Presidency program

Hungary

Decade of Roma Inclusion

Andor Urmos
Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour
June 24, 2008
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Objectives

- New countries
  - Slovenia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Spain,
- European Roma Policy
- Anti-segregation policy
- Communication campaign
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Events

- **International Steering Committee meeting**
  - October 1-2, 2007 – taking over the presidency from Bulgaria
  - February 24-25, 2008 – endorsement of the „Call for European Roma Policy”
  - June 24-25, 2008 – handling over the presidency to Serbia

- **Workshops**
  - Housing workshop – best practices in housing, introduction of anti-segregation policy
  - Anti-discrimination workshop – detailed discussion of the anti-discrimination measures in Decade countries, equal opportunity in financing
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New countries

- Bosnia – official invitation, letter to Prime Minister
- Albania – official invitation, letter to the Prime Minister
- Spain - official invitation, letter to the Prime Minister
- Slovenia – official invitation, observer status
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- UNICEF
- ENAR (European Network of Anti-Racism)
European Roma Policy

- Comprehensive European Roma Policy – improvement of social inclusion of the Roma community

- Suggestions for the most urgent needs
  - Housing
  - Complex approach of the European funds
  - Capacity building of Roma NGOs

- „Call for European Roma Policy“ – signed by MEPs, ministers, Dr. Rita Suessmuth

- Letter to Mr. Vladimir Spidla by Ms. Erika Szucs

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Hungary) will continue bilateral negotiations (Finland, Spain)
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“Call for European Roma Policy”

We, the undersigned, the XII. International Steering Committee meeting of Decade of Roma Inclusion Program held in Budapest on 25 February 2008,

having regard to

the European Charter of Fundamental Rights,

Directive 2000/43/EC implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of ethnic origin and 2000/78/EC establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation, and to the framework decision on combating racism and xenophobia,

the Report on Racism and Xenophobia in the Member States of the EU for 2007, published by the Agency for Fundamental Rights,

the report on “Segregation of Roma Children in Education” published by the European Commission in July 2007,

the report of the High Level Advisory Group of Experts on the Social Integration of Ethnic Minorities and their Full Participation in the Labour Market entitled “Ethnic Minorities on the Labour Market - An Urgent Call for Better Social Inclusion”, which was published by the Commission in December 2007,

the European Parliament’s resolution on Roma in the European Union adopted on 31 January 2008,

the Declaration of Ten Points of the Decade of Roma Inclusion Program, signed by eight Eastern-European countries on 2 February 2009,

reminding that

approximately ten million Roma live in the EU Member States most of whom suffer from social exclusion, discrimination, segregation and live in poverty;

the social inclusion of Roma is still a goal to be achieved with the assistance of Community instruments in order to produce effective and visible change in this area,

propose the following actions,

initiate dialogue on the preparation of a European Roma Policy among the EU Member States, non-EU countries and international organisations involved in the Decade of Roma Inclusion, as well as the representatives of the Roma civil society. The European Roma Policy should focus on five priority areas such as education, employment, housing, healthcare and participation, and should also promote antidiscrimination and gender equality as horizontal aspects.

establish mechanisms and procedures for monitoring the impact of EU and national initiatives in the area of Roma inclusion.

take into consideration the aim of inclusion of Roma in the EU employment and social inclusion policy as well as in using the Structural Funds.

The European Roma Policy should set the following goals:

expansion of the scope of integrated education, desegregation in public education, increase the level of the Roma people’s school qualification;

facilitation of the integration of Roma people in the labour market, increase the level of their employment;

improvement of housing parallel with the large-scale reduction of segregation in the villages and regions concerned;

improvement of the health conditions of Roma people, increase the life expectancy at birth, as well as the improvement of their access to healthcare services;

elimination of the discrimination against Roma people, promotion of equal opportunities;

involvement of Roma representatives in building their professional capacity in all initiatives aiming to promote their rights and the inclusion of their communities, involvement of Roma in political and social decisions;

recognition of the Roma as special minority with transnational character.

February 28, 2008, Budapest

Dr. Minislam Lamperth
Minister of Social Affairs and Labour, Hungary (Chair of the Decade of Roma Inclusion Program)

Prof. Dr. Rita Sillasmons
Chair of HLG

Ladislas Matolcsa
Member of the European Parliament

Dr. Katalin Lévi
Member of the European Parliament

Viktorija Mihalic
Member of the European Parliament
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„Call for European Policy”

- Supported by
  - Albania
  - Czech Republic
  - Hungary
  - Macedonia
  - Romania
  - Slovenia
  - Slovakia
Anti-segregation policy

- Equal opportunity criteria in financing
  - All governmental initiatives should focus on educational and housing segregation (precondition of access to resources)
  - Proposals for EU funds should have anti-segregation plan
  - Expert-network support (approval of anti-segregation plan)
Communication campaign – „Roma Desire”

Objectives:
- introduce the fact that in daily life Roma are equal – desires of Roma are the same as non-Roma people,
- enhance tolerance,
- decrease stereotypes against Roma,
- picture the fact, that in spite of that dreams of Roma and non-Roma are equal; their opportunities are different,
- Roma people do not appear in advertisements – not recognized as target groups by enterprises.
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Communication campaign – „Roma Desire”

Activities:
- making interviews with five Roma persons,
- drafting the main dream of each person
- preparation of billboards on their dreams – publish them in undergrounds of Budapest among advertisements of enterprises (1-30 June 2008)

At the same time with the billboards’ publishing:
- press conference on the opening ceremony (5 June 2008);
- exhibition of the pictures in a gallery;
- publishing the pictures as free cards.
Gina Kolompár, student
“...I would like to go to higher education to have a job which would make people say: Yes, she made it!”
Norbert Szirmai, reporter

“...I believe that young Romas’ desire should be something that contrasts with their current situation. If there were no social and human problems, I would not have to deal with this field. Then I would be a sport reporter.”
Imre Bogdán, restaurant owner
„... I am in a free world without restrictions... where you really have the opportunity to scorch a bit without having to worry about everyday problems”.
Lilla Hargitai, promotion expert
“I would like to see my daughter go to school in Csoóbánka.”

Ilona Horváth Rezsőné, delivery person
“I would like to have my grandchildren attend a very good school in Csoóbánka”.

Horváth Rezsőné Ilon és Hargitai Lilla vágyképe

Vágyj 25. 2008 © Balaur Dániel, Walter Imre
Fotó: Burger Roma és a szerzők
Grafikák: Adj. asszisztens és a szerzők

XIII. International Steering Committee meeting,
Budapest
“My desire is to have a house with a large porch when I grow old. I would love to sit on that porch with my children. I would like to have a lot of children. I envision myself with long, grey hair, with a guitar in my hand, sitting in a rocking chair, with the woman I love now by my side. I would like to take care of a big family with her. I would like to grow old with her”.
Decade Secretariat

- 2 persons employed by the Decade of Roma Inclusion Secretariat Foundation
  - Tunde Buzetzky, Agnes Osztolykan
- Operating by January 1, 2008
- Administrative support for the presidency
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Proposals of the Hungarian presidency

1. Implementation of equal opportunity based financing (anti-segregation policy) in Decade and other European countries

2. Preparation of European Roma Policy
Thank you for your attention!