



DECADE OF
ROMA
INCLUSION
2005 - 2015

PROGRESS REPORT 2010

GOVERNMENT OF ROMANIA

June 2011



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GOVERNMENT OF ROMANIA National Agency for Roma

1. BASIC INFORMATION ON THE SITUATION OF THE ROMA MINORITY

Officially, Romania has a population of 535.000 Roma people, but the real number of this ethnic group could exceed 2.5 millions persons. In November 2011 the next National Census will be held and it is expected provide a more realistic official number of Roma inhabitants.

This is a very important issue which is expected to be solved by the National Census: the official number of Roma people - as close as possible to the reality – will be an extra argument for strengthening the Romanian state's commitment towards implementing the National Strategy for Roma.

In this respect a proposal regarding the inclusion of Roma community members, Romani speaking, in the census teams was made, in order to facilitate the contact with Roma communities and to ensure data consistency.

Since 1997, the Government of Romania started the process of elaborating public policies on Roma; this process involved experts from the central and local administration, representatives of Roma civil society, academics, and European specialists on Roma (and minority) issues.

During the spring of 2001 the first Strategy on improving the Roma situation in Romania was approved as a Governmental Decision (No. 430/2001), covering the period of 2001-2010, with a medium term Action Plan (2001-2004); in 2005, the government updated the Strategy, and another mid-term Action Plan was approved by the Government, covering the years 2005-2008. The main areas of intervention were education, health care, housing, employment, administration, anti-discrimination and social security.

The year 2010 was important because it was the last one of the „old” Strategy on Roma, and the year when many efforts were made to start producing a „new” Strategy. The context was quite different to the one in 2001: Romania has become a full member of the European Union (EU) on January 1st, 2007. As such, Romania was eligible for non-reimbursable European funds, an important source for funding programs and projects having Roma as the main beneficiaries. The whole goal of the Roma Strategy in Romania was the social inclusion of this disadvantaged national minority through active measures of public policy.

The Strategy lays down a number of priorities, under the general objective of enhancing Roma participation in the economic, social, educational, cultural and political life of society. The overarching principles of the Strategy are the fight against discrimination and gender non-discrimination perspective. The main difference in relation to the old Strategy is financing – the activities scheduled in the document will be supported by the ministries responsible, concurrently with the use of European financial instruments and, where appropriate, by attracting other funds from other donors or government loan agreements.

2. INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION AND EVALUATION OF ROMA INTEGRATION POLICY

The National Agency for Roma implements 6 strategic projects funded by the European Social Funds, as follow - 2 in the field of education (*Education of Roma children- the way to a stable employment* and *School – a chance for everyone*) and 4 in social economy (*Together on the labour market*, *The participation of vulnerable groups in the social economy*, *National network of Roma local experts*, *mechanism of support in the implementation of measures of social inclusion of Roma*, *vulnerable group subjected to social exclusion* and *Together for a better society*). These strategic projects (in value of approximately 22 millions Euros, are implemented in 541 communities where the number of Roma people is significant, in partnership with 22 public institutions and representative organizations, out of which 18 are domestic partners and 4 transnational partners from Italy, Spain and Hungary. The beneficiaries are over 37,000 people belonging to disadvantaged groups, out of which 70% is the percentage of Roma people, meaning more than 25,000 Roma people.

Technical Working Group for Roma

In 2010 the government started to activate *the Technical Working Group for Roma*, an initiative of NAR and the European Commission’s Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion DG, aiming to facilitate and support Roma access to operations financed by the European Social Fund. This is a type of partnership structure at national level, without legal personality, which will work during the whole implementation of the Operational Programme for Human Resource Development in Romania.

The component of the Technical Working Group for Roma was set up respecting the principles of partnership and representation. Thus, 12 entities are represented within

the group as membership holders (5 public institutions and 7 NGOs) and 3 entities with the status of observer member (2 public institutions and one NGO).

