



**ROMA INTEGRATION 2020**  
Regional Cooperation Council

# ROMA INTEGRATION 2020 4<sup>th</sup> Task Force Meeting

Belgrade, 12-13 December 2019



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# 2019 Achievements



# Endorsement of the Poznan Declaration

- **Roma Integration becomes part of the Berlin Process -**
  - economic development and social inclusion
- **Commitment to targets to be achieved before joining the EU**
  - Ambitious yet realistic
- **Building up on established processes**
  - Reporting and data collection, Roma responsive budgeting, Role of NRCPs and IDBs





# Poznan Declaration follow up

- **Ministerial meeting to be held in Tirana in September 2020, ahead of the Sofia Summit**
  - Feeding the decisions to be taken at the Sofia Summit in October 2020
- **Expected deliverables:**
  - Methodology for data collection - Roma specific surveys to be conducted by the State Statistical Agencies;
  - Guidelines for Roma responsive budgeting -to be endorsed;
  - Significant progress in civil registration - end statelessness in the region;
  - Best models for legalizations of informal settlements.





# Roadmaps 2019-2021 on housing and employment

- Developed in cooperation with the governments
- Undeclared work and legalization of houses
- Presented and discussed at the National Platform meetings
  - Specific actions on undeclared work will be conducted in North Macedonia and Serbia
  - On legalization of houses in Albania and Kosovo\*



# Sectoral Roma Integration Actions

- Roma responsive budgeting mentoring and briefs
- Regional methodology for mapping housing of Roma
- Mainstreaming potentials in sector policies (ongoing)
- Piloting North Macedonian data collection methodology (ongoing)



# Regional Conferences

- **“Where to with Roma integration”**  
21 June 2019, Belgrade  
Discussions fed into the post-2020 Roma Strategy paper, which was also shared with DG NEAR and DG JUST
- **“Regional methodology for mapping housing of Roma”**  
4 November 2019, Sarajevo  
Methodology to be endorsed at the Task Force meeting



# Mainstreaming Roma issues into RCC & other IOs

- RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2020-2022 - Human Capital Development
- Roma and vulnerable groups in ESAP II -undeclared work
- Input to 2019 Balkan Barometer - new questions
- Meetings and participation at events (Romacted, REF, Statelessness Network, UNDP, CSOs, CAHRM, etc.)



# Input to EU Enlargement

- **Participation of National Roma Contact Points at EU fora on Roma Integration**
  - Romanian EU Presidency, 04 March 2019, Bucharest
  - EU Roma Week, 18-21 March, Brussels
  - Western Balkans Summit, 4 July, Poznan
  - Workshop on future policies for Roma, 1 October, Brussels
- **Input on Roma Integration to the EU, including for reporting**
  - reporting by the Action Team to the EC
  - preparatory work for the Roma seminars
  - input to post-2020 Roma Strategy
  - input to IPA programming



# Support to Roma artists and culture

- **Concerts**

- On the occasion of the regional conference for the post-2020 Roma Strategy discussions
  - Led by Zoran Tairovic
- On the occasion of the International Human Rights Day, 10 Dec 2019, supported a group of Roma artists
  - Situation of Roma women in the region
  - Led by Natasa Tasic Knezevic

- **Art Performance**

“Dislocation” by Sead Kazanxhiu (Albania) in Sarajevo (Reg Housing Conference) depicting forced evictions of Roma in Europe





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# Civil Registration :: DISCUSSION ::

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# Data Collection on Roma Integration :: NORTH MACEDONIA INITIATIVE::

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# Roma Responsive Budgeting :: BRIEF EXAMPLE ::

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# Housing mapping methodology

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# Housing legalisation

Locating the housing units

Preparing urban plans (precondition)

Initiating the legalisation procedure

Providing auxiliary assistance to households

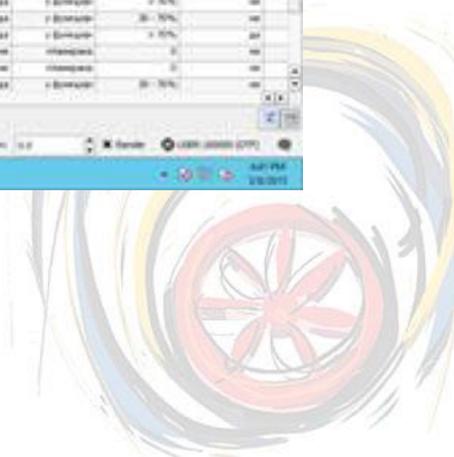
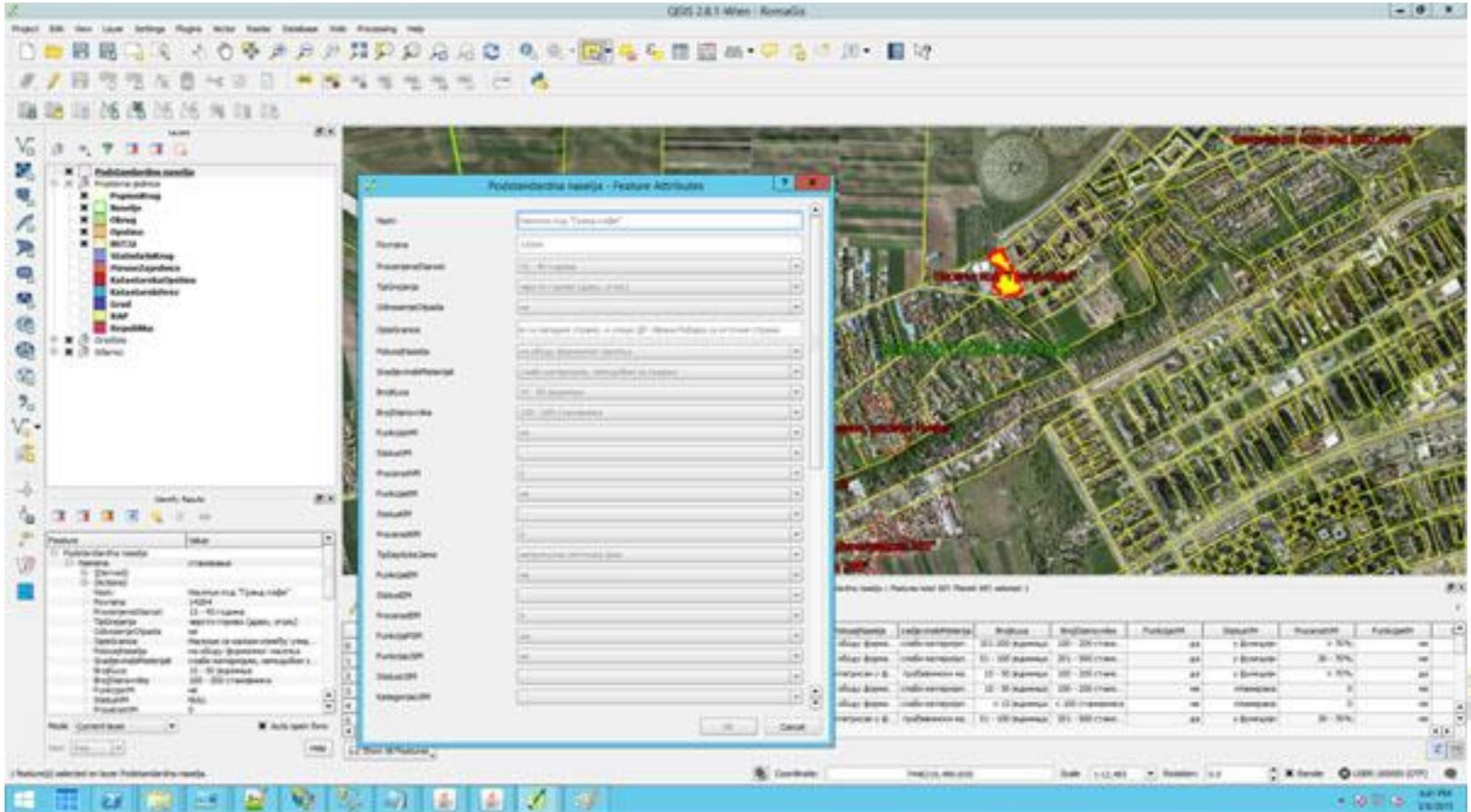
Completing the legalisation – registration

