# Roma inclusion
# A policy field of high priority
# for the cities of the Danube area

## Background paper & web content

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**Part 1**
**EUSDR Roma[1] Inclusion Strategy – Background paper**

**1      Recent developments…**

- **Putting the issue of Roma inclusion on the agenda**: Reports and studies on the situation of Roma in Europe have been produced since the 1990s, however the range and depth of activity accelerated significantly after the 2004/2007 expansion of the EU (and increasing Roma migration from central/eastern to western European states).

- **Platforms, task forces, initiatives**: The "Decade of Roma Inclusion" was launched in 2005 as the first multinational project in Europe (including 12 states) to actively enhance the lives of Roma. In 2009, a "Platform for Roma Inclusion" was inaugurated, presenting "10 Basic Principles for Roma Inclusion", followed by the European Commission's Roma Task Force in 2010 to streamline and assess the use (and effectiveness) of EU funds by all Member States for Roma integration and identify underpinning deficiencies in the use of funds.

- **EU Framework and National Strategies:** As a more structural approach the European Council approved (in 2011) the Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020, calling for the member states to develop strategy documents addressing in particular four thematic priorities that are considered crucial for Roma integration: employment, housing, health and education. Only one year later, all member states had produced a strategy 'or a corresponding set of policy measures within their broader social inclusion policies.' The Commission has – as cornerstones of the monitoring mechanism – subsequently published annual progress reports by country, which are largely based on submissions provided by the member states themselves. Country-specific recommendations for the implementation of Roma integration measures are also formulated in the framework of the "European Semester", i.e. the instrument for economic policy coordination.

**2      …and status quo**

- **Concepts are there**: In addition to official documents at national/EU levels, a multitude of reports on various aspects of Roma inclusion have appeared: from supra-national bodies such as the World Bank, OSCE and UNDP, to national and multi-national NGOs such as the European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC) and the European Roma Policy Coalition (ERPC), most of them including substantial recommendations.

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[1] Roma wird hier als Überbegriff für romanessprachige Bevölkerungsgruppen verwendet, der aber auch andere marginalisierte Gruppen miteinschließt.

- **…as is local expertise**: A large variety of projects and initiatives have been set-up, with the best results evident on local level (or in cooperation projects with local-level partners).

- **National strategies still to be implemented**: Recent assessments of National Roma Integration Strategies concluded that a good set of policy recommendations to fight Roma exclusion exists, however, successful and effective implementation is dependent on 'strong action' by Member States which is often lacking, both in terms of political commitment and allocation of adequate resources.

- **Many problems remain unsolved**: According to a recent study of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency in 11 member states, about 90 % of Roma in the survey have an income below the national poverty threshold; about 40 % of the children live in households struggling with malnutrition or hunger. Life expectancy is significantly shorter, which is one reason for the high proportion of young people amongst the Roma population. More than half of the Roma in the survey live in segregated areas, in housing that falls far below minimum housing standards. Persistent prejudice and discrimination undermine Roma employment prospects and all other areas of their lives. Roma generally have much lower levels of education than the general population, sometimes caused by school segregation, which consequently leads to fewer employment opportunities. Only about a third of those surveyed has paid work, which is often precarious and informal.

## 3 Towards a Roma Inclusion Strategy of the Danube cities – first considerations

### A strategic approach of the cities in the Danube Region

80% of European Roma live in the 14 countries of the Danube Region, though the population percentage of Roma varies greatly from country to county, – with the strongest concentrations in poor and peripheral regions. Priority Area 9 of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region („Investing in people & skills"), therefore defines the economic and social inclusion of Roma as a crucial objective, calling in particular for fair access to housing and employment markets. In priority area 10 („Institutional capacity & cooperation") measures for capacity building and for the support of civil society are addressed.

Locating Roma Strategy at level of the Urban Platform Danube Region (UPDR), which is implemented by PA10, makes particular sense: Studies and projects have shown that local actors are closest to the actual needs and requirements of local Roma populations, which are very heterogeneous and diverse in terms of both culture, language and traditions and socioeconomic situations., They are best equipped to address the main challenge of breaking down national Roma Integration strategies to a local level of action and impact.

