ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF ROMA

SOCIAL LAND PROGRAM

17-18 June 2014 Podgorica, Montenegro

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Strategic background – EU and National level

EU 2020 Strategy - social inclusion related targets (set by Hungary):

- employment rate 75%
- reducing school drop-out rates below 10%
- reduction of population at risk of poverty or social exclusion in number of persons 450 000

EU framework for National Roma Inclusion Strategies:

- "EU Roma integration goals should cover, in proportion to the size of the Roma population, four crucial areas: access to education, employment, healthcare and housing. "
- "This is why Member States should grant Roma people full access in a non-discriminatory way to vocational training, to the job market and to **self-employment tools and initiatives**."

Strategic background – EU and National level

National Social Inclusion Strategy:

Employment policy	•	promoting the development of appropriate labour market skills with complex programmes (trainingg + experience)
	•	employment of target group- and individual-specific active labour market methods
		supporting the employment of members of the target group promoting the development of self-sustaining (atypical) employment models
		adjusted to the local market needs, primarily in the area of agriculture in the provinces

Framework agreement between the Government of Hungary and the National Roma Self-Government:

The Government aims at the improvement of the living conditions and facilitation of the social inclusion of the Roma people. In order to realize these aims, **the Framework Agreement puts great emphasis on job creation** and cooperation in the field of education.

The following common target to be realized by 2015 related to employment **: The involvement** of 100 000 unemployed Roma in the labour market

Public works – start work programme

The system of public work was renewed in 2011

The task of the organization of public works was transferred as of the second half of 2011 from the Ministry of National Economy to the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Aims and tools:

- Expansion of employment, job creation.
- Continuation of the Start work programme which helps the long-term unemployed, the unqualified and those with altered working capacity to return to the realm of work. Cooperation with the National Roma Self-Government.
- The Start public works programme is only the first step. The goal is to enable those in the public works to subsequently find employment in the private sector.
- People should live off work, rather than benefits. Incentive to work socialisation functions.

Public works – start work programme

Aims and tools:

- Agriculture is one of its key area.
- In order to reduce benefits and to encourage engagement in work, the wage paid for public works is higher than the social benefit.
- 1,732 localities in 2013 took/take part in the micro-regional start work model programmes.
- 35,033 people were involved in the public works programmes in 2011.
- In 2012, 271,625 disadvantaged job-seekers found employment as part of the public works for longer or shorter periods.
- In 2012 some 54,000 Roma individuals may have taken part in public works.

Background: The Social land program was launched - as an **ACTIVE** social-politic tool - in 1992

Aim: to have a role in managing the local unemployment situation, to promote local employment concerning the disadvantaged social groups and to combat local back market.

The program contribute to the

- Reduction of geographical disadvantage
- Improvement of the local social and economical well being
- Better employment situation in the settlement
- Improvement of life quality of the beneficial of the program- especially Roma
- And the purposive establishment of the production and marketing process

Target locations: settelments with low level of employment

Content - three sub program:

- Public employment related sub program
- tool development and purchase of equipment sub program
- Gardening and stock raising culturesub program

Length (duration of the tasks): 10-12 month

Budget: domestic fund - in 2011 300 million (~ 1 000 000 euro), in 2012 170 (~ 566 000 euro), in 2013 250 (~ 833 000 euro), in 2014 250 (~ 833 000 euro) HUF were allocated to Social land program

Quantity of support by one applicant: from 500 000 up to 3 500 000 HUF (1600 – 12 000 euro)

Number of supported project: 100 – 170

Public employment related social land program sub program

The amount and form of the requested is progressively defined upon the nr of public employee.

- 5-8 persons 500 000 750 000 HUF,
- 9-15 persons 750 001 1 500 000 HUF,
- 16-20 persons 1 500 001 2 250 000 HUF,
- 21 persons 2 250 001 3 500 000 HUF

Tool development and purchase of equipment sub program

The objective of this subprogram is to promote investments and development of the organizations participating in the program at least two years to got in the market with their products.

- Promoting local economy
- Improving employment rate
- Improving the life quality of the socially disadvantages, inactive beneficial of the program having permanently low income

Gardening and farm culture sub program

The main aim of the subprogram is to help the beneficial to get the work experience in their gardening culture in their own farms. This activity can relates to working on the kitchen garden and/ or it can relates to the family farming and stock raising.

Expected result and impacts of the program

- Greater financial stability and stronger self sufficiency in the given settlement for the disadvantaged and uneducated people, mostly Roma
- Stronger social integration of disadvantaged people, especially Roma among them
- The local resources are utilized, and the domestic marketable quality bio products become more dominant
- The settlement can keep the population, reduced migration pressure.
- The need for social benefits of the beneficial families are reduced, and their need for self sufficiency are improved.

Social land program – Szécsény and Homrogd

Resaults			
Homrogd (933)	Szécsény (5999)		
Located in Northern Hungary	Located in Northern Hungary		
Social land program since 1993	Social land program since 2005		
50-70 families participatin in the Social land program	to help local small producers access the market		
Gardening, tillage in 3,5 acre	public and social catering		
Produced vegetables are used in local canteens (kindergarten, school, social institution)	peas (370 kg), 1000 kg of beetroot, onions (775 kg) and 5300 kg of cucumbers, tomatoes (600 kg), 350 kg of paprika		
Social "SHOP"			

Thank you for your attention!

Further Information: romagov.kormany.hu