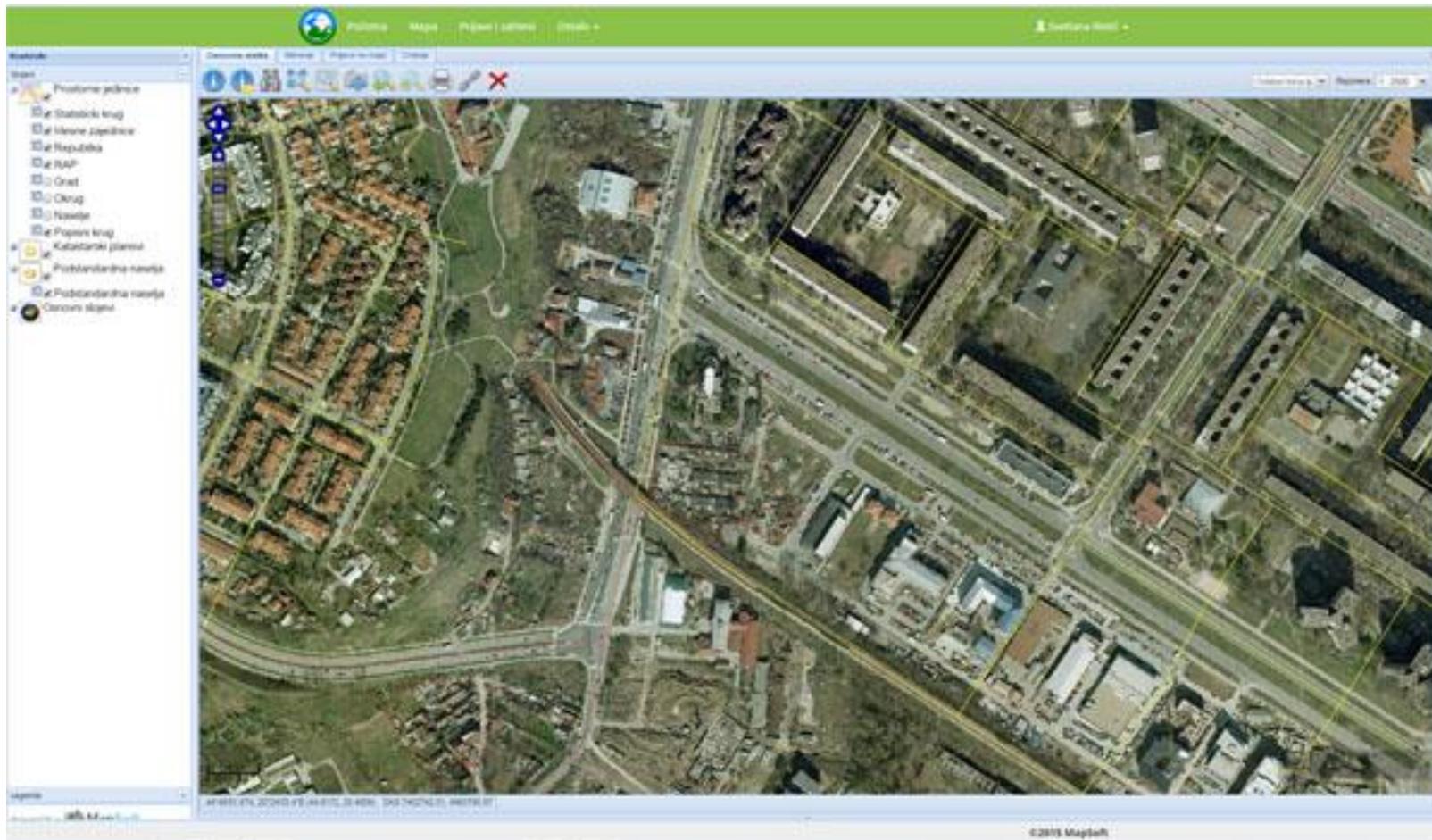


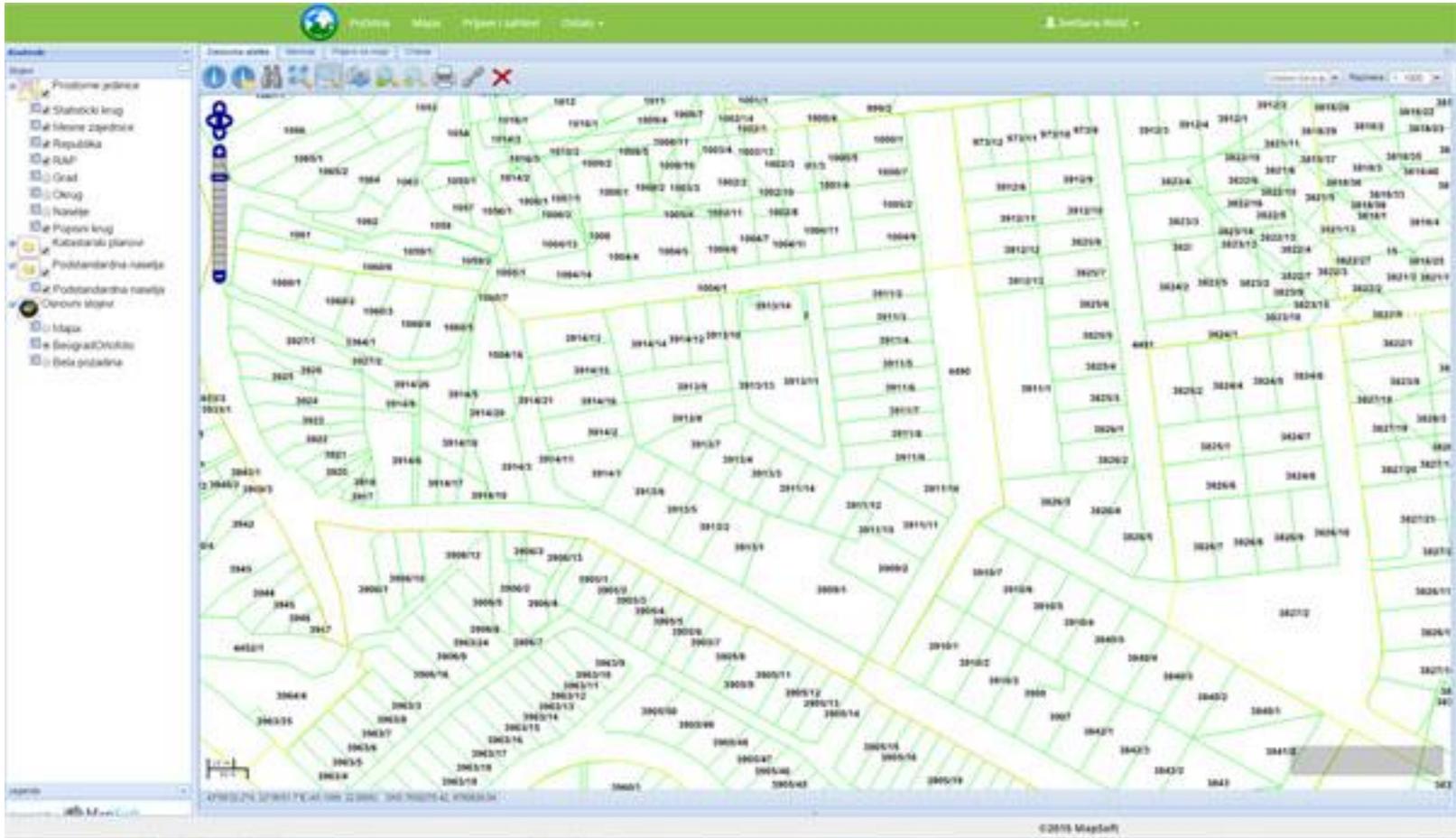
# Locating the housing units

- Housing mapping methodology
- Based on the example of Serbia:
  - Geographic information system (IPA)
- Using the existing data and officialising the known facts (primarily from local level)
- Basis for legalisation and urban development









# Process of mapping

1. List all settlements to be mapped
2. Obtain orto-photo (Cadaster)
3. Draw borders of each settlement
4. Provide information for each settlement
5. Combine data for each settlement with
  - a) Census data
  - b) Cadaster data





# Important issues

- Definition of “Substandard Roma Settlement”
- Engaging local actors
  - (municipalities, Roma civil society, utility companies, other local institutions)
- Gathering as much information possible, including best estimates
- Establishing, maintaining, updating, analysing and using the data
  - By economy and regionally
- Using the new census cycle for the full mapping



# Pilot municipalities

- Albania:
- Bosnia and Herzegovina:
- Kosovo\*:
- Montenegro:
- North Macedonia:
- Serbia: to be fully updated - need to harmonise with the regional methodology



# Full methodology

- Discussed at the regional conference
  - Questionnaire reviewed in detail
  - Inputs included in the final draft
- 
- Pilot to be implemented during the first half of 2020!