**Inclusion vs. integration – setting the right agenda**

EU documents do not distinguish between the concepts of integration and inclusion in a consequent way: Following the concept of inclusiveness, the focus of efforts should not solely be the stronger integration of disadvantaged, marginalised Roma communities into the mainstream society, but the development of an inclusive society which accepts a certain degree of divergence of communities and individuals, their specific abilities and needs as a matter of fact. The focus should be shifted from addressing differences (which often leads to further segregation) to policies for socially inclusive structures in housing, employment, education etc. that provide equal opportunities for all.

Having said that, it is important that any strategy approaches the issue with a human rights agenda, which some National Roma Strategies chose to do. This is also evidenced by the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. Acknowledgement should be made that the promotion of human rights and anti-discrimination is crucial to working towards long-term inclusion of Roma. A holistic view should be taken, noting that the promotion of basic human rights of Roma will address all the thematic areas identified below. (Additionally, Roma women and girls are particularly discriminated against, both within society generally and the Roma community. The issue of gender discrimination should be discussed and should be a component of projects and future strategies.)

**Given the multitude of national strategy papers[2] and local/cross-border projects, a transnational strategy approach of the Danube cities towards Roma inclusion should avoid copying or repeating general statements, but rather have a "special focus" on those aspects where local actors and the macro-regional level of policy making can make a considerable contribution:**

**Local actors as those who are closest to the actual requirements of local Roma communities and who often have a considerable pool of experience from projects and local action; the macro-regional level because specific challenges (like migration and human trafficking) are per se of transnational character and require transnational approaches, whereas other challenges (as know-how transfer) will benefit from joining forces on a macro-regional scale comprising both member- and non-member states of the EU.**

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[2] For a comparative overview pls. see appendix.

**Special Focus 1: Giving the Roma a strong voice**

- **Direct involvement in political processes**: Roma are often marginalised in political processes. The strategy should work to enhance direct involvement and dialogue with Roma, not about them, actively mobilising Roma representatives at a local level.

- **Joint lobbying**: Roma inclusion should be a key aspect of any and all EU Inclusion policies and programmes. Policy should recognize the rights of Roma as EU citizens, while recognizing and respecting their differences. As anti-discrimination is a pre-condition of Roma inclusion, the (local) partners of the Danube area should join forces at a macro-regional level to promote European anti-discrimination rules and to address the existing weaknesses in EU legislation (e.g. of the Framework Decision on Combating Racism and Xenophobia, 2008).

- **Roma Inclusion in non-EU Member States in the Danube Region**: In addition the specific composition of the EUSDR area allows for addressing the needs of Roma inclusion in all countries of the Danube are – regardless of their status as members or non-member states of the EU.

**Spacial Focus 2: Knowledge transfer**

- **Transferability of good practice:** There is much expertise and many concepts, local projects and subsequent documentation available on (transregional) platforms. Yet, not every "good practice" proves suitable for every local context, and local actors often lack capacities and know-how to implement models that have been successful elsewhere. Given the amount of 'good practice' information available, efforts should be focused on consulting and knowledge transfer across regions and organizations (instead of e.g. setting up yet another good-practice database). A strategy of the local partners in the Danube area would offer the opportunity to set up consulting mechanisms of those who have already achieved experiences and know-how from successfully implemented projects, and those who are in need of solutions for their local context. Knowledge transfer would thus not only mean presenting successful cases but consultation on how to apply good practices to local contexts.

**4      Thematic focus areas of a Roma Inclusion Strategy of the Danube cities**

In terms of thematic fields the focus of a future Roma Inclusion Strategy of the Danube cities will probably not differ much from previous strategy documents as the needs are obvious:

- **Education**: including early childhood education/preschool models, mentoring programmes with Roma NGOs etc.
- **Employment**: involve private enterprise along with public employment, create training and skills programmes, provide local employment centres etc.
- **Housing**: ensure Roma involvement, build community along with structures and infrastructure, regularize property rights etc.
- **Health**: train health professionals, involve health mediators etc.

