Introducing the civil society monitoring reports
THREE WAVES OF EXTERNAL PRESSURE ON NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS

EU pre-accession

- from late 1990s until early 2000s (but still ongoing for countries of the Western Balkan)
- major leverage of pro-Roma actors by incorporating the "Roma issue" in the criteria for EU enlargement
- only Eastern Europe EU candidates

Decade of Roma Inclusion

- 2005-2015
- voluntary commitment by member states
- low influence of NGOs
- comprising Western Balkans and Spain in addition to Eastern Europe

EU Framework Strategy

- 2011-2020
- only EU member states but unclear whether Western European states join
AN IDEAL SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL MONITORING

1. INFORMATION GATHERING BY A COMMITTEE
   (a) state report
   (b) parallel report of NGOs
   (c) other sources of information

2. EVALUATION BY A COMMITTEE
   country rapporteurs/task forces
   possible country visit

3. COMMENT OF STATE ON THE EVALUATION

4. CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE (PLENARY SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE)
   between committee and state delegation
   NGO input (pre-session, side-event, etc.)

5. RESOLUTION AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY AN INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITY

6. STATE ACKNOWLEDGES AND PUBLICIZES RECOMMENDATIONS
   press conference
   translation
   NGO dissemination

7. FOLLOW UP
   state task force
   NGO input
   follow up rapporteur
   committee visit
## EXISTING AND POTENTIAL SYSTEMS

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<tr>
<td>II. Committee of Evaluation</td>
<td>Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (18 experts)</td>
<td>Advisory Committee (18 experts)</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Cross DG work in country teams supervised by Secretariat-General</td>
<td>Cross country desks within DG Enlargement (%)</td>
<td>Public mechanisms across several DGs within EC</td>
<td>Public Committee within EC</td>
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<td>III. State Report</td>
<td>According to detailed guidelines 2 parts: Common Core Document + treaty specific report on the legislative, judicial, administrative and other measures adopted to give effect to the Convention</td>
<td>Reflecting on response to last Resolution + states are encouraged to consult with minorities</td>
<td>In the form of progress report</td>
<td>National Reform Programmes</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>National Roma Integration Strategies</td>
<td>Annual progress reports</td>
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<td>IV. Shadow/Parallel Reporting</td>
<td>Parallel reports referring to specific articles of the Convention+ oral briefing by NGOs during pre-sessional working group</td>
<td>On the situation of minorities + state measures + progress + problems</td>
<td>Previously Decade Watch</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Written contributions + consultations</td>
<td>Informal mechanisms for receiving NGO reports</td>
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<td>V. Review Session</td>
<td>3 sessions per year, of 3 weeks duration each / periodicity of reporting is 4 years</td>
<td>No plenary session but meeting government officials during country visit / periodicity of reporting is 5 years</td>
<td>In experimental form at ISD</td>
<td>None (?)</td>
<td>None (?)</td>
<td>None (?)</td>
<td>In experimental form at high level forums in selected countries on national and EU levels</td>
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<td>VI. International Authority</td>
<td>Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women</td>
<td>Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Council of EU</td>
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<td>VII. Recommendations</td>
<td>Concluding Observations by the Committee acknowledging positive steps, identifying problematic areas, recommending practical steps and changes</td>
<td>Resolution of the Committee of Ministers based on the Opinion of the Advisory Committee</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Commission and Council recommendations</td>
<td>Country conclusions and progress reports</td>
<td>Some general recommendations and identifying country specific gaps in strategies</td>
<td>Separate and explicit recommendations concerning implementation (+EU 2020)</td>
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<td>VIII. Follow Up</td>
<td>Publicizing country observations, requesting States to provide information on follow-up, follow-up rapporteur</td>
<td>Seminars with the Advisory Committee, setting up of state task force</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>National Semester</td>
<td>None (?)</td>
<td>Bilateral dialogue meetings with Member States</td>
<td>Committee to follow up by country visits and NGO inputs</td>
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WHAT IS SHADOW REPORTING?

- Shadow reports are a method for NGOs to **supplement** or present alternative information to periodic government reports that State parties submit within the framework of international agreements.
- Shadow reports **cannot substitute** quantitative monitoring and evaluation by state authorities but are vital tools to make states accountable.
- Within the **EU2020** the compatibility of NRIS with mainstream policies can be assessed, but it **does not allow for Roma specific state and NGO reports.**
- Shadow reports can channel local knowledge into the policy process and reflect on the real, non-quantifiable social impact of government measures.
- Shadow reports are fundamental tools to involve **civil society in the monitoring of policies and to foster the active participation of Roma.**
ASSESSING GOVERNMENT MEASURES

- Positive measures of the Roma strategies
- Positive mainstream measures
- Positive but insufficiently designed or implemented measures
- Largely negative measures of the strategy
- Largely negative mainstream measures
Civil Society Monitoring
on the Implementation of the National Roma Integration Strategies and Decade Action Plans in 2012
SUMMARY REPORT
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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