# Roadmap 2019-2021

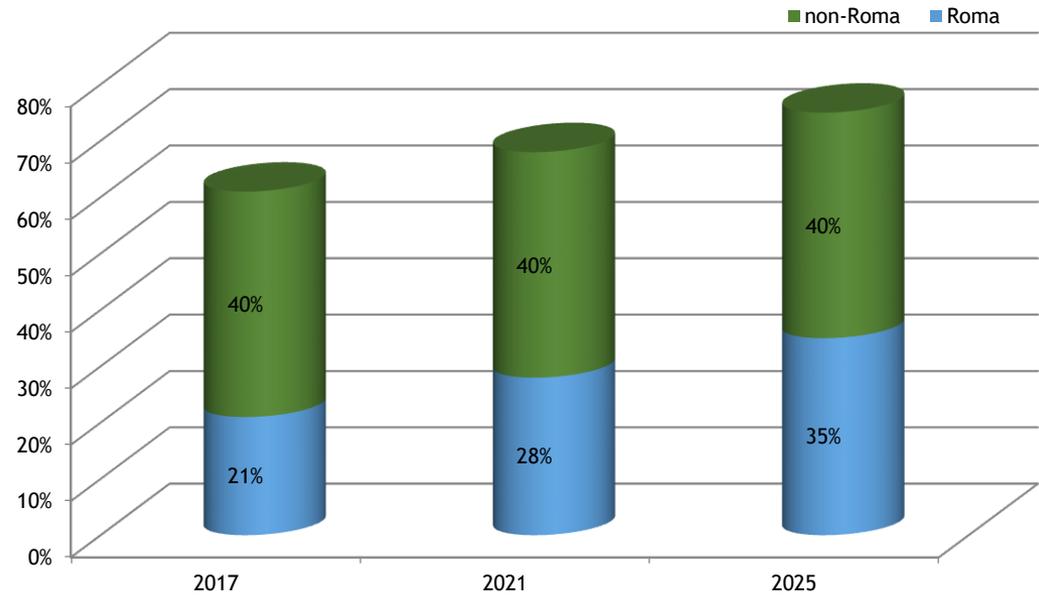
# SERBIA

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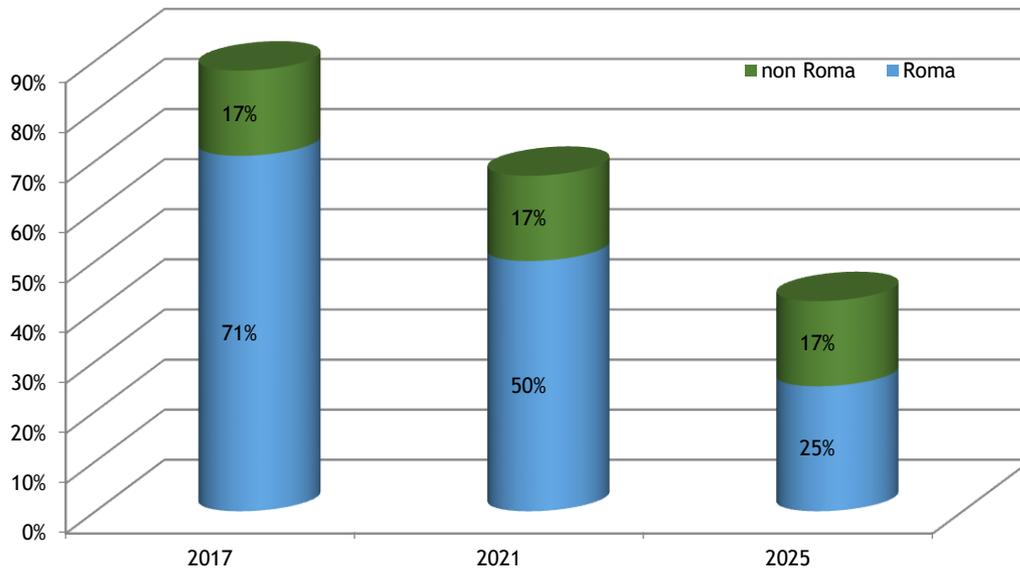


# Employment

Employment rate



Undeclared work



- National average employment rate is 55%



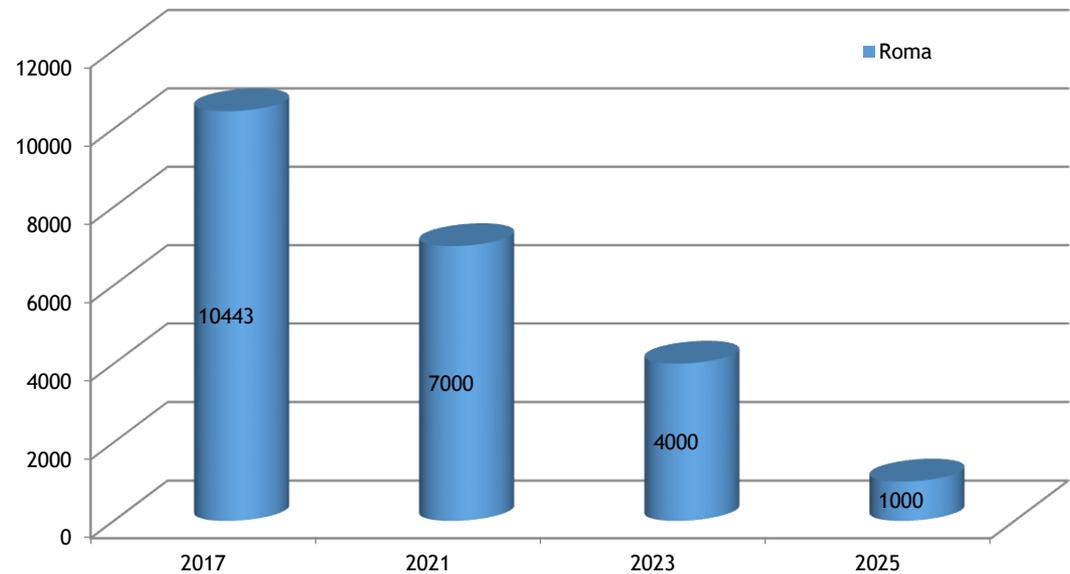
# Employment

- Gap in the employment rate is **-34%**; undeclared employment rate is **54%**
- Measures envisaged with the strategy (operational objective 7):
  - affirmative financial and non-financial support
  - specific self-employment and entrepreneurship subsidies
  - incentives for cooperatives and regulation of social entrepreneurship
  - forbidding depositing recyclable waste by law
  - local waste collection plans integrating individual waste collectors
  - subsidising individual waste collectors for equipment for work
- Roadmap: development of a comprehensive programme for transformation of undeclared work
  - Agreed with the National Council of the Roma National Minority to take the lead, and with the NRCP
  - Ongoing preparation of a first draft concept and terms of reference for technical support



# Housing

Number of illegal objects (estimate)



- NO DATA
- **594** substandard Roma settlements with **20,477** objects and **48,223** persons
- Presumed 50% of the substandard settlements are illegal



# Housing

- Key obstacles:
  - No data on illegal Roma housing units
  - No data on Roma housing units that can be legalised
  - Lack of urban plans covering Roma settlements
  - Slow procedure not prioritising Roma housing
  - Lack of support to Roma (for auxiliary procedures)
- IPA funding to tackle the issues
  - Presentation by the EU Delegation representative



