

LESSONS ON THE USE OF PRE-ACCESSION FUNDS FOR ROMA INCLUSION

BULGARIA, HUNGARY, SLOVAKIA

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OSI – Making the Most of EU Funds for the Roma

Structure of presentation



- Questions examined
- Methods
- Some Basic data of IPA support for Roma inclusion
- Findings
- The New IPA Framework
- Recommendations

Questions



- General lessons of pre-accession countries
 - Stakeholders influence on programming
 - Where did projects reach / not reach results?
 - Development of equal opportunities
 - Involvement of Roma
 - Limitations to the relevance of lessons
- Review on the basis of the programme cycle

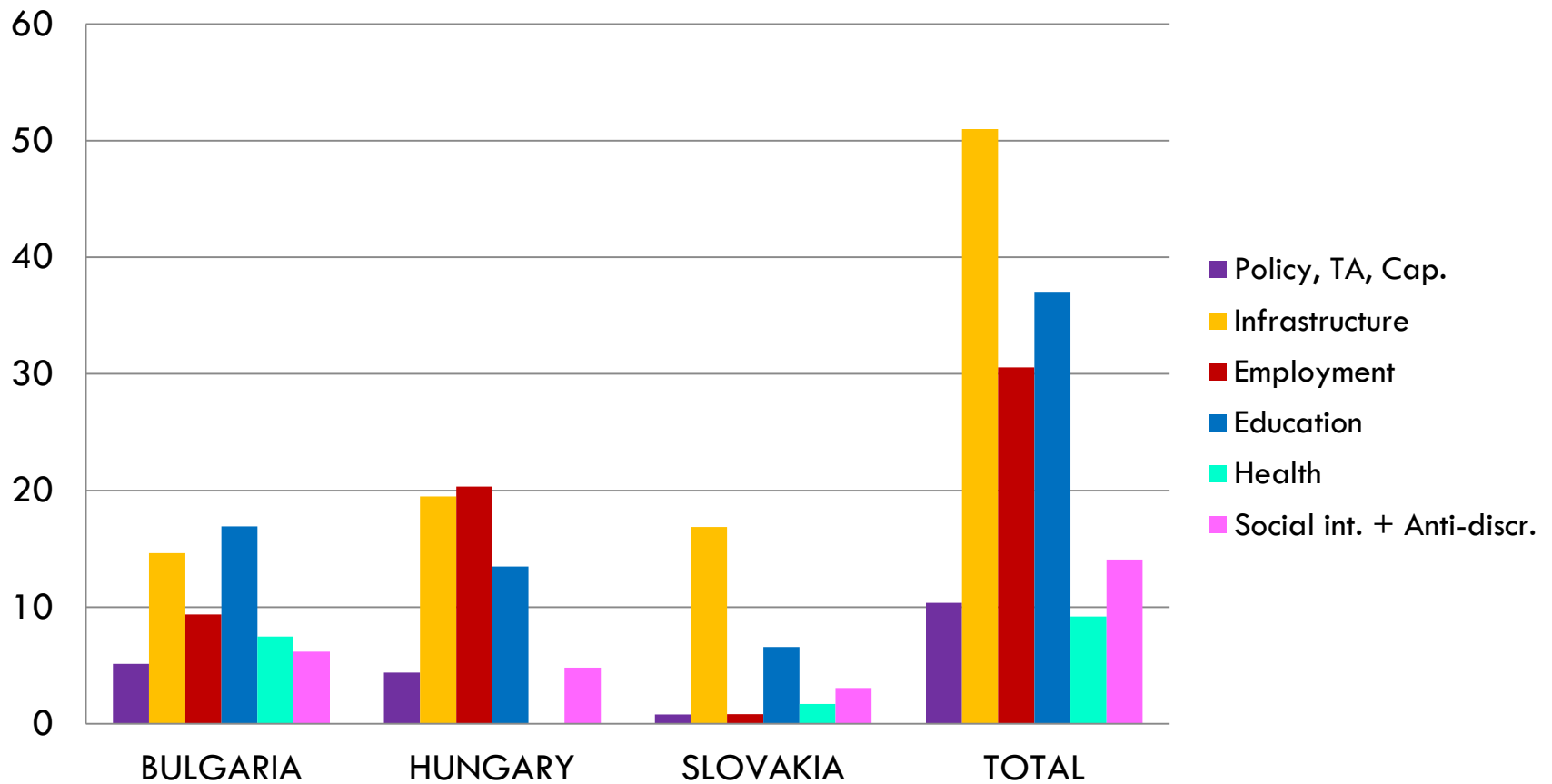
Methods



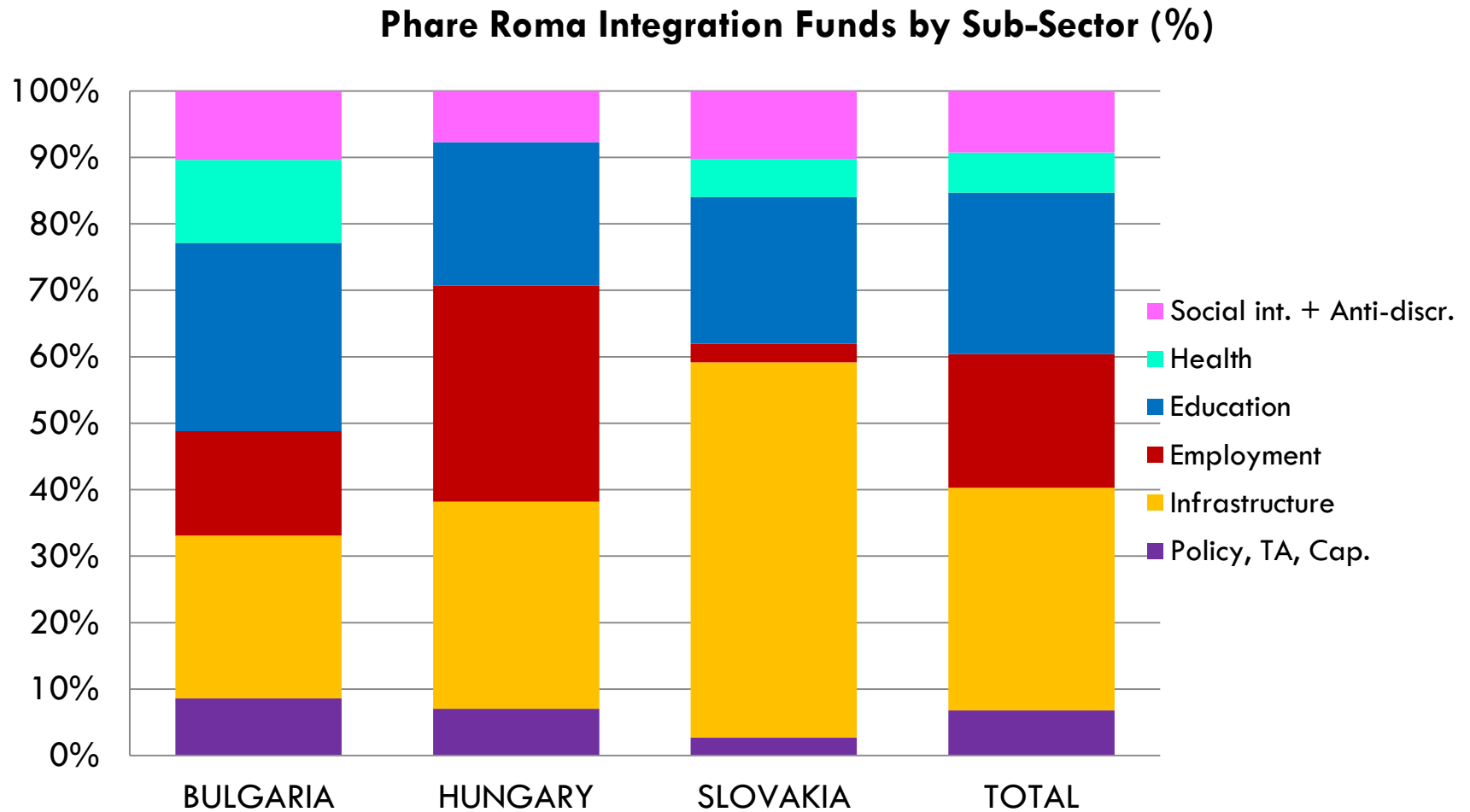
- Study of programming documents
- Review of earlier evaluation studies
- Semi-structured interviews
- Study of IPA (II) regulation