In addition, particularly a strategy of cities and local actors may address a number of **additional cross-sectoral topics**:

**Raising self-confidence through empowerment, image re-branding and cultural activities**

- Presenting new role-models
- Informing about career opportunities
- Recognition of the existing talents, skills and potential of members of Roma communities
- Funding cultural activities, work to recognize Roma history as part of common European history…

**Roma migration as a specific transnational issue in need of a macro-regional approach**

- Support Roma getting formal residence permit / citizenship status
- Coordinate national data and reports on internal migration
- Exchange of experience
- Partnerships between cities in order to tackle problems related to migration and human trafficking

**Capacity building and better spending of EU funds**

- Enhancing of institutional capacity of local authorities
- Roma typically live in those areas of the European Union with the lowest levels of territorial, social, and economic cohesion. Knowledge of successful usage of European Structural Funds that is available amongst a number of actors at local level should be particularly emphasized and be subject to knowledge transfer schemes.

**Part B**
**Web-Content**

The Urban Platform Danube Region (UPDR), by means of its web portal http://www.updr.eu/, provides the cities of the Danube area with information on various policy areas relevant for the EU Strategy on the Danube Region. The following overview is meant to make key documents, recent studies and reports as well as projects on Roma inclusion available in a compact and well-structured way.

Following the structure and function of the UPDR homepage as a web portal, the contents are displayed in the form of commented links in the following sections:

- National Roma Integration Strategies
- EU documents
- Expert papers and studies
- Projects on Roma integration
- Recent & upcoming events

Unless otherwise noted, all documents or linked websites are available in English language.

# 1    National Roma Integration Strategies

Austria National Roma Strategy
http://www.austria.gv.at/DocView.axd?CobId=52715

Bulgaria National Roma Strategy
http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/files/roma_bulgaria_strategy_en.pdf

Croatia National Roma Strategy
http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/files/roma_croatia_strategy_en.pdf

Czech Republic National Roma Strategy (only available in Czech)
http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/files/roma_czech_republic_strategy2_cs.pdf

Czech Republic Roma Integration Strategy (2010-2013)
http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/files/roma_czech_republic_strategy_en.pdf

Czech Republic Strategy for Combating Social Exclusion for the Period 2011-2015
http://www.romadecade.org/cms/upload/file/9307_file1_strategy-for-combating-social-exclusion-for-the-period-2011-2015.pdf

Germany National Roma Strategy
http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/files/roma_germany_strategy_en.pdf

Hungary National Roma Strategy
http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/files/roma_hungary_strategy_en.pdf

Romania National Roma Strategy
http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/files/roma_romania_strategy_en.pdf

Serbia National Roma Strategy
http://www.seio.gov.rs/upload/documents/ekspertske%20misije/protection_of_minorities/strategy_for_roma.pdf

Slovakia National Roma Strategy
http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/files/roma_slovakia_strategy_en.pdf

Slovenia National Roma Strategy
http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/files/roma_slovenia_strategy_en.pdf

## 2    EU Documents

European Commission: Report on the implementation of the EU framework for National Roma Integration Strategies (2014)
http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/files/roma_implement_strategies2014_en.pdf

European Commission: Recommendations on effective Roma integration measures in the Member States (2013)
http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32013H1224(01)&rid=5

European Commission: What Works for Roma Inclusion in the EU (2012)
http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/files/whatworksfor_romainclusion_en.pdf

EU Parliament: Resolution on EU Roma Inclusion (2011)
http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML+TA+P7-TA-2011-0092+0+DOC+PDF+V0//EN

EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020 (2011)
http://ec.europa.eu/justice/policies/discrimination/docs/com_2011_173_en.pdf

European Commission: Working Together for Roma Inclusion – The EU Framework Explained (2011)
http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/files/working_together_for_roma_inclusion_en.pdf

**3      Expert Papers & Studies**

**Analysis of Roma Integration Strategies at National & EU Levels**

University of Salford/Manchester, University of York:
Rights, responsibilities and redress? Research on Policies and Practice for inclusion in 10 Member States. Final Report of the Roma Matrix project (2015)
https://romamatrix.eu/file/806/download?token=vSdECbZI3n3d1bHHpsMAbLR0457cwV1sA0l m2T4gjsA

> *Examines how national integration strategies are created and delivered, focusing on effectiveness, mapping and exploring existing policies, operational realities and reactions of supporting organisations. Detailed key findings and recommendations included.*

