

EUROPEAN NGO COMMON POSITION ON ROMA HOUSING, APRIL 2018



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MOBILIZING – THE FIRST STEP OF THE SUCCESS

- Work on the Common position:
 - Experts on housing issues from Roma and non Roma organizations
 - Key players: OSEPI, ERGO, EPHA, RSC, ENAR, with the support of EP ARDI
- Mobilized support:
 - The position is signed by 243 NGOs
 - Coalitions and networks between the supporters united more than 600 NGOs



PUBLICITY AND RESULTS

- Official event for presentation of the position in a public event before EC and EP officials
- Follow-up close door discussion with EC



PUBLICITY AND RESULTS

Concrete results from the Common position and further advocacy work of supporters:

- **Openness of the EC for establishment of an expert WG on housing to advise EC and Governments on funding policies and regulations on Roma housing;**
- **12th European Roma platform will focus on housing – additional advocacy opportunity;**
- **Roma issues are included as an investment priority in EC's proposal for ESF+ Regulation (2021 – 2027). Governments can cover housing issues within EU funded projects;**
- **Socioeconomic integration of marginalized communities through integrated measures, including housing and social services – specific objective for ERDF and Cohesion Fund within EC's proposal on the ERDF and Cohesion Fund (2021 – 2027)**

FURTHER ADVOCACY NEEDED

- To ensure follow up with EC on the agreed establishment of expert group on housing and upcoming Roma platform;
- To ensure that the results on EU level will reflect on Enragement countries – harmonization and consistency of policies and funds once these enter the EU;
- Note and use: Activeness of DG Near – resulted in IPA II's focus on investing in Roma housing issues



COMMON POSITION CONTENT - BACKGROUND

- Housing – least covered, still most challenging and expensive area of Roma inclusion;
- Evictions;
- EU member states failure to implement EU anti-discrimination legislation in regard to housing;
- Limited or non existing access to public services in Roma inhabited housing areas;
- Residential segregation;
- Failure in implementation and funding the housing objectives of NRIS



COMMON POSITION CONTENT – MAIN CHALLENGES

- Anti-gypsism;
- Lack of integrated multi-fund programs (combining ERDF and the ESF) to address shortcomings in housing conditions, education, employment and health care as integrated projects;
- Efficiency of the use of funding – challenged by ineffective targeting;
- Lack of inclusion policies, effective legislation, sufficient resources;
- Increasing discrimination;
- Exclusion of Roma from the national mainstream policies;
- Lack of social housing policies and inclusive housing programs;
- Lack of political will and accountability.



PROPOSED ACTIONS

European Commission to:

- establish a working group on Roma housing, consisting of the most knowledgeable and legitimate experts and Roma CSOs;
- name specifically Roma, among the target groups within the MFF post 2020 proposal.



COMMON POSITION – RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EU

- To develop its Roma Policy Framework for the post - 2020 period and require the Member States to develop their own national integration policies for the new MFF period;
- To take into account indicators and measures, which deal with anti-discrimination when promoting the inclusion of marginalized Roma communities within the ESIF framework, in line with the requirements of the racial equality directive 2000/43/EC;



COMMON POSITION – RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EU

- To ensure targeted funding for addressing Roma housing exclusion from a dedicated single fund or
- To ensure substantial resources, specifically available in national programming for inclusive housing projects, accessible for Roma in the framework of multi-fund programs combining the European Regional Development Fund and the European Social Fund;
- To strengthen the use of existing funding for more structural support to Roma and consider using financial instruments to ensure investing in housing for marginalized communities is included in the next MFF



COMMON POSITION – RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EU

- To further strengthen desegregation and at the same time tackle segregated living conditions to handle housing emergencies;
- To ensure inclusion of Roma in the decision making process regarding housing issues;
- To strengthen the role of ex-ante conditionality by:
 1. requiring that national programming is in compliance with the NRIS;
 2. The mainstream policies support Roma inclusion;
 3. Develop monitoring and enforcement mechanisms of National and local Roma inclusion



COMMON POSITION – RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EU

To ensure:

- Long-term flexible local actions;
- Funding schemes for small municipalities;
- Funding schemes to support regularization;
- Funding schemes for securing alternative housing for Roma living in degrading conditions;
- Funding various types of secure and affordable housing solutions.