Basic data

Phare Roma Integration Funds by Sub - Sector (M.EUR)

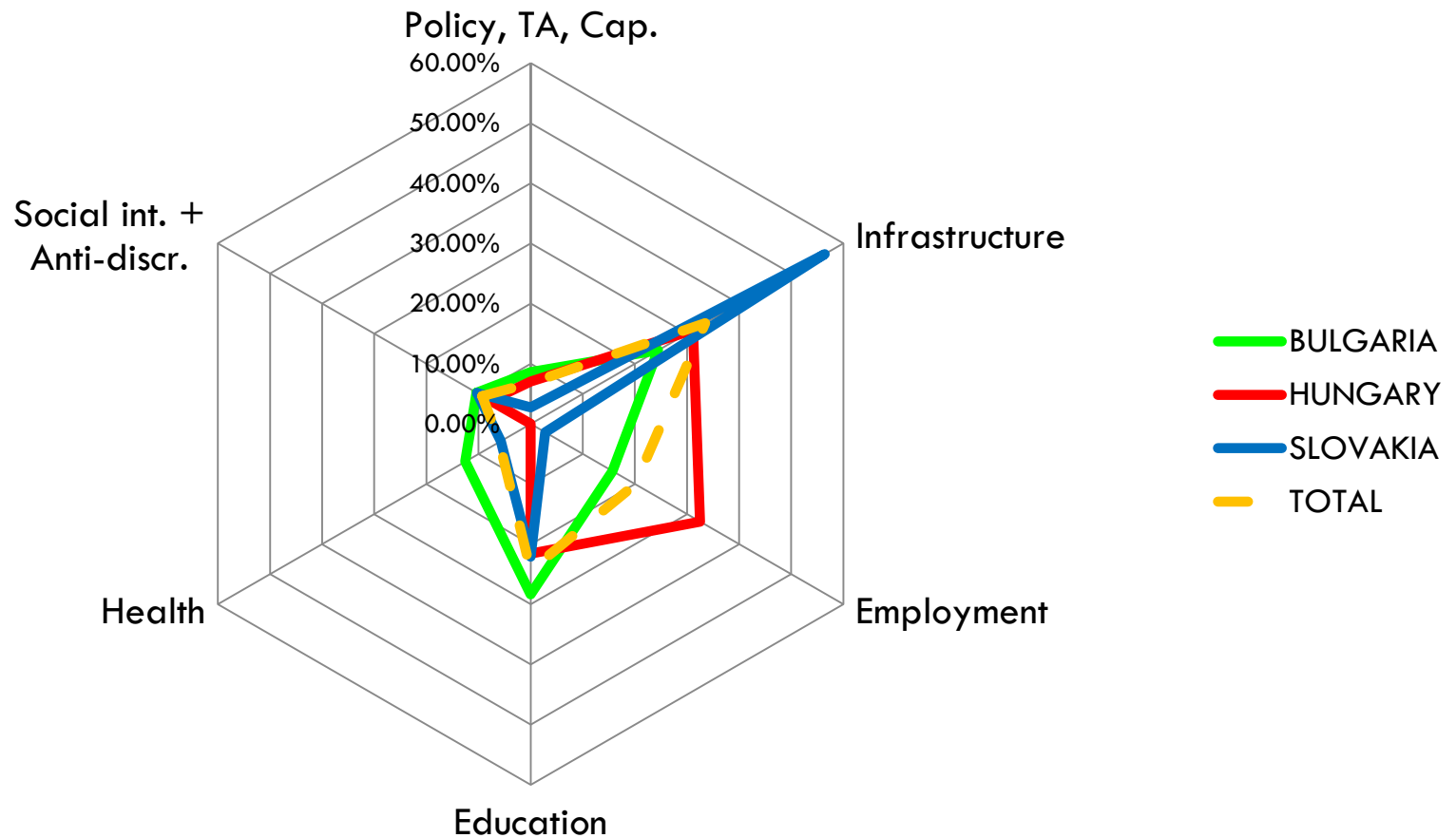


Basic data



Basic data

Phare Roma Integration Funds by Sub-Sector (%)



Key findings of the present study

- Addressing Roma issues seems a result of political pressure from the EU (1999)
- Lack of comprehensive national policies at that time
- Different results per sector
 - Positive: policy development, education, health
 - Mixed: employment, infrastructure (SK: more positive)
- Phare (and IPA) showed inherent limitations
 - No proper integration into national policies
 - Difficult management
 - Mainstreaming of positive practices – weak in HU, better in SK
- Weak partnership and ownership
- Arrival of structural funds leads to loss of focus

Findings in detail

- Programming
 - All relevant policy areas addressed
 - Budgets insignificant in view of needs
 - Comprehensive national strategies missing
 - Diverse target groups
 - Authorities
 - Ministries (including dedicated, newly created institutions)
 - Police
 - Local governments (as „outlets” of state services
 - Institutions (e.g. schools, health care providers...)
 - Roma NGOs
 - Local communities (with Roma population)
 - Roma people
 - Insufficient continuity, fragmented interventions

Findings in detail

- Stakeholders and participation
 - ▣ Strong separation of majority and Roma societies
 - ▣ Traditions of dialogue missing
 - ▣ NGOs in Roma affairs often weak (e.g. Hungary)
 - ▣ Local governments showing little interest
- Phare's response
 - Introduce moderation, participation, deliberation techniques
 - Help establish community-based planning
 - Often top-down planning and implementation

Findings in detail

- Delivery
 - ▣ Overly ambitious designs
 - ▣ Insufficient project preparation
 - ▣ Failure of top-down methods of community development
 - Lack of ownership
 - Insufficient sustainability