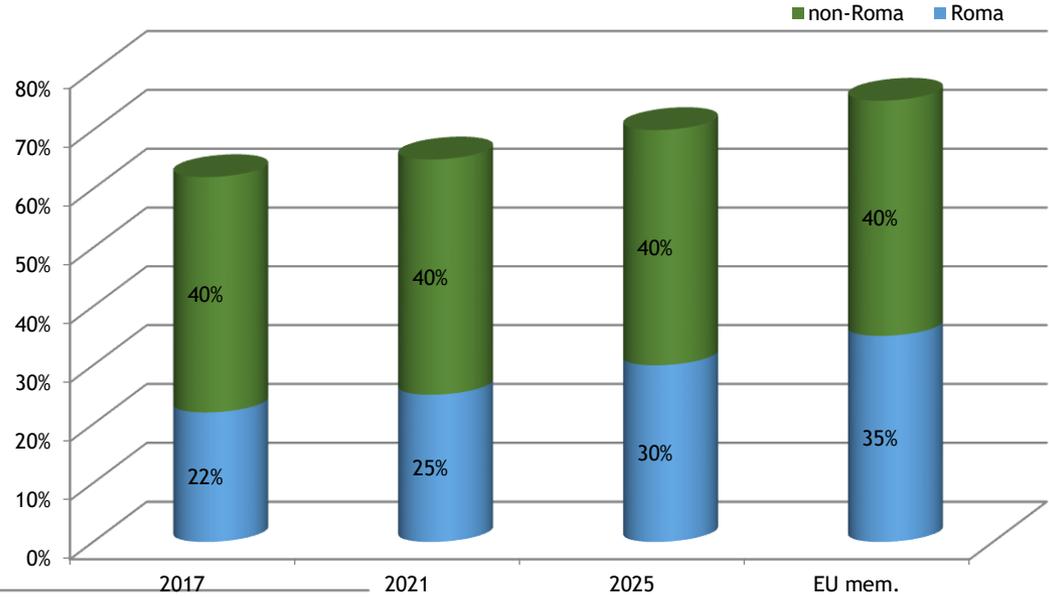
# Roadmap 2019-2021 NORTH MACEDONIA

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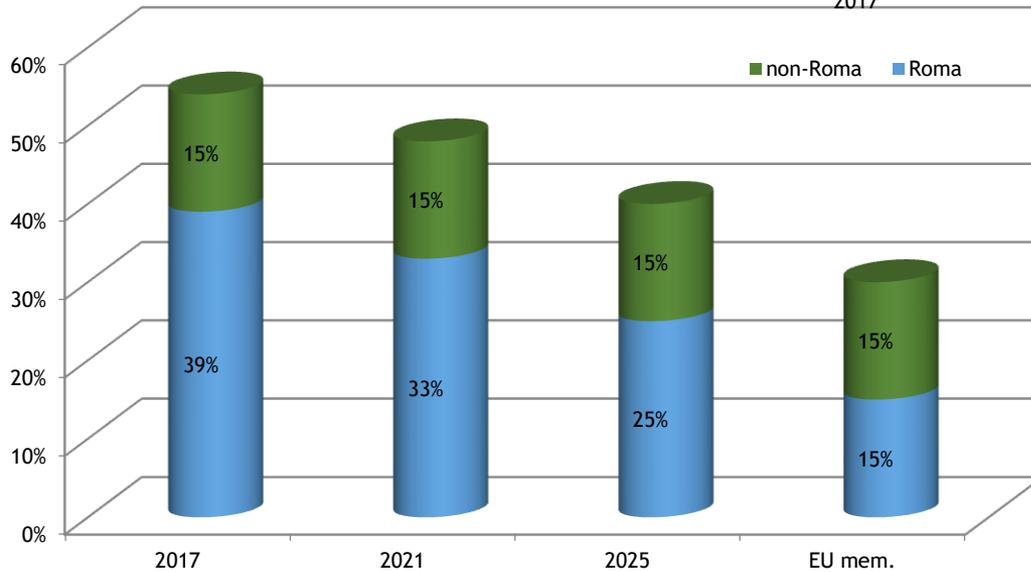


# Employment

Employment rate



Undeclared work



- National average employment rate is 49%



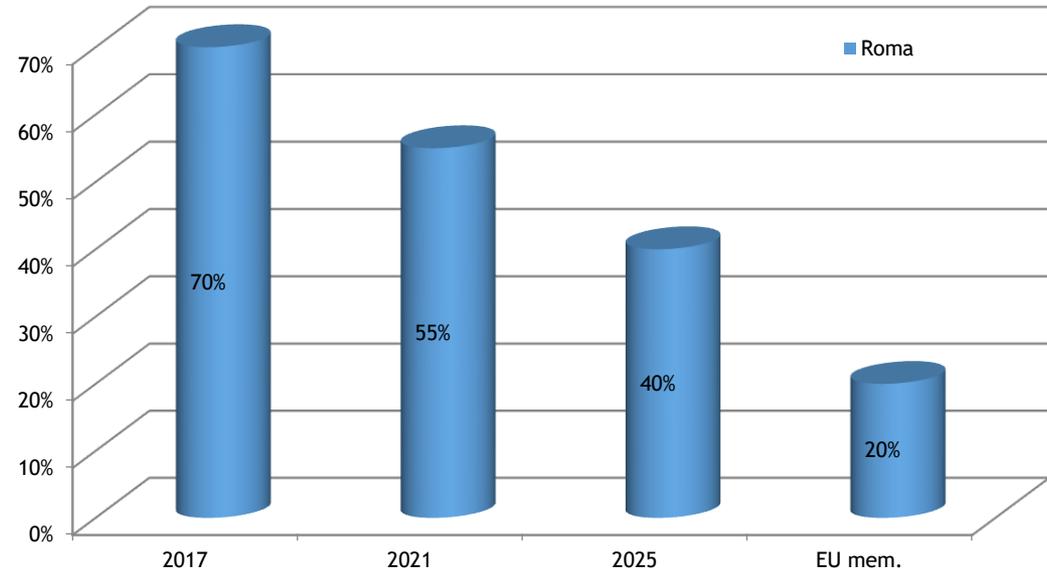
# Employment

- Gap in the employment rate is **-27%**; undeclared employment rate is **24%**
- Measures envisaged with the strategy:
  - Measure 2.4. Transforming informal economy into formal in volume that can be controlled and is acceptable for the free market economy:
    - Study on the informal economy among Roma;
    - Legal provision and/or active measure to benefit Roma legalising their business;
    - Identifying and implementing successful models of transformation of undeclared work;
    - Creating possibilities for registering activities by paying minimum taxes or lump taxes;
    - Gradual period in registering businesses (to deal with the financial burdens and ensure social protection);
    - Financial stimulations for Roma, as: gradual payments, delay of payment of liabilities for a certain period,
    - loans according to “state-fixed” rates; subventions (grants) for formalising the business.
- Roadmap: development of a comprehensive programme for transformation of undeclared work
  - Agreement with the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy to kick off the initiative (concept paper and terms of reference being prepared)



# Housing

Illegal housing units



- NO DATA
- **70%** is according to the Strategy (no absolute numbers)



# Housing

- Key obstacles:
  - No data on illegal Roma housing units
  - No data on Roma housing units that can be legalised
  - Lack of urban plans covering Roma settlements
  - Slow procedure not prioritising Roma housing
  - Lack of support to Roma (for auxiliary procedures)
- Housing tackled with significant IPA funding
- Roadmap interventions:
  - Housing mapping to be piloted in 2 municipalities
  - Objects suitable for social housing after adjustment to be identified at local level (Romacted cooperation)



# Roadmap 2019-2021 KOSOVO\*

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Belgrade, 12-13 December 2019

\*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.



