

2nd Task Force meeting of the Roma Integration 2020

Regional Cooperation Council
Roma Integration 2020

Belgrade, 20-21 September 2017



Task Force

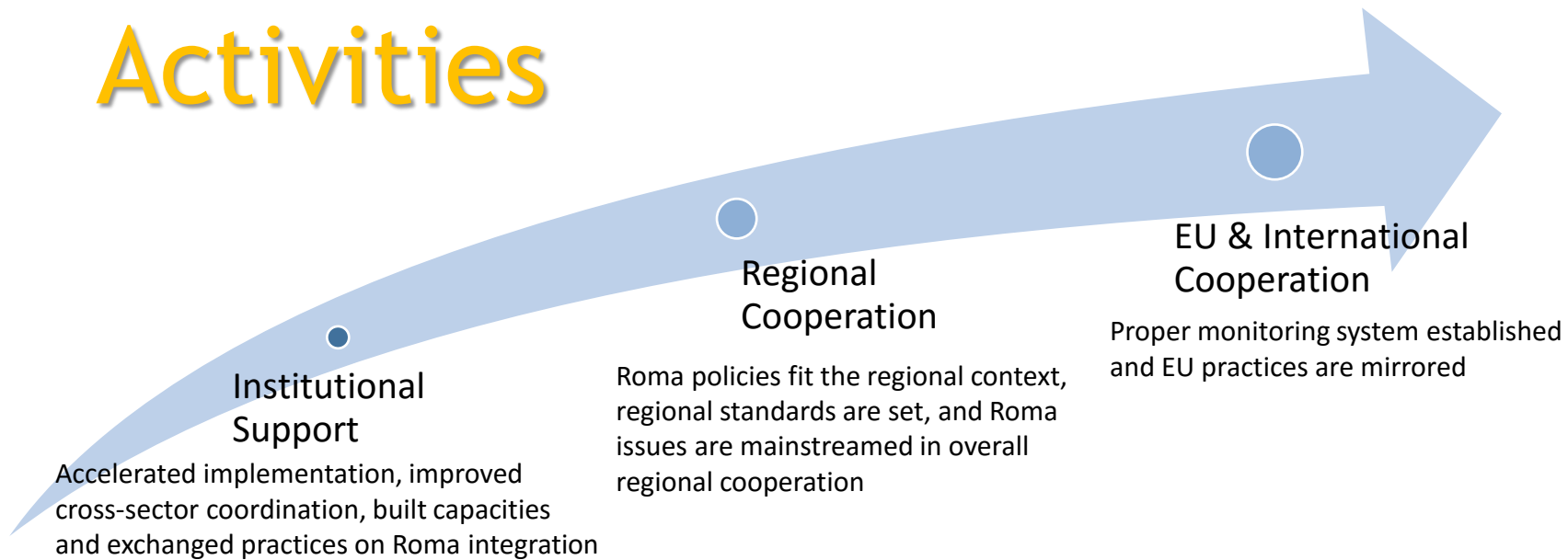
- I meeting: Belgrade, 09 November 2016
 - Rules of procedure adopted
 - **Monitoring & Reporting standards adopted**
 - Implemented activities discussed
 - Work Plan adopted



Project overview

- Roma Integration 2020
 - implemented by RCC, funded by EU and OSF
 - Action Team of 4 based in Belgrade
- GOAL
 - reducing the socio-economic gap &
 - strengthen the institutional obligations
- Mandate: technical and expert support to governments to
 - mainstream socio-economic policies; and
 - national budget planning, spending and control

Activities



Institutional Support	Regional Cooperation	EU & International Cooperation
Institutional Structure	High Level Meetings	Reporting
Strengthening Capacities	Task Force Meetings	EU & International Events
Recommending Policies	Streamlining in RCC	EU Framework Mirroring
National Platforms	Visibility	
Regional Workshops		

Institutional Structure

	NRCP	I-M body	NRIS	AP	Op. Conc.
Albania	30.05.2017 Director General	IPMG on employment and social sector	[AP]	2016-2020	14.07.2015
Bosnia and Herzegovina	25.05.2016 Assistant Minister	Board for Roma of the Council of Ministers	21.07.2005, no timeframe	AP 2017-20 (rev) AP EDU	16.06.2015
Kosovo*	13.07.2016 Director of Office, Prime Minister's	Inter-institutional steering committee	2017-2021	2017-2021	29.03.2015
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	08.07.2016 Minister without Portfolio	National Roma Coordination Body	2014-2020	2014-17 (extended 2011- 12)	26.07.2014
Montenegro	17.06.2016 Director General	Implementation Monitoring Commission	2016-2020	AP 2016 (part of NRIS); draft AP 2017	05.07.2016
Serbia	11.08.2016 Assistant Minister	National Coordination Body	2016-2025	2016-2017	18.08.2015
Turkey	17.03.2017 Senior Expert	Monitoring Body	2016-2021	2016-18 (part of NRIS)	None to date

