



European
Commission

2019 Report on National Roma Integration Strategies: Key Conclusions

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The Roma are Europe's largest ethnic minority. Out of an estimated 10-12 million in total in Europe, some 6 million live in the EU and most of them are citizens of an EU country. Many Roma in the EU are victims of prejudice and social exclusion, despite the fact that EU countries have banned discrimination.

The EU Member States have the primary responsibility to improve the living conditions and inclusion of the Roma. To support them, the EU has made available legal, policy and financial instruments. The European Commission publishes a yearly report on the implementation of the National Roma Integration Strategies.

The EU Framework for National Roma integration strategies centres around five key areas:



education



employment



healthcare



housing



antidiscrimination.

EDUCATION

The challenges: Today, there are still 68% of Roma who leave education early, while the Europe 2020 early school leavers target is 10%. In addition only 18% of Roma children transit to higher levels of education and the absenteeism and early-school leaving rates of Roma are significantly higher than for other categories of pupils.



Spotlight on some Member States' promising measures	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 pre-school, development of kindergartens • CY, EL, ES, IE, IT, HR, HU, LT, LV, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI: Programmes aimed at preventing school drop-out of Roma through after-school support, tutoring and support to families • AT, CY, FI, HU, IE, IT, PT, RO: Introducing Roma history 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 and secondary-level adult education in Romani 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support home parenting and early-childhood learning • Systematically monitor and fight school and class segregation • Encourage young Roma to pursue higher education

EMPLOYMENT

The challenges: 43% of Roma are in a form of paid employment. In addition, 63% of young Roma are not in education, employment or training.



Spotlight on some Member States' promising measures	Priorities to be addressed:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BG, CY, ES, IT, LV, NL, PT, SI: Regional or local employment programmes • HU, EL, ES, FR: Programmes to improve the employability of Roma women • IT, LT, HU: Cooperation with employers for job placements for Roma and fighting stereotypes • BE: Since 2016, Roma have access to the 'integration path' set up for people of foreign origin in Wallonia. Municipalities employ Roma mediators in public social assistance centres, prevention or proximity services • HR: Ombudsman's office gives antidiscrimination training to public employment officers • UK: Race disparity audit and website to collect and disseminate information on discrimination in employment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable public employment services to support Roma job-seekers find a job • Train and employ Roma and youth mentors to support transitions in education and to the labour market • Encourage employers to employ Roma • Monitor and fight discrimination in labour market access and at the workplace

HEALTH



The challenges: Almost a quarter of Roma people have no national health insurance

Spotlight on some Member States' promising measures	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 to promote Roma access to healthcare • AT, BG, EL, FR, HU, HR, PL, SK, UK: Vaccination campaigns targeting Roma • CZ, IT, RO, SI, SK: Long-term national health programmes • ES: Ensuring Roma participation in developing health prevention and training programmes for social service professionals • FI: Roma Wellbeing Study by the National Institute for Health and Welfare • PT: Planning of interventions to fight health inequalities of Roma • 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 • Step up efforts to prevent and fight drug addiction, smoking and HIV, among others • Monitor and fight discrimination in access to health and make health professionals aware of Roma needs

HOUSING

The challenges: Roma often live in areas where most neighbours are Roma too. In addition, a third of Roma households do not have tap water, just over half have an indoor flush toilet or shower and 78% of Roma live in overcrowded households.



Spotlight on some Member States' promising measures	Priorities to be addressed:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ES: Local and regional authorities with NGO support have significantly reduced the number of shanty towns over the past 15 years • EL: New regulations to promote: relocation from camps and settlements; improvement of infrastructure and creation of self-management • FR: Help for Roma moving from camps to integrated areas with social support, literacy and other training, access to education, employment and healthcare • SI: Fund for basic communal infrastructure targeting municipalities where Roma live • LT: Relocating Roma from the Kirtimai camp to social housing with subsidized rent for big families • SE: Guidance for landlords to increase knowledge and fight discrimination against Roma 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in affordable and appropriate social housing for Roma • Prevent forced evictions • Ensure access to clean water, basic amenities and essential public services for all, with explicit safeguards for Roma

FIGHTING DISCRIMINATION AND ANTIGYPSYISM

The challenges: Roma are still discriminated against across the EU: for instance, 43% of Roma experience discrimination when trying to buy or rent housing, Roma are not aware enough of their rights in terms of equality and need to build more trust in law enforcement authorities.



Spotlight on some Member States' promising measures	Priorities to be addressed:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AT: Efforts to address antigypsyism intensified • 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 • 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) • 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 • SE: Work by the Commission against Antigypsyism has led to acknowledging historic and current antigypsyism • ES: Campaigns to fight stereotypes and spread Roma culture run by the Roma Culture Institute and regional governments with Roma civil involvement • IT: A contact centre 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 • IE: A code of ethics for the Irish police with specific reference to fighting discrimination against the Traveller community • CZ, EL, HU SK, RO: Mapping of socially excluded/ Roma communities that can be used to target interventions • UK: Facility for the online reporting of hate crime 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fight, raise awareness about, monitor and sanction antigypsyism, hate crime and hate speech with Roma civil involvement targeting society as a whole • Support Roma access to justice with a focus on victims of multiple discrimination • Empower Roma to participate fully in political, cultural and social life and all stages of the policy process