The Government of the Republic of Hungary
Handover of the Presidency of the Decade of Roma Inclusion Program

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Decade of Roma Inclusion Program
2005-2015

• Cooperation of nine Central-Eastern European countries (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Croatia, Macedonia, Hungary, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Slovakia) + international organizations with the involvement of Roma civil society experts

  ➢ Priority areas: education, employment, housing, health
  ➢ Horizontal aspects: anti-discrimination, gender equality

• Goal: social integration of the Roma population, improved living conditions and welfare, fight against discrimination.
Realization of the Decade of Roma Inclusion Program in Hungary

Legal background:


- Long term strategy – goals, measures, indicators.


- Defines concrete projects and programs including deadlines and budgetary sources.
Hungarian Presidency  
1 July 2007 – 30 June 2008  

Goal: enhance reputation, advance new topics for discussion, give new impetus to the process.  

Events:  
• International Steering Committee meetings:  
  ➢ 1-2 October, 2007,  
  ➢ 25-26 February, 2008,  
• Expert Workshops:  
  ➢ Housing (3-6 December, 2007)  
  ➢ Anti-discrimination (17-18 April, 2008)
Hungarian Presidency
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Activities:

• Invitation of new participants to the Decade Program.
  ➢ Countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Spain and Slovenia (Observer).
  ➢ International organizations: UNICEF, ENAR.

• Proposal for the development policy based on equal opportunity principle.
• Elaboration of European Roma Strategy.
• Communication campaign to expand and rise tolerance.
Development policy based on equal opportunity principle

- Solely Hungary implements it in the region.

- **Objective:** only those tenders and programs are supported that decrease and/or eliminate segregation in education and housing

  - Development of public education institutions: Public Education Equal Opportunity Analysis were prepared in about 1000 settlements
  - ROP, urban rehabilitation tenders: 160 anti-segregation plans were prepared - making sure that Roma settlements are eliminated and inhabitants are integrated.

Tenders are approved by independent experts.

*We do suggest for the consideration of all the Decade countries to use the development policy based on equal opportunity principle.*
European Roma Strategy

• Why does it necessary?
  ➢ Europe's largest minority – 10-12 million people.
  ➢ One of Europe's most pressing social problem, huge social gap between Roma and non-Roma population..
  ➢ Many problems can not be solved on the basis of the present policies and legal framework.

• Five priority areas: education, employment, housing, health, representation..

• Steps concluded:
  ➢ Call at International Steering Committee meeting in February 2008 – signed by Minister dr. Mónika Lamperth, Minister dr. Kinga Göncz, Chair Prof. Dr. Rita Süssmuth, as well as Members of the European Parliament Lívia Járóka, Katalin Lévai and Viktória Mohácsi.
  ➢ Countries participating in the Decade Program joined the Call – Support Letter was sent by Albania, Czech Republic, Macedonia, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain.
  ➢ Letter to the European Commission.

The Hungarian Government supports the elaboration of the European Roma Strategy.
Objective:
- Changing attitude towards Roma.
- Creation of the appearance of equal opportunities in the media and advertisements.
- Raising awareness of the corporate enterprises, advertisers, and other actors of the economy that it is time to calculate with the Roma population as potential consumer and target audience.

in-depth interviews → pictures → billboards in Budapest Metro stations

Messages:
- simple, human desires, anybody can identify as its own;
- there is no difference among human beings in terms of desires;
- thus there is no rational to make any difference among people.
Proposal of the Hungarian Presidency

- We suggest for the consideration of all the Decade participating countries to use the development policy based on equal opportunity principle.

- The Hungarian Government supports a joint action for the elaboration of a European Roma Strategy.
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