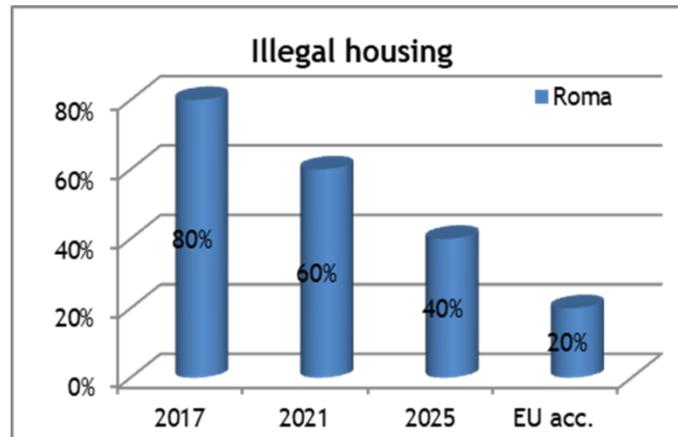
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# Roadmap Kosovo\* HOUSING

Goal: The NRIS of Kosovo\* sets the target to redact illegal dwelling for 60% until 2021, 40% by 2025, 20% until accession



Challenge: Working with the data available from the NRIS, the presumption is that there are 6,000 Roma families in Kosovo\*, 80% of which do not have ownership over the dwelling where they live and thus face evictions.

\*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.



# Roadmap Kosovo\* HOUSING

- **Housing recommendations:**

1. Collecting housing information and ensuring possibility for ethnic disaggregation of the data.
2. Housing legalization for Roma and property rights to be pursued by adequate public measures and services.
3. Municipal housing programmes and budgets to be ensured

- **Implementation actions:**

1.1 The Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning has developed a data base for data collection and there are already data on Roma existing

*Challenge: no trained staff to use/update the system, municipalities are not providing data*

2.1 A new Law on Social Housing is currently being drafted, and there is a need for technical and expert assistance in the process;

*Challenge: The Law doesn't have specific measures for Roma*

3.1 Piloting the Regional Housing Methodology + staff training for the data base

The Roma Integration action will provide technical assistance and training to the NRCP to develop a funding proposal for assistance and access to housing legalization and social housing for the families whose dwellings cannot be legalized.



# Roadmap Kosovo\* EMPLOYMENT

## 1. Recommendation: Formalizing undeclared work (focus on secondary raw material, waste) collectors

**Target:** The targets for the reduction of undeclared work may be set at 57% in 2021, 44% in 2025 and at most 30% by Kosovo\*'s EU accession

**Challenge:** The undeclared work among Roma is almost 70%, while among non-Roma near 50% and the Operational Conclusions from the Roma Seminar held by the Government of Kosovo\* and the European Union from 21 February 2018 recognize the great challenge of “black market economy”.

## 3. Recommendation: More effective active labor market measures

**Target:** Reduced unemployment for 57% by 2021, 44% by 2025, 30% EU accession

**Challenge:** low participation on the labour market, especially among youth and females, and a high unemployment rate (30.5%). Around two thirds of the working-age active population is inactive (57.2%). Youth unemployment rate (15-24 years) is over 52.7%.

Only 13% employment among Roma, 21% among non-Roma

## 2. Recommendation: Public employment -seasonal work vs social welfare

**Challenge:** Recommendations for changes in the law and regulations are set, authorities remain silent

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# Roadmap 2019-2021 BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA

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# Roadmap Bosnia and Herzegovina

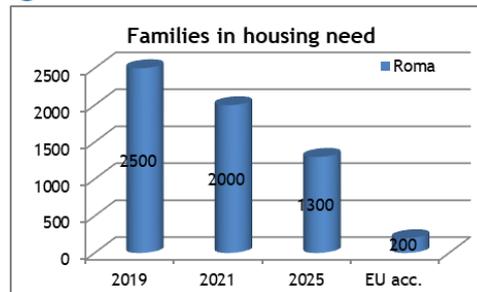
## EMPLOYMENT AND HOUSING

1. Target: Increase Roma employment rate to 34% at the time of accession to the European Union (EU).

The employment rate of Roma in Bosnia and Herzegovina is 11%.

2. Target: Lowering the rate of undeclared work from 69% to 38% at the time of accession to the European Union.

3. Up to date the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina supported construction of more than 1,000 housing provided to Roma families, while remaining **2,500 Roma families stay in need of housing.**



# Roadmap Bosnia and Hercegovina

- Modification of the Roadmap
- The Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees has decided to initiate the implementation of the educational activities from the Action Plan on “Strengthening Co-operation through Regional Initiatives with Roma language departments in the Region”.
  - Roadmaps on standardization of the Roma language;
  - Possibility of introducing Roma language Department in BiH;
  - Possibility of introducing the Roma language in schools as an optional subject.

The Roma Integration action will provide technical assistance expertise.



