threatened with violence in person: 7%
- Overall: 29%

Share of Roma who:

- Heard of equality body: 29%
- Tends to trust the police: 37%
- Tends to trust the country's legal system: 29%

1. Focus of measures

Antidiscrimination measures most reported by Member States include: fighting antigypsyism by awareness raising on the benefits of Roma inclusion; awareness raising about diversity; and combatting anti-Roma rhetoric and hate speech (10-12MS). Few Member States invest in measures that seek to protect Roma women and children by fighting multiple discrimination, (domestic) violence, or underage and forced marriages (2-4 MS). Only 4 Member States report investing in measures to ensure the effective enforcement of the Racial Equality Directive (2000/43/EC). Even fewer refer to local or regional desegregation measures (3MS), or fighting trafficking in human beings (2MS). Only one Member State reported measures to prevent unlawful evictions or begging with children; and to promote cross-border cooperation.

Distribution of non-discrimination measures by relevance to the respective sub-areas of the Council Recommendation

Thematic sub-area	MS	Number of measures	Enlargement countries	Number of measures
Fight antigypsyism by raising awareness about the benefits of Roma integration	AT, BE, BG, CZ, ES, IT, LT, LV, PT, SK, SE	35	AL, ME, MK, RS, TR	27
Fight antigypsyism by raising awareness on diversity	AT, BE, BG, CZ, EE, ES, IT, LT, LV, PT, SE, SK	31	AL, ME, MK, RS, TR	28
Fight antigypsyism by combatting anti-Roma rhetoric and hate speech	AT, BG, CZ, ES, HU, IT, LT, LV, SK, UK	27	ME, TR	6
Fight violence, including domestic violence, against women and girls	AT, ES, IT, NL	11	AL, RS, TR	4
Fight (multiple) discrimination faced by children and women involving all relevant stakeholders	AT, ES, IT, NL	8	AL, ME, MK, RS, TR	23
Fight underage and forced marriages	AT, NL	6	RS	1
Ensure the effective practical enforcement of Directive 2000/43/EC	CZ, HR, IT, LT	6	AL, ME, MK, RS, TR	24
Fight trafficking in human beings	AT, HU	6	AL, MK, RS	8
Implement desegregation measures regionally and locally	HU, NL, UK	3	AL, ME, RS	14
Ensure that evictions are in full compliance with EU law and international human rights obligations	IT	1	AL, MK, RS	3
Fight begging involving children, through the enforcement of legislation	AT	1	AL, RS	3
Promote the cooperation between Member States in situations with cross-border dimension	AT	1		0

What about the substantive focus of the measures? Here we find that Member States most often invest in promoting Roma culture and heritage as a way to raise awareness and fight antigypsyism indirectly among the general public (22%). Somewhat fewer measures target awareness raising to directly fight discrimination and intolerance (18%). Other measures focus on capacity development of institutions (15%), Roma civil society (12%) and human rights monitoring mechanisms (11%). Key areas that received less focus were the provision of legal support, the empowerment of Roma women and desegregation (5-6%). Only 16% of reported antidiscrimination measures targeted explicitly Roma youth, and 10% targeted Roma women.

2. Achievements and challenges

The achievements most often mentioned by NRCPs were: improving the conditions of Roma women and children⁴⁷; combating antigypsyism by breaking stereotypes or promoting Roma culture and history⁴⁸; and involving all relevant actors (public authorities, civil society and Roma communities) in efforts to promote anti-discrimination⁴⁹.

Several NRCPs referred to challenges of improving access to legal protection and rights awareness⁵⁰, as well as difficulties in fighting against stereotypes⁵¹ and improving the situation of Roma women and children.⁵² The mere fact that several Member States⁵³ – including some with large Roma communities and several with very high rates of perceived discrimination among Roma – did not report any antidiscrimination measures underlines the gravity of challenges in this area.