 - Often lack of direct benefits for target group
 - ▣ Complicated procedures
 - Need for project design and management knowledge
 - Full reliance on „outsiders” leads to failure
 - Idea of networks of centrally provided advisers & contact points

Findings in detail

- Results by sector
 - ▣ Legislation, Institution Building: → positive impact
 - ▣ Education, Health → perceivable results
 - ▣ Employment → limited results
 - Lack of understanding of root causes of unemployment
 - Overall negative economic context
 - „Integration in primary labour market” vs. „social economy”
 - Funds insufficient
 - ▣ Infrastructure
 - Often lack of targeting on Roma – no impact (SK: better)
 - Weak sustainability
 - Funds insufficient
 - ▣ Few integrated measures (infrastr.; investment; HR.; public services...)

The IPA 2 Framework

- **No strict separation of components**
 - **Multi-annual programming**
 - Common Strategic Framework
 - Country Strategy Papers
 - Sector Support Programmes
 - **Transition from Projects to Sector Approach, if:**
 - Sufficient quality national policy and strategy in place
 - Institutional capacity and leadership
 - Sector and donor co-ordination
 - Mid-term Expenditure frameworks
 - Performance assessment Framework
- **Sector approach seems absolutely necessary in Roma affairs**

Recommendations

- **Sector approach to be accelerated**
- **Focus on policy, capacity dev., education & health**
- **Use different allocation methods (e.g. CLLD)**
- Partnership and capacity building for Roma NGOs
- Integrate with regional development programmes
- Training, counselling, fin. incentives, sheltered work, entrepreneurship, social economy for employment
- Education projects based on local partnership
- Minimise administration (simplified verification, IT)
- Equal access to public services, mainstreaming

THE END

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