European Roma Policy Commission (ERPC):
ERPC's Assessment of National Roma Integration Strategies: 2012 Report and Recent Developments (2012)
http://www.errc.org/article/roma-rights-2013-national-roma-integration-strategies-what-next/4238/4

> *Analysis of each National Strategy including: budget allocation, feasibility, setting of realistic goals, establishing of clear responsibilities and coordination, monitoring etc. Key recommendations include greater stakeholder/community participation, ensuring monitoring and implementation, a human rights based approach, and ultimately fighting 'anti-gypsyism'.*

Bernard Rorke, Open Society Foundation:
Review of National Roma Strategies (2012)
http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/sites/default/files/roma-integration-strategies-20120221.pdf

> *A review of Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia NRIS's and the Integration Concept of the Czech Republic and of their usage of EU funds. "Good intentions need to be bolstered by concrete targets and timelines."*

Aidan McGarry, University of Brighton:
The Dilemma of the European Union's Roma Policy, (2011)
http://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/5222681.pdf

> *Outlines EU Framework for Roma Integration. Discusses failure of legislation to consider anti discrimination as a main cause of socio-economic inequalities.*

Hugh Frazer & Eric Marlier, EU Network of Independent Experts on Social Exclusion: Promoting the Social Inclusion of Roma. Synthesis Report. Overview based on the national reports (2011)
http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=8960&langId=en

> *Overview of Roma in the EU and overarching suggestions for strengthening Roma inclusion within EU Member States.*

**Making Use of EU Funding for Roma Integration**

Angela Kocze, Adam Kullmann, Agota Scharle, Orsolya Szendrey, Nora Teller, Viola Zentai, Open Society Foundation:
Toolkit: Programming the Structural Funds for Roma Inclusion in 2014-2020 (2014)
http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/sites/default/files/programming-structural-funds-roma-inclusion-20140422.pdf

> *Aims to assist public authorities, involved in the planning and programming of European Structural Funds, to introduce and ensure social inclusion in education, employment, housing and health service developments.*

EURoma Network
Making Use of European Structural and Investment Funds for Roma Inclusion. A Guide for Local Authorities (2014)
http://coe-romact.org/sites/default/files/Final%20version%20-%20EURoma%20guide%20for%20local%20authorities%2030%2005%2014.pdf

> *Guidelines and suggestions for using Structural Funds at a local level to integrate Roma. Practical information about the funding regulation and examples of successful models and projects.*

Open Society Foundation and Metropolitan Research Institute, Hungary:
Mayors Making The Most of EU Funds for Roma Inclusion. A Handbook of Best Practices (2013)
http://www.logincee.org/file/25991/library

> *A guide to good municipal practices, using 17 case studies, meant to support local authorities who are ultimately responsible for planning and implementing Roma inclusion strategies.*

Further Detailed Case Studies
http://www.logincee.org/meri_case_studies?case_study_country=&skip=0

**Living Conditions of Roma**

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/World Bank; European Commission:
Handbook for Improving the Living Conditions of Roma at the Local Level (2015)
http://www-
wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2014/11/06/000470435_201
41106105954/Rendered/PDF/923950WP0P14390C00Handbook0complete.pdf

>   *Advice for local authorities on using available funding to meet the goals outlined in the EU
>   2020 Strategy to improve the living conditions of Roma and encourage their inclusion in
>   the EU.*

EU Agency for Fundamental Rights:
Roma survey – Data in focus. Poverty and employment: The situation of Roma in
11 EU Member States (2014)
http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra-2014-roma-survey-employment_en.pdf

>   *Presents the results of a 2011 survey on poverty and unemployment amongst Roma in
>   Europe, which found that 90% of those surveyed were living below the poverty line and
>   only 30% were regularly employed.*

Migration Policy Institute:
The Roma of Eastern Europe: Still Searching for Inclusion (2005)
http://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/roma-eastern-europe-still-searching-inclusion

>   *Though a few years old, a general overview of the situation of the historic and current
>   situation of Roma in Europe.*

PAIRS project web platform:
Roma in South Eastern Europe (SEE)
http://www.pairs-see.net/page?view=15

>   *Outlines Roma populations in SEE countries, including their housing, health, education,
>   employment situations, discrimination faced etc.*

Council of Europe, Ad hoc Committee of Experts on Roma Issues (CAHROM):
Various country reports
http://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/cahrom

