

DECADE OF  
ROMA  
INCLUSION  
2005 - 2015

## Presidency Programme of Hungary

July 1 2007 – June 30 2008





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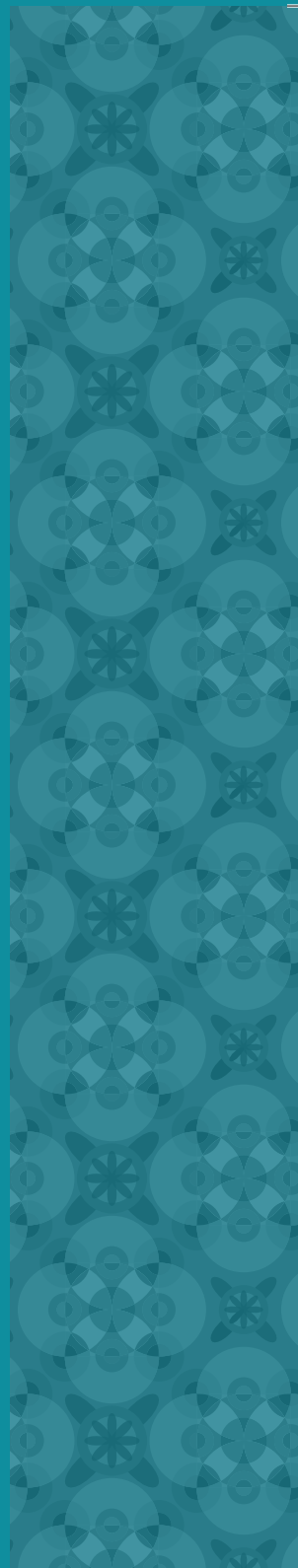
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# Decade of Roma Inclusion

The idea of the Decade of Roma Inclusion emerged in 2003 at a high-level regional conference titled “**Roma in an Expanding Europe Challenges for the Future**”, which was held in Budapest. After that, Prime Ministers of the involved countries signed the **Declaration of the Decade** in Sofia, on 2nd February and they assigned the period of 2005-2015 as the **Decade of Roma Inclusion**.

The Decade is an international initiative and its goals are to bring together governments, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations as well as Roma civil society to accelerate progress toward improving the welfare of Roma and to review such progress in a transparent and quantifiable way.

At present, nine countries, namely Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Slovakia, participate in the Decade. Beside these countries several international organizations take part in the Decade, namely the World Bank, the Open Society Institute, the United Nations Development Program, the Council of Europe, the Council of Europe Development Bank, the Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Roma Information Office, the European Roma and Travelers Forum, the European Roma Rights Centre and the Roma Education Fund.

The Decade focuses to **four priority areas** as education, employment, health and housing. Furthermore **three horizontal aspects** were agreed, these are gender equality, reduce of the poverty and antidiscrimination.

Each of the involved countries has to create its **National Action Plan** that specifies that goals and indicators in these areas according to the common approved framework.

The Decade is guided by an **International Steering Committee** (ISC) made up of the representatives of governments, Roma organizations, international donors, and other international organizations.

Each country assumes the **Presidency** of the Decade for a period of a year in turn, in accordance with a pre-established rota.

Since 1st of July 2007 Hungary has taken the presidency tasks for a year (till 30th of June 2008).

As the National Coordinator of Hungary Ms Monika Lamperth LL.D., the minister of social affairs and labour, is responsible for the implementation of the presidency tasks.



# Programme of the Hungarian presidency

Since 1st of July 2007 Hungary has taken the presidency tasks for a year (till 30th of June 2008). For the period of the Hungarian presidency we are planning to improve and to enhance the inter-governmental cooperation as well as to give new impetus to the process.

## Priorities of the presidency

- ◆ We invited new countries to join and to participate in the Decade as a member state. The invited countries are Bosnia-Herzegovina, Moldova, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain.
- ◆ Considering the fact that most of the Decade-countries are also member states/candidate countries of the EU, Hungary initiate that the Decade of Roma Inclusion could be placed on the EU Institutions' agenda.
- ◆ New topics are going to be debated under the Hungarian presidency. These are corporate social responsibility (CSR), creating a European Roma Policy, anti-segregation policy in the field of education and housing.
- ◆ Organising two workshops regarding housing and antidiscrimination issues are also planned during the presidency year.
- ◆ As one of the Decade's goals is the raising awareness Hungary organizes communication campaigns on national and international levels to increase the known of the Decade and to improve the sensitiveness of public opinion as well as decision-makers.
- ◆ Concerning the monitoring of the National Action Plans prepared by the countries – using the results of the Bulgarian presidency – Hungary sets up an Indicator Working Group. Its goals are to create common indicators used in the monitoring system.