The Social Inclusion Program (SIP)

The Romanian Government signed in June 2006 a Memorandum for a BIRD loan worth US \$ 58.5 millions (47.2 million Euros). Included into the country partnership in order to support the achievement of the JIM commitments (Joint Inclusion Memorandum, signed by the Government and the European Union in June 2005), the Social Inclusion Program (SIP)

is a new program, a mainstreaming one, which it will be implemented in Romania by 2012. The program is targeting the social inclusion of the vulnerable population groups, including the Roma minority.

The program has four components and it is implemented by four partners: Ministry of Labor, Family and Social Protection - rehabilitation, constructions, training, care facilities, services, etc.. for people with disabilities, youth at risk and victims of domestic violence; Minister of Education, Research, Youth and Sports - access to preschool education for children aged 3 to 6 years, including children from disadvantaged groups, such as the Roma minority; Romanian Social Development Fund - grants for small infrastructure projects and community services in poor settlements mainly inhabited by Roma; National Agency for Roma - to set up a monitoring body for Roma social inclusion, simultaneously to reinforce the ability to access post-accession funds. The entire loan will be repaid by the Government to the World Bank by 2023.

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and the Romanian Social Development Fund are implementing SIP through 133 projects with a budget of 22.9 million Euros, as follows: 106 projects with a budget of 15.4 million Euros for the development and infrastructure improvements; 27 projects with a budget of 7.5 million Euros for the construction and rehabilitation of kindergartens for children.

- *A network of special institutions* was created with a view to implementing the Strategy. It includes the National Agency for Roma (created in 2004), the Working Group on Public Policies for Roma, the Ministerial Commissions for Roma, Roma County Offices and Local Roma Experts.
- *County Offices for the Roma* (CORs) are subordinated to the Ministry of Administration and Interior (MAI) and operate within each of the 42 Prefectures of Romania.
- *The local councilors* are subordinated both the CORs and to the mayor's office and they are the main interface mediating between local authorities and the Roma in various local communities. There are more than 200 Roma local councilors.

Roma in administration system

At the central level:

- National Agency for Roma and its Regional Offices:
- Prim minister office- one personal advisor on Roma issues
- Vice prim minister office – one personal advisor on Roma issues
- Line Ministries – personal advisors of the Ministers
- National Council for Combating Discrimination – 2 members in the Management Bord (with the rank of secretary of state) and several experts

At the county leve:l

- Prefects office – 42 Roma experts
- County School inspectorate- 42 inspectors for Roma
- County Employment for Roma- 42 experts on Roma issues
- County Council – 2 elected counselors

At the local level

- The local authorities: around 600 advisors for roma issues, 400 health mediators, 400 school mediators, 440 Roma teachers, about 500 Roma police officers, 150 elected counselors

3. SITUATION OF ROMA IN THE AREA OF EDUCATION

Romania endorses the principle of equal chances in education, regardless of the individual characteristics – mother tongue, ethnic origin, physical or mental impairments, cultural or socio-economic background, geographically remote area of origin etc.

The Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sport (MERYS) considers that education is a key instrument for preventing social exclusion of disadvantaged groups, especially Roma. This could be achieved only through the enrollment and participation of all categories of children and youngsters in education.

The organization and functioning of the Romanian education system is regulated by the Education Law. In 2010, a new Education Law was elaborated, which entered into force in January 2011, as National Education Law no.1/2011. The new law includes specific principles, measures and responsibilities meant to ensure access and participation to quality education for children coming from disadvantaged groups and for minority children, including Roma. Some of them are the result of specific

measures, proven successful, in specific programs focusing on quality education for Roma children, developed by the Ministry of Education in the last years. The National Education Law no.1/2011 states a series of principles, in order to support the active participation and social inclusion of its citizens and their right to lifelong learning. These principles are:

- equity (access to education without discrimination);
- quality (activities are organized according to reference standards and good practices at the national and international level);
- relevance (compliance of the educational offer with personal development needs and socio-economic needs);
- decentralization (decisions are taken by actors directly involved in the process);
- guaranteeing cultural identity of all citizens and intercultural dialogue;
- recognition and ensuring the rights of national minorities;
- social inclusion;
- equality of chances;
- accusing education on its beneficiaries;
- participation and responsibility of parents;
- Focusing the process of decision making on dialogue and consultation.