>   *Thematic country specific reports regarding education, housing, language, policy
>   implementation, anti-gypsyism and women and youth.*

**Education**

Roma Education Fund
Strategy Paper of the Roma Education Fund for 2015-2020 (2014)
http://www.romaeducationfund.hu/sites/default/files/publications/ref_strategy_2015-2020_web.pdf

*Outlines importance of education for Roma and the EU and the fact that education has proven to be the only 'priority area' where improvements has been shown. Specific target outcomes and models for shaping grants and policy are included.*

European Commission, DG Education & Culture:
Roma and Education- Challenges and Opportunities in the European Union (2012)
http://bookshop.europa.eu/en/roma-and-education-pbNC3111389/

*Elaboration of need to improve education amongst Roma and descriptions of successful education projects throughout Europe.*

John Bennett – Open Society Foundation, UNICEF, Roma Education Fund:
Roma Early Childhood Inclusion – The RECI Overview Report (2012)
http://www.romaeducationfund.hu/sites/default/files/publications/reci-overview-final-web.pdf

*Outlines the importance of and need to invest in Roma early childhood education and documents the failure of current systems to do so.*

**Roma Migration**

Transform – European Network for Alternative Thinking and Political Dialogue:
The Migrations of Roma in the European Union – an Ethnic Minority as the Sport of European Politics (2012)
http://www.transform-network.net/en/yearbook/journal-102012/news/detail/Journal/the-migrations-of-roma-in-the-european-union-an-ethnic-minority-as-the-sport-of-european-politic.html

*Examines how the EU and member states have reacted to the migration of Roma and how their rights are (or are not) protected across member states.*

OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights. Study by Claude Cahn and Elspeth Guild:
Recent Migration of Roma in Europe (2010)
http://www.osce.org/hcnm/78034?download=true

*Documents causes of migration and clarifies their standing, legal framework and access to services in host countries.*

**Implementation & Advocacy Recommendations**

Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015:
Policy paper: To be or not to be… Roma Decade after 2015 (2015)
http://www.romadecade.org/cms/upload/file/9283_file1_to-be-or-not-to-be-roma-decade-after-2015.pdf

> *Outlines major successes and failures of 'Decade of Roma Inclusion' and elaborates possible options for the Decade future after 2015.*

European Roma Information Office:
Advocacy Handbook for Roma Activists (2014)
http://www.erionet.eu/doc-handbook-roma-activists_en

> *Citing the need to involve and consult Roma when implementing NRIS', the handbook offers advice to Roma activists how to plan and design effective and efficient advocacy actions, and to ensure the advancement of the integration of Roma across Europe*

European Roma Information Office:
Implementing National Roma Integration Strategies for Local Authorities. Challenges and solutions for local authorities (2014)
http://www.erionet.eu/doc-paper-las_2014

> *Outlines the role local authorities play in the implementation of NRIS', the main challenges they face and solutions based upon existing good practices.*

OSCE, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights:
Implementation of the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti Within the OSCE Area. Renewed Commitments, Continued Challenges (2013)
http://www.osce.org/odihr/107406?download=true

> *Monitors progress made towards achieving goals established in the 2003 Action Plan, with each area of the plan receiving a grade from 'positive trend' to 'negative trend'.*

European Roma Information Office
European Commission's Main Achievements in Roma Inclusion (2012)
http://www.erionet.eu/doc-ec-achievements-roma_2012

> *An overview of significant European initiatives, bodies, funding and grants targeted towards Roma inclusion.*

Bernard Rorke – Open Societies:

Beyond Rhetoric: Roma Integration Roadmap for 2020. Priorities for an EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies (2011)

http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/sites/default/files/beyond-rhetoric-2011-0616.pdf

*Best practice models for priority issues and recommendations for individual countries/NRIS'.*

**4 Projects**

**Project databases and evaluations**

Council of Europe: Database and Map of 'Good Practice' Projects
http://goodpracticeroma.ppa.coe.int/en/resume

*A database of projects from all European countries, grouped by focus area: education, employment, housing etc.*

