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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