Among the important measures promoted by the new National Education Law, with an impact on disadvantaged groups, including Roma, are mentioned:

1. **the introduction, for the first time in an education law in Romania, of the early childhood education concept**, referring to 0 to 6 year old children and, especially, the development of 0 to 3 years segment, which was not under the responsibility of the Ministry of Education until now; also, the law encourages the local authorities to support the generalization of preschool education. Participation of all children in preschool education has been proved to be an important factor in school success and has been one of the levers used by educational authorities in Romania to increase access to education for Roma children;
2. **the new structure of compulsory education** increases the duration of primary education to 5 years, by introducing a new grade in primary education, respectively the preparatory grade. Thus, compulsory education will start for all children at the age of 6 and this first grade will help educators, on one hand, to ensure a smooth transition from kindergarten to school and, on the other hand, to prepare for school children who never went to kindergarten. This is considered to be an important equity measure, especially for children coming from socio-

economic disadvantaged groups: previous programs for Roma children, such as summer kindergartens, have proven to be an important factor to increase enrolment and success later on in school.

3. **the new structure of compulsory education** reorganizes also lower secondary, which will be 5 years long: grades V to IX will be part of the general education and will be organized in the nearby school, diminishing the costs for school participation and making the 9th grade available for more children coming from poor families;
4. **the curriculum focuses on the 8 key competences, established at European level** and allows for an important flexibility (20% school based curriculum in compulsory education and 30% in high school), thus offering the possibility for studying subjects chosen by the community – including history and traditions;
5. **the importance of the initial and continuing training of teachers** for the quality of the education process has been acknowledged by the new law and, for the first time, teachers at all levels of education, including preschool and primary school, are required to have a master's degree in education;
6. **the decentralization process** is present at different levels: an important focus is on participation of parents in school life and also of the other actors from the community, which will have a significant proportion into the Administration Council of the school;
7. **per capita financing** will lead to an increased efficiency of the system, to an improved quality and to better investments for schools from disadvantaged communities;
8. **a separate chapter describing the *After school program*** has been introduced, creating the possibility to offer to many children support programs, which have been proven to be very important in leveling the gap in school attainment and in improving participation and attendance of children coming from poor or educationally disadvantaged families. The law specifically mentions financing from the state budget participation in the “*after school program*” for children coming from disadvantaged groups.

Also, in 2010, the Ministry of Education continued to apply affirmative measures and mechanisms for social protection for disadvantaged groups, especially Roma, which have proved their impact during the time. In that context, there are mentioned:

- Ensuring school buses for children enrolled in schools from isolated communities;
- Insuring all kind of environmental facilities for children from disadvantaged groups (water and heat, adequate furniture, platforms for SEN children etc.)

- Organizing education at home for children with SEN who cannot attend school because of their disabilities;
- Offering school supplies for children from socio-economic disadvantaged families;
- Offering milk and croissants for children from compulsory and pre-primary education;
- Keeping classes with reduced numbers in rural areas and in communities with minority population;
- Establishing the Roma and the Special education inspector position in each School County Inspectorate;
- Allocating special places for Roma children in High schools and Universities;
- Offering scholarships (180 RON) for children from disadvantaged groups in order to encourage their access and participation to high school;
- Offering a voucher of 200 Euros for students from disadvantaged families, in order to buy a computer;
- Stimulating the training of Roma people through ODL/Reduce frequency courses in order to become teachers in Roma communities;
- Organizing “Second Chance” programmes (primary and lower secondary levels) for children/youngsters/adults who have not completed their compulsory education.
- Development of Centers for Inclusive Education in each county, with different educational services, in order to support access to education for all children (centers include school mediator, support /itinerant teacher, speech therapist, school counselor etc.).