Achievements: Institutional support

- **Institutional structure**

- NRCP & IMBs established in each country
- strategies and action plans in each country - supported
- Roma Integration 2020 website launched with all relevant information

- **Strengthening capacities**

- policy meetings with governments
- replication of regional workshops
- expert support for advancing strategies, action plans and monitoring



Achievements: Institutional support

- **National Platforms**

- 2016 completed, 2017 ongoing in relation to Roma Seminars
- reporting, formulating, budgeting, mainstreaming
- demand driven
- organized with the NRCPs
- wide range of participants
- mirror EU MS National Platforms
- accountability and ownership

- **Policy recommendations**

- policy briefs per country, including recommendations on prioritization of policies, budget proposals and enhanced coordination and monitoring



Achievements: Institutional support

Regional Workshop

- *Monitoring and Reporting*
 - Vienna, 12.-13.12.2016 ~80 participants
 - responsible officials gained skills for M&R
- *Public Budgeting for Roma Integration*
 - Skopje, 20.-21.03.2017 ~70 participants



Achievements: EU & international cooperation

- Reporting
 - Developing monitoring mechanisms
 - regional standards
 - annual government reports
 - further alignment to EU
- EU and international cooperation
 - Participation at events, promotion of the region
- EU Framework monitoring
 - input to EU enlargement processes in regards to Roma issues



Balkan Barometer 2017

- SEE people do not see Roma integration high on the list of priorities (below average, compared to other topics), as the Balkan Barometer 2017 opinion survey indicated. Nevertheless, 61 per cent of the SEE people consider Roma integration very or highly important issue for regional cooperation;
- The general conclusion, particularly among highly educated SEE people, is that Roma integration, at the end of the day, is one of those issues that we need to tackle regionally on the path towards the EU.
- On the other hand, while attitudes towards people with disabilities are universally supportive, that is not the case with attitudes towards Roma, other minorities, and refugees.

Conclusion

- Roma Integration 2020 achieved:
 - Effective implementation of planned activities
 - Strong National Platforms cycle
 - Agreed regional monitoring and reporting standards
 - Majority of policy recommendations accepted
 - Roma Integration 2020 challenges:
 - Advanced budgeting of Roma integration policies
 - Specific institutional structure issues
- 

Regional overview

- There are positive achievements in education, in particular promoting pre-school education for Roma; placing Roma children back to mainstream schools, instead of special schools;
- Programs that promote the importance of education, assistance provided to Roma students, etc.
- At the same time, there is need to move from project based interventions to institutional solutions of the problems;
- The number of undocumented Roma/persons without IDs is currently at minimum, as reported by the governments;
- Discrimination in education is prevailing;
- Hate crimes/hate speeches have increased as reported by the CSOs.

Regional overview

- Set-backs in employment and housing;
- Affirmative measures, particularly subsidies for employment of Roma should last longer;
- Social entrepreneurship should be promoted and regulated by law.
- New legislation on illegal housing is being drafted and adopted, we have to be cautious on its impact on Roma;
- Housing is an expensive investment; however, it must be combined with social and economic investments to ensure long term sustainability;
- Database/mapping of the housing situation of Roma is needed;
- Ministries of Health should comply with its obligations as planned or provide substantial arguments for failing to implement the plan in order to discuss their mitigation.

Regional overview

- Coordination between institutions should be enhanced; the role of the NRCP should be acknowledged, respected and strengthened.
- The budgeting calculations could be improved, to reflect also on mainstream measures from which Roma have benefited;
- Impact assessment remains challenging and should be further facilitated by the State statistical agencies;
- Lack of segregated data in almost all areas
 - Lack of coordination;
 - Insufficient mandate;
 - Absence of necessary funding?