## Time schedule

Event	Time (planned)	Location	Organizers
International Steering Committee Meeting (ISC)	October 1-2 2007	Budapest	Hungarian Government (World Bank, OSI)
Housing workshop	November 26-30 2007	Budapest (Croatia)	Hungarian and Croatian Government
International Steering Committee Meeting (ISC)	February 2008	Budapest	Hungarian Government (World Bank, OSI)
Antidiscrimination Workshop	April 2008	Budapest	Hungarian Government (World Bank, OSI)
International Steering Committee Meeting (ISC)	April 2008	Budapest	Hungarian Government
International Steering Committee Meeting (ISC)	June 2008	Budapest	Hungarian Government (World Bank, OSI)

## Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

### Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is:

◆ a concept whereby companies integrate social and environmental concerns in their business strategy and operations and in their interactions with stakeholders on a voluntary basis.

◆ a model which encourages organizations to consider the interests of society by taking responsibility for the impact of the organization's activities on customers, employees, shareholders, communities and the environment in all aspects of its operations. This obligation is seen to extend beyond the statutory obligation to comply with legislation and sees organizations voluntarily taking further steps to improve the quality of life for employees and their families as well as for the local community and society at large.

◆ an important tool for private sector to actively contribute to the sustainable development, which is a long-term goal of the European Union as well as of global community of a wide scale of concerned stakeholders. Environmental and social concerns can not be solved in isolation from private sector, because it is the most powerful and influential player in a market economy driving and shaping the very process of modern globalization.

◆ a measure that adds value to business competitiveness, unleashes potential to innovate and helps to maintain enduring business relationships with employees, suppliers, clients, state institutions, non-governmental organizations and enhances reputation in society at large.





## **‘Accelerating CSR practices in the new EU member states and candidate countries as a vehicle’ (project)**

More than a decade ago Central Eastern European and the Baltic States (CEEBS) embarked on a road towards a market economy. Despite tremendous achievements in adaptation to market economy, environmental and social concerns received little attention. While Western European business community leaders are talking about “mainstreaming” CSR and incorporating the principles into core business strategies, in the new EU Member States and candidate countries knowledge on CSR varies: some business leaders are just becoming familiar with the term, while others have started a step-by-step approach to integrating CSR into their business practices. For a vast number of small and medium sized enterprises, CSR is still a very distant challenge, which falls outside their business priorities.

This project addresses the challenge of integrating CSR in business strategy CEEBS countries face and is designed to give a strong impulse in bridging the disparity between the level of CSR practices in old EU countries and new Member States as well as candidate countries.

The target countries are the following: **Poland, Lithuania, Hungary, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Croatia** and **Turkey**. Old EU Member States, on the other hand, will be involved in the project by contributing to exchange of experience and good CSR practices with identified stakeholders in the target countries.



The target beneficiaries will not only include companies (both local and foreign enterprises) but also intermediaries like business and professional associations, local and national governments, trade unions, academia, non-governmental organizations and the media in the project countries.

The main objective of the project is to accelerate the implementation of CSR practices in new EU region for improving competitiveness and social cohesion.

This is expected to be achieved by comprehensively mapping out the CSR activities and actors, identifying capacity gaps and areas where support to both business and the governments is needed, exchange of experience and good practices, awareness raising and supporting national stakeholders.

### Some ideas in regard to use CSR's measures in the field of Roma's integration:

The CSR could be used particularly in the field of the following priorities, goals of the Decade:

- ◆ education (e.g. establish scholarships, finance trainings, etc.);
- ◆ employment (e.g. use positive discrimination, organise trainings in the frame of employment, etc.);
- ◆ fight against discrimination (e.g. support non-governmental organisations acting as the legal representatives of Roma, ensure information concerning enforcing rights, etc.);
- ◆ positive changing the imagine of Roma (e.g. Roma people in advertisements, etc.);
- ◆ culture (e.g. support and/or organise cultural events for making known better Roma culture and tradition's system, etc.);
- ◆ gender equality (e.g. ensure the possibility of children's care during the workig hours, support homeoffice working, ensure the possibility of part-time working etc.).