# Roadmap 2019-2021

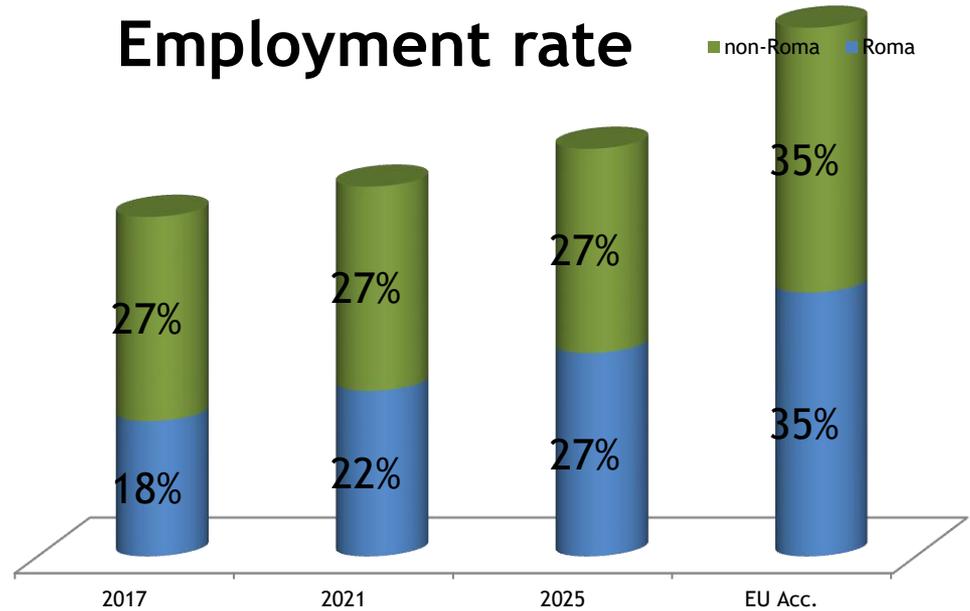
# ALBANIA

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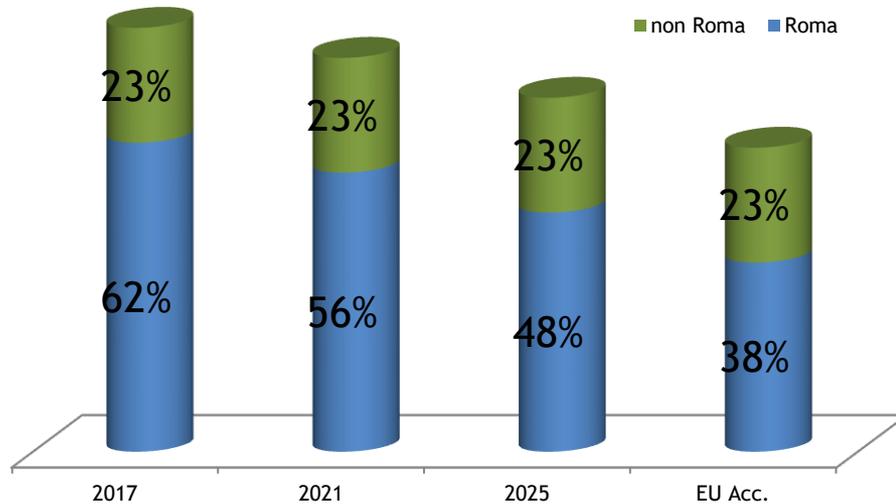


# Employment

## Employment rate



## Undeclared work



- National average employment rate is 56%



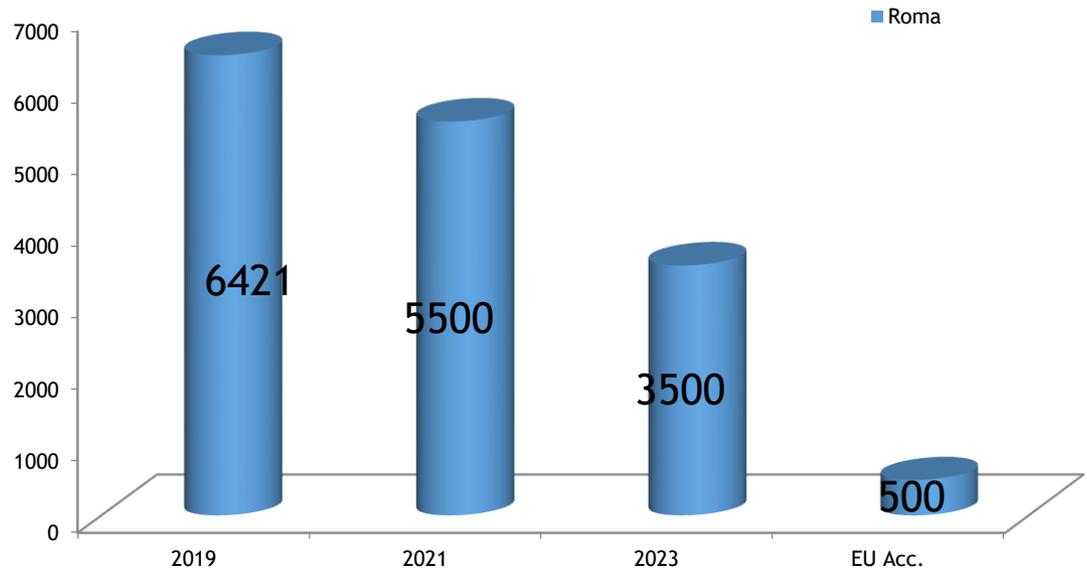
# Employment

- Gap in the employment rate is **-12%**; undeclared employment rate gap is **39%**
- Measures in NAPIRE:
  - Evaluating impact of tax exemptions for Roma transitioning from informal work
  - Study on the position of Roma individual collectors of recyclable waste - concessions in dump areas
- Operational Conclusions:
  - Specific support package for collectors of waste
- **Roadmap - Comprehensive programme for formalising undeclared work of individual waste collectors**
  - Implementing NAPIRE and Roma Seminar suggestions (data collection, programme conceptualisation, preparation of legislation)
  - Using EKO Tirana project experiences
  - Integral and holistic approach



# Housing

## Families in housing need



## Additional data:

- 2017 UNDP Albania data collection - proposals for social housing
- Earthquakes: 400+ new families in need



# Housing

- Key obstacles:
  - No follow up
  - Complicated land ownership issue
  - No data on legalisation possibilities
  - No data on urban plans
  - Institutional reshuffling
- IPA funding to tackle the issues
  - Resolving land ownership - inputs to protect Roma from evictions