In accordance with the legislative framework, in 2010, MERYYS has elaborated **national plans** and **strategies** for social inclusion and has implemented or continued to implement a series of **intervention programs** addressed to different target groups, especially to disadvantaged Roma population.

Among the *strategic documents* we can mention:

- the *Strategy for early childhood education* - elaborated with UNICEF support, starting with 2006, was finalized and made available on the website of the ministry since April 2010, for public consultation;

- the *Action Plan for Access to Education of Disadvantaged Groups and for Promotion of Inclusive Education* – elaborated in PHARE 2006 project *Access to education for disadvantaged groups* and disseminated in all 42 counties in 2009, redefined by MERYS in 2010 and set as an important item in the National Inspection Plan.

Programs/projects targeting disadvantaged groups, including Roma, have continued or started in 2010. Here is a list of them:

- Continuing the implementation and the development (especially in rural areas and in Roma communities) of the *National Program for parents' education "Educate like this"* (addressed to parents of children aged 3 to 12 years), aiming at improving the parental abilities in the benefit of children's development and education (financed by Our Children Foundation and UNICEF);
- Continuing the implementation of the *National Programs for Early Childhood Education Reform* (financed by the World Bank -7,5 million USD, on Social Inclusion Programme and, respectively, by the European Bank of Development - 105 million Euros), aiming at piloting and supporting the measures included in the *Strategy for Early Childhood Education*, targeted to all children aged 0 to 6/7 years, including minority children; Designing and starting the implementation of some projects dedicated to disadvantaged groups, including Roma, financed with European Structural Funds.
- The National Agency for Roma initiated in 2010 the Governmental Decision no.1015/ 06.10.2010 regarding the amendment of the enrollment quotas for high schools and public university education for the school year 2010 - 2011. According to this 10 scholarships for master studies and 30 PhD scholarship for Roma students were approved. Also, the National Agency for Roma is the initiator of the project financed by the ESF regarding the financial support of the Roma PhD students for training and specialization in European institutions.

4. SITUATION OF ROMA IN THE AREA OF EMPLOYMENT

The Roma population has a very high level of poverty, higher than the nationwide average. A significant part of the Roma feature a wide range of social disadvantages: poor education, lack of qualification, a history of lack of participation in the formal economy, a big number of children, lack of dwelling space, lack of ownership over the land for those living in the rural area, deficit in qualification and experience on the labour market. A certain number of Roma do not have identity papers and that is reflected in exclusion from social rights: social assistance, social insurance, and legal employment.

During the national Census of 2002 only 122,573 persons out of the 535,140 declared Roma (that is only 22.9% of the total) are included among the active population and from among them only 71.5% being among the employed population, the remaining of almost 28.5% being unemployed in search for a job. About 41% of them work in agriculture (of which one third are women) and 31% are unqualified workers.

As active measures, since 2001 the National Agency for Employment included the ethnic Roma persons as a target group, in the annual plan of action for increasing the level of employment:

Labour Caravans

In 2010, as usual since 2003, **job markets** have been organized each year for **Roma ethnics**. Besides the objective to create adequate conditions for employers to satisfy their employment needs and to facilitate the employment of Roma ethnics, these job markets offered the opportunity to campaign the fact that Roma ethnics are interested in work so that the employers would come to accept them as future employees. Also, Roma ethnics had the possibility to discuss with representatives of economic agents and find out which are the requirements for getting a job. Casual work is much more frequent among Roma (almost four times higher rate of Roma have casual work than non-Roma), and housework is also more typical, but the difference is not as strong. There are a relatively small rate of students as we analyzed just those older than 18, but among non-Roma student's rate is almost three times bigger than among Roma adults.