3. Policy learning

Experience with Roma inclusion actions shows that long-term change in any of the policy areas requires tackling antigypsyism and discrimination towards Roma, and building trust between Roma and non-Roma communities. To succeed Roma inclusion actions in all policy areas must be linked to common values and include awareness raising among the general public. To fight stereotypes, hate speech, and hate crime it is necessary to build positive narratives on Roma among mainstream society and strengthen Roma identity, via specific targeted measures to fight antigypsyism and promote recognition of Roma history (including the Holocaust). The most successful actions do not just align with, but rather transform mainstream structures and policies by fighting prejudices and stereotypes and building a positive image of Roma among policy-makers and other stakeholders.

Promising approaches:	Priorities to be addressed:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AT: As a result of an online consultation on the NRIS, efforts to address antigypsyism intensified. Fighting antigypsyism became a priority under the revised strategy and the focus of a dedicated event of the Austrian EU presidency • DE: An independent expert commission on antigypsyism has been set up to provide the government with concrete recommendations regarding the history of Sinti and Roma in Germany, their persecution and discrimination, as well as recommendations for addressing antigypsism today. • Recognition of the Roma Holocaust and setting up of a committee against racism with Roma participation (SK); monuments, exhibitions and online platform to commemorate Roma victims of the Holocaust (NL); annual commemoration of Roma Holocaust Remembrance Day in Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camp (PL); Roma History and Art Museum and compensation to victims of forced labour (LV) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop ethnically disaggregated (anonymised) data collection to monitor antigypsyism, discrimination and the impact of public policies on Roma • Develop actions to fight, raise awareness about, monitor and sanction antigypsyism, hate crime and hate speech (linked to broader anti-racism strategies) with Roma civil involvement targeting society as a whole • Ensure the enforcement of equality legislation and tackle discriminatory treatment by law enforcement and

⁴⁷ BG, EE, ES, HU, HR, PT, SK

⁴⁸ ES, FR, HU, LV

⁴⁹ IT, ES, SI

⁵⁰ AT, CZ, LT, PT

⁵¹ EE, ES, HR, LV

⁵² BG, ES, SK

⁵³ CY, FR, EL, PL, RO

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CZ: The government bought the pig farm located at the site of the former concentration camp at Lety u Písku. A memorial to the victims of the Roma Holocaust will be built with EEA grants support • SE: Work by the Commission against Antigypsyism resulting in acknowledgement of historic and current antigypsyism; special police units combating hate crime cooperating with minorities including Roma • ES: Campaigns to fight stereotypes and disseminate Roma culture run by the Roma Culture Institute and regional governments with Roma civil involvement; free legal aid service for victims of discrimination and hate crime by bar associations of Madrid, Barcelona, Malaga, Seville and Cordoba; prosecutor specialised in hate crimes and discrimination in Spanish provinces • IT: The equality body (and NRCP) established a contact centre for complaints on hate crime providing support and legal help to victims and a media & Internet observatory training Roma and non-Roma youth to monitor, remove or report hate speech • FI: Antidiscrimination campaigns against hate crime and hate speech by NGOs with Roma involvement; awareness raising among Roma on gender roles within the family; obligatory equality planning by municipalities and larger employers monitored by the Non-discrimination Ombudsman's office • IE: A code of ethics for the Irish police with specific reference to fighting discrimination against the Traveller community; appointment of 277 ethnic liaison officers to build trust between Travellers and the police • CZ, EL, HU SK, RO: Mapping of socially excluded/Roma communities that can be used to target interventions including those funded from ESIF • UK: Facility for the online reporting of hate crime 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • other public authorities through thorough investigation, dissuasive sanctions, sensitisation and antidiscrimination training • Support Roma access to justice with a focus on victims of multiple discrimination (women, LGBTI, non-citizen Roma), and reinforce the capacity of equality bodies to deal with discrimination against Roma • Set up Roma-led truth and reconciliation processes to explore, document and raise awareness about past abuses against Roma, and promote trust and reconciliation • Empower Roma to participate fully in political, cultural and social life and all stages of the policy process • Follow a holistic, gender and child sensitive approach; fight child abuse, early marriages, begging involving children (through the enforcement of legislation protecting children rights), violence, including trafficking in human beings • Alleviate the social costs of begging and maintain human dignity
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III. ROMA INCLUSION IN THE ENLARGEMENT REGION