It is suggested to prepare National CSR Agenda not only in the countries involved in the above mentioned project but also in other countries participating in the Decade of the Roma Inclusion.





## European Roma Policy

**The main objective is to examine the necessity of creating a European Roma Policy.** Today 10-12 million Roma live in the Member States of the EU and about 15 million in Europe. The most of them live in a deep poverty in segregated, slummed housing circumstances and they very often have to face discrimination not only in the labour market or in the field of education but also in the other areas of the life.

Several countries involved in the Decade are also Member States (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia) or Candidate Countries (Croatia and Macedonia) of the EU. Besides some other EU Member States not participated in the Decade have to face the initiative of Roma's social inclusion.



## A European Roma Policy could

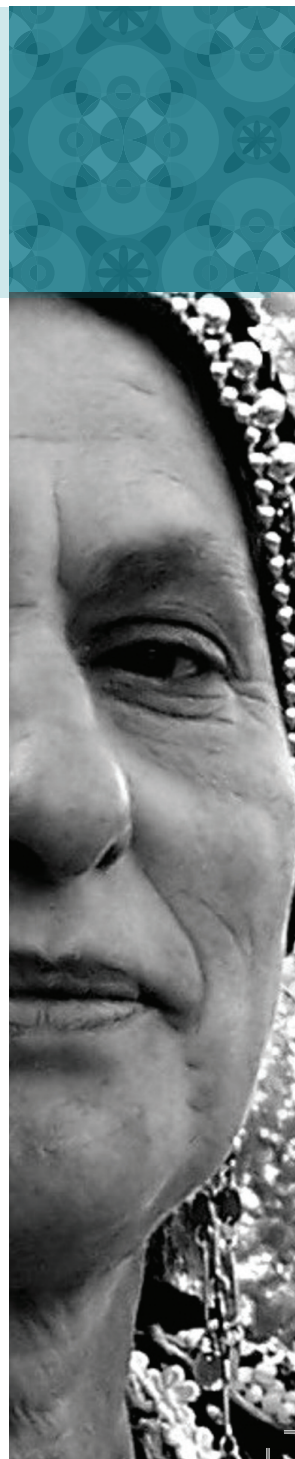
- ◆ increase the absorption and amounts of Structural Funds targeting social inclusion;
- ◆ increase the efficiency and impact of funded projects through targeting;
- ◆ accelerate Roma integration;
- ◆ provide solutions for economic migration and address its main reasons: poverty, insecurity, denial of access to basic rights and widespread discrimination.

### The elements of creating European Roma Policy

- ◆ An **EU Framework Strategy** on Roma Inclusion to set objectives, provide guidelines and set benchmarks. It could be modelled on existing strategies like EFS on Gender Mainstreaming, EFS on people with disabilities or EFS integration of migrants.
- ◆ **“Roma unit” in a relevant European Commission Structure** (DG Employment and Social Affairs) - to support the already existing “inter-service” group on Roma, to provide support and expertise, to watch over implementation of the strategy and to assess its impact.
- ◆ **Inter-Governmental “high-level group” on Roma inclusion** to provide a forum for efficient debates which facilitates synergies among Member State interventions and approaches.

### Anti-segregation policy

Our main objective is to introduce anti-segregation policies in Eastern-European countries and to prepare common anti-segregation strategy of Decade countries, primarily in the field of education and housing.





## Definition

Segregation is the significant alteration of low status (very low status) people (children) comparing to average by regional or by schools measures.

- ◆ Low status people are people without permanent income and having not higher educational status than 8 grades.
- ◆ Low status children are children in low income family and parents have not higher educational status than 8 grades.

## Anti-segregation policy in the field of housing

**The separation of the places of residence of Roma and non-Roma people increases dramatically.** The segregation of Roma in the field of housing has two aspects. One is the segregation within the villages which causes that number of families live in segregated, slummed housing circumstances in segregated blocks, apartments without comfort facilities. The other aspect of the segregation is within the country causes regional segregation and the fact that major proportion of Roma people live in those micro-regions which are afflicted with economic, infrastructural and employment disadvantages.

## Measures of integration of people living in segregated area (regional development policy, urban development policy, etc.)