European Commission: DG for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities: Improving the tools for the social inclusion and non-discrimination of Roma in the EU. Summary and selected projects (Study by European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC) and the Roma Education Fund (REF), funded via PROGRESS programme, published 2010)
http://www.errc.org/cms/upload/file/improving-the-tools-for-the-social-inclusion-and-non-discrimination-of-roma-in-the-eu-summary-and-selected-projects-2010.pdf

*Results of a study commissioned by the EU to examine projects in EU countries with sizeable Roma populations, in the thematic areas of non-discrimination and equality policies, education, employment and training, health care services, housing and gender equality.*

Roma Decade:
Factors for Success or Failure of Roma Inclusion Projects
(Funded by Open Societies Foundation and UN Development Programme, result of projects from 2005-2015)
http://www.romadecade.org/cms/upload/file/9765_file1_decade-intelligence-report.pdf

*Provides suggestions for efficient and effective projects aimed at Roma inclusion, based upon research of 314 projects. Projects further outlined and graded here:*
*http://www.romadecade.org/about-the-decade-decade-good-practices*

**Individual projects and networks (selection)**

Best Practices for Roma Integration in the Western Balkans
(Funded by EU and OCSE participating states, duration 2012-2014)
http://bpri-odihr.org/about-the-project.html

*EU funded project designed to promote regional cooperation, combat discrimination, legalize housing and settlements and promote Roma participate in political and public life.*

East West Cooperation on Cities for Roma Inclusion
(Funded by EC, European Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity; cooperation of Eurocities, Open Society Foundation, Bernard Van Leer Foundation, duration 2011-2013)
http://www.eurocities.eu/integrating-cities/projects/roma
City Fact Sheets: http://www.logincee.org/libraryitem/29809

*The project builds the capacity of municipalities to develop inclusive services, non-discrimination strategies and action plans for Roma inclusion, and focus on integrating Roma into mainstream education, employment, health-care and housing. There is an exchange of know-how, expertise, techniques and good practices between local authorities at transnational level on how to best implement concrete local actions to promote social inclusion and integration of Roma, with the goal of creating transnational locally-based beneficial programs for Roma inclusion that will be eligible for further funding by the European Union and other funds.*

European Alliance of Cities and Regions for Roma Inclusion
(Set up by Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, established 2013)
http://www.roma-alliance.org/en/

*Organises national and international seminars for its participating cities and regions in order to facilitate the exchange of know-how and good practices. In addition, aims to fight discrimination, and promote awareness of Roma cultures and the Roma Genocide during WWII.*

I am Roma – Changing Mindsets
(Funded by EU, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship Programme, duration 2011-2013)
Final Report: http://www.ludenet.org/projects-files/1/outputs/i-am-roma-final-report-17.pdf

*Created Local Action Groups in 8 locations (Portugal, N. Ireland, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Greece, Romania, Slovak Republic) and supported their actions towards fighting discrimination and racial violence, encouraging political participation of Roma, and created a transnational exchange programme to promote best practice etc.*

PAIRS – Programmes for the Active Integration/Inclusion of the Roma in South-East Europe
(Funded by the EU – ERDF South-East Europe Programme, duration 2012-2014)
http://pairs-see.net/

*Collects good examples of sectoral and local policies for Roma integration, analyzes and disseminates findings and engages stakeholders in collaboration. Represents 18 partners in 11 SEE countries.*

ROM-UP! The inclusion of Roma through successful educational experiences
(Funded by European Commission, Lifelong Learning Programme, duration 2012-2013)
http://rom-up.eu/
Electronic guide: http://www.erionet.eu/doc-rom-up_guide_2013

*Created to raise awareness and boost education participation of Roma throughout Europe. International Romani Network created to disseminate information on successful projects and develop future strategies.*

Roma Education Fund: Closing the gap in educational outcomes between Roma and non-Roma
(REF Funded by World Bank, EU, Member States, & private foundations, Established 2005)
www.romaeducationfund.org

*The Roma Education Fund was created in the framework of the Decade of Roma Inclusion in 2005. Its mission is to close the gap in educational outcomes between Roma and non-Roma. In order to achieve this goal, the organization supports policies and programs which ensure quality education for Roma, including the desegregation of education systems.*