Western Balkans geared up their ambition beyond expectations and mandate⁵⁴ and endorsed the same Roma inclusion objectives and working methods⁵⁵ as Member States. Solid and sustainable improvements on Roma integration are necessary to progress towards the EU. To take into account the effects of previous accessions, especially in the field of free movement of persons, progress on Roma integration is for the first time included as a full element in the ongoing negotiation in the accession process for Chapter 23 “Judiciary and fundamental rights”. The results of the 2017 survey on the socio-economic situation of the Roma in the Western Balkans, has allowed the partners to identify new challenges, such as enhanced support for successful reintegration of returnees to the region, and establish a solid basis for defining the requirements of the future Roma policy. For the first time a dedicated annex to this Communication focuses on Roma inclusion in the enlargement region presenting both detailed horizontal and country specific information.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

The review of Roma inclusion measures underline the need to identify and develop with active Roma involvement interventions that: respond to and are proportionate with the scale of the challenges; promise measurable results; and include realistic options to generate acceptance by society at large. Success factors for planning, implementation and monitoring Roma inclusion interventions are identified as follows:

- Sufficient **time** not only for implementation, but for planning, consultation, engaging stakeholders, building trust with communities, monitoring, evaluation and policy review

⁵⁴ Point 6: “Promoting Roma Integration Beyond the EU: the particular situation of enlargement countries”. Three objectives were set for the enlargement countries: improved use of IPA funds; enhanced monitoring; closer cooperation with civil society.

⁵⁵ Report annually on implementation; appointed National Roma Contact Points; held Annual National Platforms closely involving civil society organisations; held Roma Seminars; report on fulfilment of their commitments in the Enlargement Package and the Stabilization and Association Agreement Subcommittees.

- Systematic collection of robust **data** disaggregated by gender and age to inform needs and context analysis; build a baseline; set targets; and populate outcome and impact indicators
- **Embedding targeted interventions in mainstream policy and legal frameworks** to ensure that they remain temporary and promote effective equal access of Roma to mainstream services, instead of creating permanent parallel structures
- Strong **multi-stakeholder partnership** – to ensure ownership, shared responsibility and sustainability⁵⁶
- **Active participation of Roma** and all stakeholders in all stages (planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and policy review)
- **Intersectional, cross-sectoral, integrated** approaches to tackle multiple discrimination and multi-dimensional exclusion
- **Gender and child sensitive** approach: planning, based on the analysis of the needs of Roma women and children; comprehensive approach; and continuous support especially in critical transitions
- Accounting for the **diversity** among Roma: reflect on the real needs; ensure sensitivity to local contexts; and address the exclusion and discrimination patterns faced by specific Roma communities
- **Tackling extreme poverty** with a combination of territorial and group targeting in comprehensive interventions to promote long-term change
- **Explicit but not exclusive** targeting to ensure consideration of the wider context and prevent resentment from other disadvantaged groups
- Prioritisation of **prevention** and **early intervention** to ensure cost efficiency and generate long-term, sustainable change
- **Desegregation** (in education and housing) as a long-term priority instead of improving quality in segregated settings
- **Recognition of antigypsyism** to promote a strong non-discrimination approach in Roma inclusion interventions in all areas⁵⁷
- **Expertise** to ensure quality, non-discriminatory services
- **Building the capacity** of civil society, public administration and Roma
- Visible, long-term **political** and sufficient **financial support** (including allocation from the national budget) to ensure institutionalisation of promising practices and sustainability
- **Flexibility** to ensure success by allowing for policy learning and adjustment
- Independent quantitative and qualitative **monitoring and evaluation** to measure progress, and ensure policy review

⁵⁶ This also implies close cooperation between stakeholders working with Roma and those developing and implementing mainstream public policies, as well as cooperation between local public and private service providers with civil society working closely with Roma communities.

⁵⁷ This should also include the recognition of the specificities of antigypsyism, hate crime and anti-Roma rhetoric, as well as the challenges faced by Roma victims in accessing justice, protection and support (such as underreporting also due to fear of discrimination or reprisal by investigating authorities, risks of re-victimisation, impact of the authorities' own biased attitudes on criminal law responses, etc.).