An important element in implementing programs and projects on increasing Roma participation to the labor market is the European Social Fund, through its significant contribution to Roma education, formation and social inclusion. On December 31st, 2010 there were more than 8,250 applications for financing different projects (by the Development of Human Resources Operational Program); until the same date, about 2,500 projects were selected to be financed (by the European Social Fund and Romania's State Budget), of about 14 billion Romanian Lei (approximately 4.5 billion Euros). Of all these projects, about 90 were focusing on Roma, to a total amount of 250 million Euros (Annex 1).

In November 2010, the Government created the Mobile Assistance Unit (several ministries and governmental agencies were parts of this new institution), in order to facilitate the elaboration and implementation of social inclusion projects by local authorities; the focus of MAU is on Roma.

5. SITUATION OF ROMA IN THE AREA OF HOUSING

According to Governmental Decision No. 1237 of 2008, the central administration, in close cooperation with local administration started a pilot-program of social housing for Roma in Romania. In 2010 about 4.5 million lei (1.1 million Euros) were allocated from the State Budget for this pilot-program. The goal is to build 301 houses in 11

localities (of 11 counties, selected from all the 8 development regions of Romania); the houses contain 2 to 3 rooms. Within Social Inclusion Program (SIP) 48 local communities with consistent Roma presence were selected, and other 40 will be selected in order to develop and improve their infrastructure (roads, electricity, sewage and drinking water system).

6. SITUATION OF ROMA IN THE AREA OF HEALTH

Starting with July 2009, the local public authorities began to coordinate the activities of Roma sanitary mediators and Roma community assistants. These people are hired by local authorities and are paid from the budget of the Ministry of Health (the Ministry is also coordinating these activities from the professional point of view). In 2010, about 600 Roma sanitary mediators were active, who took care of about 400 thousand people, mostly living in disadvantaged communities.

During 2010, through the National Program on Community Medical Assistance, several activities were finalized:

- Training of medical community assistants (Public Health and Education for Health)
- Training of Roma sanitary mediators (Public Health and Education for Health)
- Multidisciplinary teams for community health-care

To clarify the complex issue of financing the activity of Roma sanitary mediators, the Government approved decision no. 459/2010; more than that, the Ministry of Health decided that each community assistant will be responsible for 500 people, and each Roma sanitary mediator – responsible for 700 people. The Ministry of Health acted according to plan, organizes and monitors the implementation of Governmental strategy for improving Roma situation:

- Cooperation plan to improve the access of Roma to public health-care system 2008-2010
- Implementing the program Medical Scholarships for Roma 2008-2010 (National Agency on Roma is an important partner) – in 2010, 65 young Roma students were beneficiaries of this program
- Evaluating the health situation of Roma – a report was published, containing the findings of this research

In 2010 the Ministerial Commission on Roma continued to work, in order to maintain the cooperation with National Agency on Roma and other elements of central administration. The main issue was the professional situation of Roma sanitary mediators.

7. SITUATION OF ROMA IN THE AREA OF SECURITY

During 2010 there were several events related to the presence in EU countries of the Romanian citizens belonging to Roma minority. National and European authorities have protested against the abuses of the French committed against these Romanian citizens. The National Agency for Roma was one of the first institutions have taken a stance on this issue promptly, "chipping" the arguments put forward by the French government to initiate mass expulsions namely the lack of economic resources, for reasons of order, safety and public health.

In terms of data on dereliction of Romanian citizens, according to the researches made by the newspaper "Le Nouvel Observateur", Paris police prefecture stated that 5,7% of Paris dereliction is committed by Romanian citizens, but the French authority could not provide additional data on the purposes of making a comparison with the percentage represented by another state.

The French newspaper obtained from the National Observatory of Crime and Criminal Responses in Paris the deliverance that the institution has only statistics on crimes committed by French and foreigners (Paris area only). Also, the French Interior Ministry avoided disclosing the crime patterns on nationality or ethnicity source.