Roma NeT II Pilot Delivery NetworK
(Funded by the EU via ERDF/URBACT II and Member States, duration 2013-2015)
Final Report: http://urbact.eu/sites/default/files/romanetiifinalreportfinal.pdf
Roma-Net II Baseline Report: http://urbact.eu/file/10697/download?token=lrkTM5-h

*The cities of Almeria, Bologna, Budapest, Glasgow, Karvina, Nagykallo, Torrent and Udine partnered to improve the inclusion of Roma and to educated city administrators on best practices etc. Created Local Support Groups to facilitate sharing of experiences, inclusionary actions and to increase their knowledge base.*

Roma Zentrum Központ – das Roma Zentrum im Bogdán János
(Funded by the EU, ERDF – Interreg IIIA Programme and Austrian Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Labour, 2000)
http://www.lrsocialresearch.at/files/Expak_Roma-Broschuere_DEHU.pdf

*Project to promote the integration of Roma in West Hungary and to learn from one another how to successfully reduce discrimination of minorities*

ROMACT – Roma Inclusion at the Local Level
(Joint programme of the European Commission and the Council of Europe, established 2013)
http://coe-romact.org/

*Assists local authorities to develop policies and public services that include Roma and to sustain long term political commitment to these causes. Works with ROMED programme in Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy, Romania and the Sloval Republic.*

ROMED – Mediation Training Programme
(Funded by Council of Europe, duration 2011-present)
http://romed.coe-romact.org/

*An initiative to train mediators between Roma and local authorities. 1300 mediators were trained in the ROMED1 stage, while ROMED2 focuses on Roma involvement in local governance through mediation.*

THARA – Volkshilfe Österreich labour market initiative
(Funded by Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection, duration 2005-Present)
http://www.volkshilfe.at/thara

*Focussing on labour market integration of Roma in Vienna, Austria. Workshops for Roma and non Roma to develop job skills and fight discrimination.*

**5    Major Recent and Upcoming Events:**

29-30 October 2015, Ulm
Dedicated workshop on Roma integration at the 4th Annual Forum of EUSDR
http://www.danube-region.eu/communication/news/616516-4th-annual-forum-of-the-eusdr-save-the-date

10-11 September 2015, Sarajevo
28th (and final) International Steering Committee Meeting
http://www.romadecade.org/event-calendar/28th-international-steering-committee-meeting/9797

12 June 2015, Belgrade
European Alliance of Cities and Regions for Roma Inclusion – 1st National Seminar
http://www.roma-alliance.org/en/page/164-alliance-1st-national-seminar-in-serbia--belgrade--12-june-2015.html

18-20 May 2015, Sarajevo
Integrated Approach to Social Inclusion of Roma through Housing and Employment
http://www.romadecade.org/egy-cikk.php?hir_id=9801

19-21 April 2015, Ulm
Duna Romani Luma – New Paths Towards the Future
http://www.danube-region.eu/communication/events/600098-duna-romani-luma-new-paths-towards-the-future/event_details

16-17 March 2015, Brussels
9th Meeting of the European Platform for Roma Inclusion "The way forward"
http://ec.europa.eu/justice/events/roma-platform-2015/platformconclusions_en.htm#v

17-18 November 2015, Sarajevo
Inclusive Education without Discrimination
http://www.romadecade.org/egy-cikk.php?hir_id=9788

15-17 October 2017, Sarajevo
Roma Women Health and Security
http://www.romadecade.org/egy-cikk.php?hir_id=9785

9-10 October 2014, Vienna
Fostering Institutional Capacity and Cooperation for Roma Integration in the Danube Region, Strategic Meeting
http://www.danube-capacitycooperation.eu/item/664294

2-3 October 2014, Brussels
ROMACT – Roma Inclusion on the Ground
https://app.box.com/s/r47f8xum63ihwth63zmw

