



REPUBLIC OF SERBIA
GOVERNMENT



SOCIAL INCLUSION AND
POVERTY REDUCTION
UNIT

Roma Integration in non-EU member States in the Danube Region

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Census: Roma in Serbia

- The number of the Roma in the RS totals **147,604**
- **2.05%** of the total population (7,186,862)
- Compared to the 2002 Population Census, the number increased by **39,411**, or by **36.43%**;
- Men account for **51%**, and women for **49%**
- **60%** of the Roma live in urban areas, while **40%** live in other areas

Breakdown by regions (2011)

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|-------|
| Belgrade | 27,325 | 1.65% |
| Vojvodina | 42,391 | 2.19% |
| Šumadija and Western Serbia | 20,649 | 1.02% |
| Southern and Eastern Serbia | 57,239 | 3.66% |

Roma Inclusion is a global task which requires global and EU responses

- 12 million Roma in Europe as a whole, socially excluded group in most of the countries
- EU and regional Roma inclusion initiatives promote Roma inclusion in Serbia
- The Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005–2015 encouraged many processes and activities – without the Decade, the issue of Roma inclusion would not have been a priority
- EU Framework for national strategies and Report on the implementation of the EU Framework – Serbia adheres to it as well

Roma inclusion is both socio-economic and political issue

- Political responsibility is important (DPM for EI, Minister for Labor, Employment, Veteran and Social Issues)
- Administrative responsibility should be in place – institutional setup matters
 - Office for Human and Minority Rights
 - Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit
 - Line ministries in charge of sectoral issues
- Roma National Minority Council
- Local mechanisms in place: health mediators, teaching assistants, municipal Roma coordinators

Roma Inclusion is a multi-sectoral issue and not the issue of one sector

- Cooperation and coordination among sectors is necessary, if expecting results
- Government of Serbia Council for the Improvement of the Status of the Roma and Implementation of the Decade of Roma Inclusion
- Analysis (2013) on the functioning of the existing local mechanisms aimed at Roma inclusion issues conducted
- Establishment of the mobile units at the local level (2014) which tries to get the synergetic effect out of the existing local mechanisms

Roma Inclusion requires clear and agreed policy

- Serbia has been involved in the Decade of Roma Inclusion initiative since 2005
- In 2009, Serbia adopted the Strategy for Improvement of the Status of the Roma until 2015
- Action plans for Strategy implementation are adopted for three-year periods; the current plan applies until January 1, 2015
- Official and shadow reporting
- Initial guidelines for a new Strategy for Improvement of the Status of the Roma in the RS are being developed
- A new Strategy for Improvement of the Status of the Roma (2015–2020) is to be adopted by the end of the year

Roma Inclusion as a part of European integration agenda

- Roma inclusion is part of the negotiations chapter 23 – judiciary and fundamental rights
 - Following the explanatory and bilateral screening on chapter 23, with findings presented in the Screening Report, Serbia is in the process of developing an Action Plan chapter 23
- EU mechanism for non-EU members: Seminar on Roma Inclusion
 - Seminars in two-year period: first 2011, second 2013, next 2015;
 - The Operational Conclusions of the seminars form the basis for measuring progress in this area;
 - Regular coordination meetings held and reports on implementation prepared in order to improve implementation of the Conclusions
- Serbia is currently using donor assistance totaling about EUR 12 million for projects aimed at Roma social inclusion
 - There is an existing coordination mechanism regarding the implementation of Roma inclusion projects

Roma Inclusion – a complex issue that requires innovation and promotion of good practice

- Innovation and good practice in the country itself – and then multiplying
- EHO – housing solution (with beneficiaries' involvement at every step)
- YUROM Centre, Niš – economic inclusion of the Roma
- Vojvodina – an institutional mechanism and comprehensive employment programmes

What we measure affects what we do

- Regular monitoring and evaluation support positive effect in the implementation
- Indicators and targets defined for the Operational Conclusions implementation (EC+Govt)
- Specific indicators to be defined for the new Roma Inclusion Strategy, AP for EU Negotiations Chapter 23 and IPA programming
- EC evaluation of measures targeting the Roma from the 2007–2013 budgeting period (WB regional initiative)
- Improved data collection: Census and MICS5 (2014)

Roma Inclusion requires strong Roma participation

- Strengthening the civil sector
- Strengthening leadership
- Roma participation in institutions
- Raising the level of Roma participation within the Roma community itself

MICS (Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey)

indicators overview

| | | 2006 | | 2011 | | 2014 | |
|----|---|--------|-------------------|--------|-------------------|--------|------------------|
| | | Serbia | Roma settle-ments | Serbia | Roma settle-ments | Serbia | Roma settlements |
| 1 | Infant mortality rate | 9.1‰ | 26‰ | 7‰ | 14‰ | 6‰ | 13‰ |
| 2 | Antenatal care coverage | / | / | 99% | 95% | 98.3% | 95.5% |
| 3 | Institutional deliveries | / | / | 100% | 99% | 98% | 99% |
| 4 | Early child development index | / | / | 95% | 67 % | 95.1% | 83.3% |
| 5 | Primary school attendance ratio | 99% | 73.6% | 99% | 88% | 98.5% | 84.9% |
| 6 | Secondary school attendance ratio | 85.8% | 10.2% | / | / | 89.1% | 21.6% |
| 7 | Birth registration | / | / | / | / | 99.4% | 95.3% |
| 8 | Marriage before age 15 | / | / | 1% | 14% | 0.8% | 16.9% |
| 9 | Marriage before age 18 | / | 40% | 5% | 50% | 6.8% | 57% |
| 10 | Vaccination | 95% | / | / | / | 66.1% | 8.9% |
| 11 | Life satisfaction Percentage of young women aged 15–24 years who are very or somewhat satisfied with their life, overall | / | / | / | / | 93.1% | 82.4% |

Looking ahead:

- Better implementation of policies and projects
- Better absorption
- Cooperation with local self-governments and NGOs
- Enhancing the efficiency and sustainability of measures
- Coordination of activities among institutions
- Cooperation needed in the area of Roma inclusion in the Western Balkans region (MB IPA)
- TAIEX support – October 27, 2014 – Belgrade – workshop on developing the Strategy for Improvement of the Status of the Roma



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Thank you for attention

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