Although according to the current information, the French government has repatriated only Romanian and Bulgarian Roma there are not statistics on Bulgarian citizens repatriated. NRA has initiated discussions with Mr Henri Paul, the French ambassador in Bucharest, the Secretary of State Pierre Lellouche and other French authorities with the purpose of solving these problems. France proposed collaboration and partnership within the program run by the French Office for Immigration and Integration, but NAR declined the proposal because of extremely strict and unfair conditions which were to be imposed on the Romanian citizens, considering it an unacceptable treatment to any citizen Europe, regardless of ethnicity.

The two countries agreed on joint programs, on the integration of Roma returned in the target group of the projects undertaken by the National Agency for Roma (the French proposal), but also to start transnational programs between local home (Romania) and destination (France) (the National Agency for Roma proposal).

Unfortunately, despite the moment's opening, the French part has not responded anymore to subsequent Agency requests for meetings and initiatives. Anyway, the National Agency for Roma contacted the Roma people returned and provided them information about the possibility of being beneficiaries of the six strategic projects that the institution runs from the EU structural funds in education and social economy field.

A main actor in the field of anti-discrimination field is *the National Council for Combating Discrimination (NCCD)*, created in 2001 as a specialized body of the central public administration empowered to guarantee and supervise the implementation of the principle of equality and non-discrimination among citizens.

The Council is an autonomous public institution, with legal personality, under parliamentary control. It carries out its activity without any restriction or influence coming from other public institutions or authorities. Its annual report is debated and approved by the Parliament.

NCCD is an instrument designed specifically to fight all forms of discrimination. Through its specific functions and competence, the Council is the first institution of this kind in Central and Eastern Europe.

The Council is responsible for the enforcement and observance of anti-discrimination legislation. NCCD is qualified to investigate, establish and sanction cases of discrimination.

At the same time, the Council elaborates and applies public policies in the field of non-discrimination. In 2007, the Council adopted the *National Strategy for Implementing Measures on Preventing and Combating Discrimination (2007-2013)*. The Strategy establishes guidelines in the field of preventing and combating discrimination, with the aim to develop an inclusive and intercultural society

NCCD receives and reviews petitions and complaints regarding violations of the legal provisions concerning the principle of equality and non-discrimination from individuals and groups of persons, NGOs active in human rights protection, other legal entities and public institutions. The Steering Board of the National Council for Combating Discrimination, exercising its decision-making role, analyses the petitions and complaints received, and adopts, by decisions, the appropriate measures, following investigations carried out by the specialized staff of the NCCD (the Inspection Team).

Once the decision has been adopted, the Steering Board establishes the *sanction*, which can be a notice or the payment of a fine. The Steering Board also decides on the specific amount of money to be paid by a natural person or by a legal entity, for perpetrating a discriminatory act. The amount to be paid varies from 400 to 4000 lei (RON), in cases of discrimination against a person, or from 600 to 8000 lei (RON), in cases of discrimination against a group of persons or a community. It is possible to appeal against the sanctions applied by NCCD for committing a discriminatory act, under the procedure provided for by the common law.

An important initiative in order to combat the existing media stereotypes regarding Roma people, has the Association Roma Party Pro-Europe which produces the broadcast "Roma Caravan "and finances the broadcast "Different, but together".

In July 2010, the National Agency for Roma and the General Inspectorate of Romanian Police, structure of the Ministry of Administration and Interior, signed a Protocol of Collaboration regarding the regulation of the cooperation between the two parties for consulting and reciprocal support in developing projects on the following directions:

- human resources development
- acquaintance with the Roma community and promoting community dialogue fundraising by making partnerships and joint projects

The most recent strategic partnership on the purpose to support the Roma minority it is the Protocol of cooperation between the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Protection and the National Agency for Roma (signed in November 2010), a document that aims to protect the rights of Romanian Roma citizens living in France. The document provides cooperation at regional level in the two countries in order to find solutions to integrate the Roma people, as well as the set up of mobile units on purpose to assist local governments in developing and accessing European funds. Also, other strategic protocols have been initiated by the National Agency for Roma with Italy, Belgium and Ireland.

