

The use of the Structural Funds for Roma inclusion. Lessons learnt from the current programming period

EURoma Network



Structural Funds: Investing in Roma

EURoma Network



- *European Network on Social Inclusion and Roma under the Structural Funds*
- Initiative launched by the Spanish Government (ESF MA) and the Fundación Secretariado Gitano in 2007
- Aim: Promoting the use of the Structural Funds for Roma inclusion
- Members: public administrations, 12 EU MS (MAs and NRCP)

Discussions and findings



- EURoma Report “Roma and the Structural Funds, 2010”
- Position Paper: Proposals for the future Regulations 2014-2020
- Position Paper: The potential contribution of the Structural Funds to NRIS.
- “Tackling Roma needs in the 2014-2020 SF programming period. Guide to improve the planning process”

Progress made



- The volume of funds invested for Roma has increased significantly. Roma are more visible in OPs, mainly in ESF.
- Roma-related issues are being incorporated more systematically on the SF agenda of Member States and EU institutions.

Progress made



- New coordination mechanisms and managing models are being built in the framework of the development of regional and national OPs.
- Targeted approaches to Roma inclusion are being incorporated and positive results can be observed in several national and local contexts.

Progress made



- Civil society participation, in particular Roma involvement, has been improving (consultation in project design, implementation, representation in the Monitoring Committees).
- A number of projects have achieved substantial evidence-based results and helped to generate information, methodologies and know-how.

Shortalls



- There is often a gap between planning and implementation, as implementation does not achieve the objectives planned.
- In most cases results are poor due to inadequate institutional frameworks .
- Poor leadership and management capacity leads to scarce results.

Shortfalls



- The effective involvement of the Roma community continues to be a challenge in most projects.
- Lack of accurate data results in lack of demonstrable results and poor measurement of effectiveness.
- Lack of ownership on the part of the governments especially at the local level.

Shortfalls



- Inefficient managing models and coordination mechanisms between different departments at vertical (between central, regional and local administrations) and at horizontal level (employment, education, housing, social services...).

Shortalls



- Implementation bottlenecks related to policy changes, delays in the timing, lack of cofunding, etc.
- Low level of expenditure especially in countries with large Roma populations; in many cases, the problem is not the lack of money but the access to it and the absorption capacity of states.

Context



- The **new policy framework** related to Roma created by the NRIS and consistent with the Europe 2020 objectives and the NRP offer adequate conditions for the investment of SF for Roma inclusion

Context



- The **new Regulations** implies substantial progress in the development of social and cohesion policies, as well as policies explicitly targeting Roma

Context



- The thematic objectives proposed by the new Regulations as well as the priorities established by the different funds highlight areas such as **education, employment, the fight against exclusion, the territorial approach, the fight against discrimination**, among others, that are at the heart of Roma policies.

Proposals for drafting Partnership

Contracts that are inclusive of Roma



- Connecting the PC with the NRIS and the NRP
- Encouraging integrated approaches aiming at Roma integration in the PC
- Following a territorial and micro-territorial approach in the PC
- Following the horizontal principle of non-discrimination
- Involving stakeholders in the planning process of the PCs
- Making use of existing information and reports on the Roma situation



www.euromanet.eu