- ◆ Mobility program – providing housing in integrated area (social housing, rent, etc.)
- ◆ Complex projects (housing, employment, education, etc.)
- ◆ Merged with education anti-segregation policy.
- ◆ Labour market mobility – harmonisation of the need and demand of the labour market.
- ◆ Flexible housing options.

## Anti-segregation policy in the field of education

The segregation of Roma children can be realized within a school (creating separated classes for Roma and for non-Roma children) and between schools (functioning a school with generality of Roma students and an other with a generality of non-Roma students in the same village).

### Measures of integration in the field of the education

- ◆ ability development normative;
- ◆ introduce integration normative;
- ◆ creation of Pedagogic Methodology and Integration Pedagogic Framework;
- ◆ Equal Opportunity-based supporting policy which aims that the sources for development of public education should not be divided by different policies but with real respect of the principle of equal opportunity;
- ◆ start of target programs like
  - realization of Equal Opportunity Programs (desegregation, nursery, reducing of false-diagnosis as being disabled, methodology, reaching the higher levels of the educational system);
  - supporting of getting into the higher levels of education and decreasing drop-out;
  - supporting of the afternoon schooling;
  - „Second chance” schools;
  - anti-discrimination indicator-system.







## Communication Strategy

As the Decade aims raising awareness and changing positively image of Roma **communication campaigns on national and international levels are to be organized.**

### Goals of the communication are

- ◆ to increase the known of the Decade;
- ◆ to improve the sensitiveness of public opinion as well as decision-makers;
- ◆ to change the public opinion (contributing to positive change in the general image of Roma people as well as increasing the tolerance against Roma).

### Target groups

- ◆ decision-makers;
- ◆ civil society interested in social inclusion of Roma, and have notion to know better of Roma culture;
- ◆ people aged between 18 and 35, who are potential decision-makers and have influence with their opinion to others;
- ◆ media (advertisements, film producers etc.).

### Messages

- ◆ The aim of the Decade of Roma Inclusion is to improve the Roma's welfare. The governments make exact steps (e.g. in the field of housing, education etc.) to enhance the realization of the Decade's goals and aim to reduce the segregation in the field of education and housing.
- ◆ Media and advertisements have a key role in raising awareness and tolerance as well as shaping of the society's sensitivity.

## Indicator Working Group

During the Bulgarian presidency a so-called **Decade Watch** has been prepared. Decade Watch assesses governments' actions on introducing measures on the four Decade priority areas, as well as institutional arrangements and anti-discrimination legislation.

Country reports were prepared by Roma civil society alliances, and then countries were ranked on indicators on a scale from 0 to 4, with 0 capturing no action and 4 best practice. The report looks at government inputs, not outcomes. The country rankings not only track progress but also identify areas where countries can benefit from one another's experience.



**The main goal of the Indicator Working Group to create common indicators** - taking special attention to the Decade Watch – for establish an effective monitoring of Decade Action Plans

### Objectives

- ◆ Propose a mechanism to allow Decade countries to track and report on the results of Roma inclusion policies in 2015 – measure changes in the lives of people.
- ◆ Propose a set of indicators covering education, employment, health and housing.
- ◆ Propose data collection mechanisms.
- ◆ First best and second best options.







### Members

The World Bank, Open Society Institute, United Nations Development Plan, European Roma and Travelers Forum and the Hungarian Government delegate experts to the working group. Other countries and international organizations have the opportunity to comment on draft documents, prepared by the working group

### Agenda

- ◆ Prepare a report with recommendations by April and submit for discussion and endorsement by the ISC.
- ◆ Hold three working group sessions.
- ◆ Report on progress at the ISC meetings.
- ◆ Once adopted by ISC, use in dialogue with governments of Decade countries, statistical offices, European Commission, Eurostat.

The photos appearing in the brochure:

Wrapper: Nina Nikolova, Fligh

page 1. : Nina Nikolova, Fligh

page 3. : Zoltan Cristian Bereczki, Children of the hills, detail

page 4. : Vlad Todoran, Dark look, detail

page 6. : Varga Tamás Saturday afternoons, detail

Manoila Dragos, Drawing, detail

page 7. : Csaba Báder, Generation of the future, detail

page 8. : Csaba Kocsis, Generations, detail

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page 11. : Pálosi Tünde Erika The world of information, detail

page 12. : Zoltan Cristian Bereczki, Children of the hills, detail

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page 15. : Varaljai Szandra, Gandhi school, detail

page 18. : Czimbai Gyula, Face, detail







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