8. DEVELOPMENT OF ROMA CULTURE AND LANGUAGE

The Romano Kher National Cultural Centre for the Roma was established in 2003 as a specialized institution subordinate to the *Ministry of Culture and National Patrimony*. The Centre has articulated its activity in two stages: 2003-2007 and 2008-2010.

According to the *Strategy for Improving the Condition of the Roma Ethnic in Romania*, adopted in 2001, the first stage was dedicated to creating contacts and bridges for partnerships and for the development of cultural projects, as follows:

- music, dance and drama festivals: 18
- research: 1
- Roma traditional crafts fairs: 7
- visual arts exhibitions: 2 conferences, round tables, anniversary celebrations, commemoration festivities: 5

Starting with 2008 the Center's activity was structured in five Programmes, as follows (each of them with a number of at least 20 projects a year):

- Professional formation
- Research-Development
- Museum Activities – Exhibitions
- Performing arts
- Intercultural dialogue.

The institution's prime objectives are:

- the research and analysis of cultural consumption patterns within the Roma communities;

- furthering the partnerships established by the Centre with private and public entities that have similar goals and creating a network of Roma NGOs that would act as partners for the Centre.
- promoting the image and attaining larger visibility for the Centre developing intercultural dialogue with the majority population and with the other ethnic minorities. creating a diversified supply of cultural programmes, in order to meet the public's cultural interests and to draw in new segments of the public. maximizing the efficiency of the human resources management. implementing a more effective use of the budget.

Between 2008 and 2010, the Romano Kher Centre has developed the following number of projects:

- Professional formation: 3
- Research-Development: 5
- Festivals -(music, dance, film) and shows: 23
- Conferences, anniversaries and commemorations, communication sessions: 9
- Traditional Rroma arts and crafts fairs: 10
- Museal activities and exhibitions: 6
- Contests (drama and vocal music): 2
- Sponsorship for cultural and educational projects for Rroma children: 1
- Pan-European projects: 6

Despite the fact that over the last 10 years the study of Romany language in schools and colleges has been intensified, the actions and the projects focused on this value of Roma people in Romania have a rather limited aim, considering the great number of Roma people living here. This low visibility affects especially the cultural projects.

Referring to this, the Cultural Association „AMPHITHEATRROM” from Bucharest started the project ”*Parol, monser, Caragiale in limba rromani*” – Romany language Theatre, aiming to translate and to perform in Romany language the play “*One stormy night*”, written by one of the greatest Romanian playwrights, Ion Luca Caragiale. The Romany title of the play is “*Jekh răt lisăme*”, and it is performed on stages in Bucharest and other cities of Romania.

The project is an absolute premiere, as it is the first play by Caragiale performed in the Romany language on the stage. Also, the actors involved in the project are professional Roma actors, which is another absolute premiere in the Romanian theatrical field. The project of the Cultural Association „AMPHITHEATRROM” is very important also because such undertakings in the area of the professional Romany / Romany language Theatre in Romania are as yet inexistent. Moreover, its aim is to

promote the Romany language and the respect for this language among the Roma people (especially the youth), but also among those that are not part of this ethnic group, to increase the mutual acceptance level and to eliminate the prejudice against the Roma people.

Cultural Association “Turn” carried on the new edition of the “International Romani Art Festival”, the unique socio-cultural project in the world which brings together representatives of all the arts, Roma and non-Roma as well, in order to support and promote pro-diversity message.

During 2010, Roma craftsmen participated in numerous professional fairs both in the country and abroad, the traditional products being very popular and in great request.

On February 2010, the Law regarding the commemoration of Roma holocaust has been initiated, law which was adopted on March 2011.