# Roadmap 2019-2021

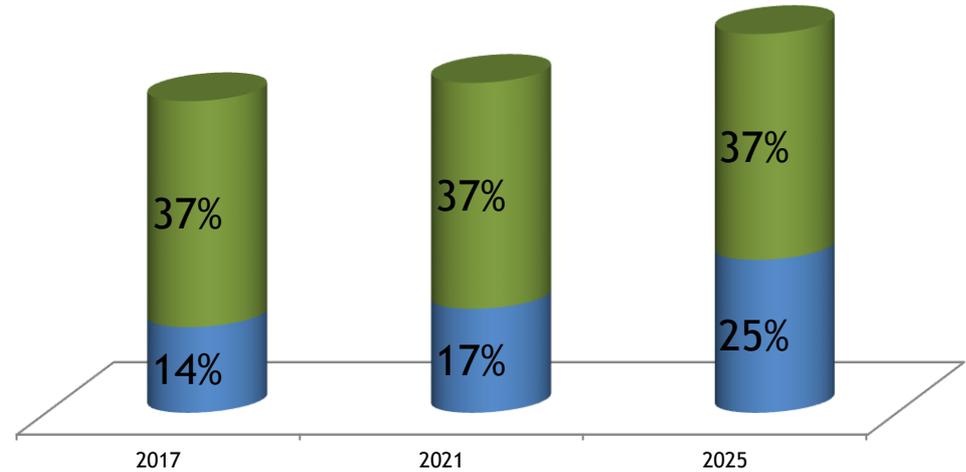
# MONTENEGRO

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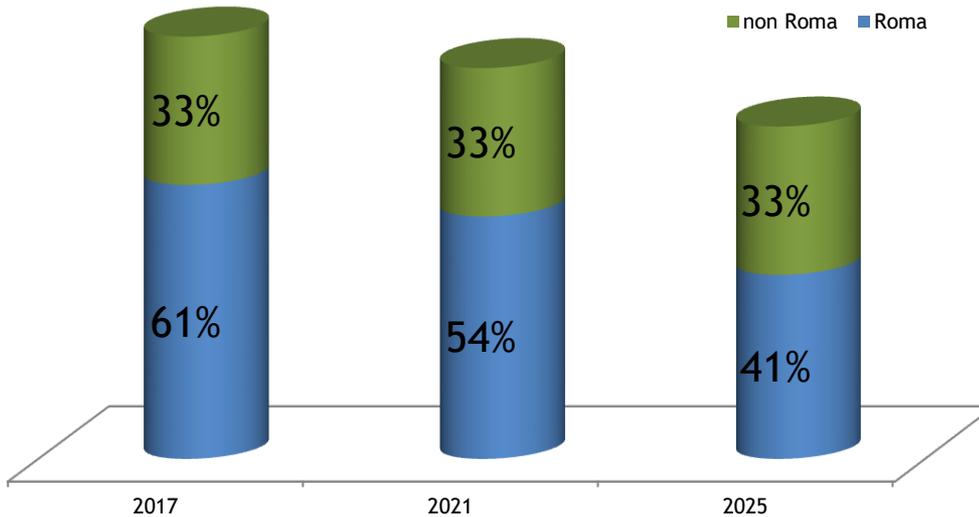


# Employment

## Employment rate ■ non-Roma ■ Roma



## Undeclared work



- National average employment rate is 52%



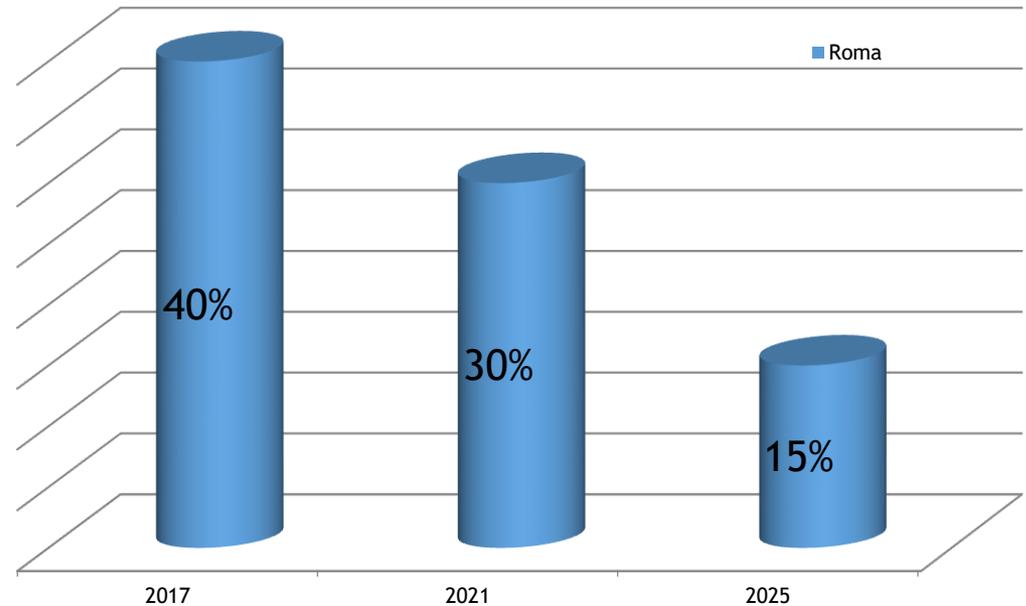
# Employment

- Gap in the employment rate is **-24%**; undeclared employment rate gap is **28%**
- Measures in the Strategy and AP:
  - Special credit line for Roma self-employment
  - Occupation for informal collectors of secondary raw materials
  - Tax exemptions
- **Roadmap - Comprehensive programme for transformation of undeclared work**
  - Profession Standardization - ongoing work
  - Support in data collection
  - Primary and Secondary Legislation
  - Funding proposals (last step)
- **Issue: Institutional and CSO opposition**



# Housing

## Number of illegal dwellings



- **40%** is according to the Strategy (no absolute numbers)



# Housing

## Key obstacles:

- No resolved cases (pending)
- No data on informal Roma housing and urban plans
- Lack of legal and other aid by government
- Local level commitment and policy planning
- Social Housing Law prioritization- low guarantee

## Potential:

- Project/programme basis prioritization



# Calendar of Activities 2020

Roma Integration 2020 Task Force IV Meeting  
Belgrade, 12-13 December 2019



	Activity	Notes	Time
A1.1	Roma Integration Policy and Governance Clinic	Interdisciplinary bodies and country consultations	Jan-Mar; Oct-Nov
A1.2	Sectoral Roma Integration Actions	Expert support to Roadmap implementation: undeclared work; housing mapping piloting	Ongoing
		On demand actions	TBD
A1.3	National Platforms on Roma Integration	All economies	Jun - Oct
A2.1	High Level Meeting on Roma Integration	Ministerial Meeting - Tirana	Sep
A2.2	Task Force Meeting		Nov
A2.3	Regional Analyses	Negative narratives and anti-Gypsism	Sep-Dec
A2.4	Regional Conferences on Roma Integration	Civil Registration	Feb
		Mainstreaming	May
		Housing mapping - Follow up	Oct
A2.5	Media Dissemination	Networking meeting	Mar
		Media products	Continuous
A2.6	Mainstreaming Roma issues in RCC	Donor Coordination	Mar
		Programming Committee	Jun
		Balkan Barometer input	Oct
		Monitoring Committee	Nov
A2.7	Regional Online Reporting Tool	MKD pilot	Jan-Apr
A3.1	Participation of NRCPs at EU fora	EU Roma Week	Mar
		EU Roma Platform	Autumn
		2 EU Presidency Events on Roma	Spring
		Berlin process Summit	Oct
A3.2	Input on Roma Integration to the EU		Continuous