**Appendix: Overview of National Roma Integration Strategies from countries of the Danube area**

| Country | Guiding Principles/Aims | Best Practices | Major Issues |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Austria** | Doesn't target specific ethnic/Roma groups- needs based approach for all minorities and immigrants | Thara project. 25% of ESF budget used to integrate disadvantaged people. | No specified targets on Roma, no information on budget allocation. |
| **Bulgaria** | The stated aim of the Strategy is to implement policies for social integration of Roma. | 2 year obligatory preschool.  A wide public consultation did take place when preparing the NRIS.  All day schooling, language support and teacher training have been supported at a small scale. Installation of mediators in local employment offices.  Monitoring tools for health care in place. | Lack of monitoring and mechanisms to collect data and monitor implementation. Lack of specific goals, timelines and targets.  Not realistic nor feasible.  No budget allocated for the strategy. |
| **Croatia** | Improve living conditions, foster and support inclusion in social life and decision-making processes without making them forgo their own identity, culture and traditions, and to encourage them to take an active role in changing their status in the society. Promoting the principles of non-discrimination and desegregation amongst majority. | Move to legalize current Roma settlements.  Targeted employment policy measures. | Little involvement of local authorities. Lack of Roma stakeholder involvement. |

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|---|---|---|---|
| **Czech Republic** | Achievement of coexistence of Roma and rest of society. | Legal efforts being made to desegregate schools, but further effort needed. Complies with all 10 Common Basic Provisions for Roma inclusion (except Principle 7- Use of Community Instruments). EU and national funds being used to help housing conditions and encourage inclusion. | No guide for monitoring and evaluating progress, lack of data. Lack of Roma involvement in preparation of strategy & neglect of issue of empowerment. No budget included, nor mention of available funds. No gender mainstreaming principle. |
| **Germany** | Focused on integration of Roma migrants. | Small scale integration projects that target Roma specifically. Federal Working Group on Roma education established. Social housing being provided. | Failure to specifically address challenges that Roma face. No information on budget allocation. Doesn't adhere to human rights based approach. No indication how strategy will be implemented or monitored- need for local action plans. |
| **Hungary** | Targets all disadvantaged populations: 'explicit not exclusive' approach. | Obligatory pre school from 3yr introduced- relatively high enrolment of Roma students. Analysis of previous successes and failures. Small projects supporting teacher training, inclusion of Roma culture in school. Cities must provide Local Desegregation Plans. | Desegregation not addressed, lack of targets and practical steps set, weak human rights approach which lacks funding. Tension between goals of strategy and conservative governmental policies. Planned usage of EU funds not included. Implementation of strategy unclear. |

| Romania | Ensure the social and economic inclusion of Romanian citizens belonging to Roma minority, by implementing integrated policies in the fields of education, employment, health, housing, culture and social infrastructure.  Make local and central public authorities, the Roma minority and civil society responsible for the increase of the level of social and economic inclusion of Romanian citizens belonging to the Roma minority. | Significant training of Roma mediators, especially in the field of healthcare and education.  Dedicated places at university for Roma students. | Delays and difficulties of implementing policies, due to funding etc, insufficient budget allocation information.  Very limited anti-discrimination measures.  Lack of civil society and Roma participation.  No baseline study, and therefore no way to measure progress. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Slovakia | Acknowledges the poor quality of life of Roma and aims to significantly

support processes leading to social and economical inclusion of Roma communities in Slovakia. | Budget allocated for the Strategy.  Honest analysis of and far sighted proposals to combat discrimination.  Coordination of strategy appears adequate.  Strong calls for ending educational segregation, although feasibility is questioned. | Budget allocation not fully complete.  Does not address gender discrimination. |
| Slovenia | To provide for needs of the members of the Roma community, improve their living conditions, enable integration into Slovenian society, preservation of linguistic and cultural particularities of the Roma community in line with the needs put forward by the community itself.  The long-term intention and goals are to promote development and increase mutual understanding, dialogue and human and minority rights. | Increased early childhood education access.  Legalisation of current settlements. | Limited budget allocation information, no process to access EU funds.  Outlines existing projects, rather than strategy for future.  No national contact point.  Civil society, experts and local authorities not consulted. |

Sources:

- National Roma Integration Strategies (cf. above, page 8);
- European Commission: Report on the implementation of the EU framework for National Roma Integration Strategies (2014)
  http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/files/roma_implement_strategies2014_en.pdf
- European Roma Policy Commission: ERPC's Assessment of National Roma Integration Strategies: 2012 Report and Recent Developments (2012).
  http://www.errc.org/article/roma-rights-2013-national-roma-integration-strategies-what-next/4238/4
- Open Society Foundation: Review of National Roma Strategies (2012)
  http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/sites/default/files/roma-integration-strategies-20120221.pdf