



REPUBLIC OF SERBIA
GOVERNMENT

Role of Civil Society in linking EU funding, NRIS and the Decade objectives

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EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies to enlargement countries

- Lessons learned from past accessions suggest that promoting Roma integration requires:
 - an enhanced political commitment to Roma inclusion,
 - allocation of appropriate resources under the national budgets,
 - better coordination with all relevant donors and
 - a systematic evaluation and reinforced monitoring.
- Strengthening the involvement of CSOs by encouraging institutionalized dialogues with Roma representatives to:
 - become involved
 - take responsibility for policy formulation, implementation and monitoring
 - on regional, national and local level

Serbia: Roma Inclusion issues in brief

- Strategy for Roma Inclusion adopted in 2009
- Office for Human and Minority Rights new focal point for Strategy implementation
- Action Plan for The National Strategy for Improving the Status of Roma being prepared (period 2012-14) – expected adoption in March 2013
- Seminar on Roma Inclusion issues held between Government of Serbia and European Commission in June 2011
- All key operational conclusions of the Social Inclusion Seminar systematically dealt with in the last period
- Analysis of coordination of the Roma Inclusion mechanisms at the local level in the Republic of Serbia – evaluation of cooperation and coordination among the already existing local-level mechanisms aimed at improving the status of the Roma: Health Mediators, Teaching Assistants, Centres for Soc. Welfare, Empl. Services and Local Roma Coordinators
- New Census data (2011): The total number of persons declared to be Roma is 147,604, i.e. 2.05% of the total population (7,186,862)

Prioritizing Roma Inclusion within IPA

- One of the conclusions of the Seminar on Roma inclusion in 2011 – better use of EU IPA resources for Roma inclus.
- Agreed priorities: Access to Personal Documents, Education, Employment, Social and Health Care, Housing
- IPA 2012 and IPA 2013 cycles significantly recognize Roma Inclusion as a priority
- IPA 2012 Social Development Sector Fiche (€ 6,3 mln)
- IPA 2013 (approx. € 11 mln) for social inclusion and improvement of living and housing among the Roma
- IPA savings – € 3,6 mln for sustainable housing solution for resettled for Belvil and Gazela settlements
- + some other general development projects through IPA

Cross Border Cooperation for Local Needs

- Annually, Serbia has approx. 15 million € for CBC
- Small number of projects dealing with Roma inclusion issues submitted for funding through CBC
- Since 2007 only 3 million € went into Roma inclusion (out of approx. 90 mil € in this period in total)
- Lack of interest, lack of information, lack of capacity, secured other sources of funds, complex procedures...?
- In another few months new opportunities: CBC Serbia/Croatia, Serbia/B&H, Serbia/Montenegro

Looking Forward

- Analyse and better understand reasons for weak presence of Roma inclusion projects within CBC
- Promote CBC Program opportunities for Roma inclusion issues, especially among CSOs and LSGs
- Promote cooperation between LSGs and CSOs
- Capacity building still a priority. How to be more effective? *Project Generating Facility* (MtM) in all countries?
- Sustainability of results gained through CSO projects? How to ensure cooperation and partnership with institutions?
- IPA Civil Society Facility and EIDHR remains open
- Europe for Citizens – small new opportunity for the CSOs
- Can we make it more with MB IPA?

Thank you

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