

Roma Housing

Issues of legalization,
funding, lessons learned

Roma specific housing issues:

- Sub standard living conditions
- Dwellings meet no technical standards
- In a state of disrepair
- Built from non standard materials (wood, refuse material, corrugated iron, clay)
- Lack planning permission
- Built on land of different land title holders

Strategic measures

- Both the National Strategy for Roma Integration and **Revised Decade National Action Plans** contain measures aiming to tackle this particular problem.
- Measure no. of the Decade NAP 1.1.2 To deal with the issue of illegal constructions and Roma communities living on strange, legally unresolved lands.
- Activity 1.1.2.1 *To prepare and discuss a document dealing with this issue in the form of a material determined for the Government of the SR.*
- **Strategy for Roma Integration 2020**
- Introduce financial and legislative tools enabling settlement of land title for the purpose of building rental social apartments.

Legalization of Land

- Currently only solutions to acquire land titles and legalize housing or open way for new housing is case by case basis.
- Identification of ownership:
 - unknown owners (State administers such land)
 - Private owners
 - Group of owners (shared ownership)
 - State owned or administered
 - Municipal land
 - Church owned

Legalization of Buildings

- It is possible to legalize a building built without prior permission and planning
 - Has to have been built before 1976
 - Comply with basic technical standards
 - In Roma settlements unlikely but not impossible, obstacles are financial and administrative (private ownership-no intervention from state level possible)

Social Housing in Slovakia

- Program of the construction of Municipal rental housing of lower standard particularly suffers from the issues of inability to acquire land or land titles in suitable locations.

Note:

Usage of state or EU funds is not possible for land titles or land acquisition.

Social Housing in Slovakia

- Since 2010 legal definition of social housing (Law 443/2010)
- Established program of Municipal housing of lower standard
- Project to use ERDF funds for pilot in housing construction
- Municipality led housing projects of integrated approach (Dolný Kubín)

Lessons learned

- Interventions into housing alone are temporary at best
- Intensive engagement of communities (both Roma and non-Roma)
- Accompanying programs and projects ensure ownership
- Construction is only the beginning of other processes

Thank you for your attention

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