Monitoring template

- Experiences, lessons learned and recommendations for improvement of the monitoring template;
- Adoption of the monitoring template as an official document/annex to the existing Roma integration Strategies;
- Timing of the reports;
- One-stop-shop monitoring and reporting;
- Online monitoring and reporting.
- http://www.rcc.int/romaintegration2020/docs_archive?search_type=3#page2

EU FRAMEWORK FOR NRIS


- http://ec.europa.eu/justice/policies/discrimination/docs/com_2011_173_en.pdf
- https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/public-consultation-evaluation-eu-framework-national-roma-integration-strategies-2020_en
- The Commission's Enlargement Strategy highlighted the precarious situation of many Roma in the Western Balkans and in Turkey.
- Roma in enlargement region face similar or even more serious problems than in many EU Member States.
- The Commission is committed to help, at regional and national level, the efforts of these countries to improve the social and economic inclusion of Roma through:
 - improving the delivery of support under the Instrument on Pre-Accession Assistance towards a strategic and results oriented national and multi-beneficiary programming with a focus on a sector-wide approach for social development. The Commission is currently implementing or planning projects with a total value of more than €50 million which could also exclusively or partly benefit the Roma communities.
 - strengthening the involvement of civil society by encouraging institutionalized dialogues with Roma representatives to become involved and take responsibility for policy formulation, implementation and monitoring on regional, national and local level.
 - close monitoring of the progress made by each country regarding the economic and social situation of Roma and annual presentation of its conclusions in the enlargement Progress Reports.

Joint Declaration

- In 2005, eight governments declared 2005-15 as the Decade of Roma Inclusion, and were soon joined by others committed to eliminating discrimination and closing the unacceptable gaps between Roma and the rest of society. Under the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies, many more states and the EU have voiced the same commitment. While some progress has been made, we recognize that much more needs to be done.
- Accordingly, we reaffirm the principles of the **Decade** and commit to continue efforts-considering various ways of cooperation- to ensure the full inclusion and integration of Roma into our societies, beyond 2015. In particular, we will continue to work closely with Roma and non-Roma civil society, international organizations and other partners to achieve the goals spelled out in our action plans and integration strategies and to comply with our obligations under international law. To that end, we pledge to take efforts to streamline and harmonize the **Decade process** and the EU framework process, including creating and implementing unified reporting framework.

Joint Declaration

The new declaration should include the elements of:

- Recognizing the need for continuous work on Roma integration;
 - All-inclusiveness of national and local institutions;
 - Mainstream approach;
 - Monitoring and reporting commitments;
 - Financial commitments for the action plans;
 - Requests for cooperation with the EU Member States;
 - Commitment to cooperate with CSOs and with IOs.
- 

Evaluation of Phase I - RI2020

- Activities:
 - Public Dialogue Forums;
 - Regional workshops;
 - Country-consultation meetings and presence in IBMs;
 - Expert support provided;
- Format of the Task Force;
- Operational conclusions;
- Monitoring;
- Budgeting.



Needs assessment for expertise at national level

- Budgeting experts present at the IMBs;
- Trainings organized on monitoring and reporting;
- Trainings organized on budgeting;
- National donor coordination meetings;



Calendar of upcoming activities

- **Regional workshops:**
 - Filling in the budget gaps - October 2017, Tirana;
 - Non-Discrimination and the fight against Anti-Gypsyism - December 2017, Berlin;
 - Integral approaches to housing for Roma - May 2018;
 - Access to jobs and decent work for Roma - November 2018;
- **Public Dialogue Forums** should be organized between June - October 2018;
- **Country consultation meetings** - January/February 2018; May/June 2018 and October/November 2018;
- **National workshops** on monitoring and budgeting for Roma Integration should be organized between March - October 2018;
- **3rd Task Force meeting** 05-06 December 2018, Belgrade;
- Participation of NRCPs at various RCC events, EU events (DG JUST, DG NEAR, EP)
 - Balkan Barometer event, Regional Conference on Education; EU Platform, EU Roma Week, Parliamentary Hearings.

- The following decisions have been made during the meeting:
 - Monitoring template is adopted as final;
 - Governments commit to adopt the monitoring template as official part of their strategies / action plans and task the state statistics and Ministries of finance to fill in the according parts of the template;
 - Governments agree on drafting a Declaration / Statement regarding the EU Framework future after 2020 and the participation of the enlargement region (process facilitated by RI2020)
 - Calendar of activities for 2018 within the project
 - RI2020 is given the mandate to work with the governments on developing regional standards for budgeting Roma Integration policies and mainstream budgeting responsible to Roma integration

Questions?

Thank you!

