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)

- Policy, TA, Cap.
- Infrastructure
- Employment
- Education
- Health
- Social int. + Anti-discr.

BULGARIA
HUNGARY
SLOVAKIA
TOTAL
Basic data

**Phare Roma Integration Funds by Sub-Sector (%)**

- Policy, TA, Cap.
- Infrastructure
- Social int. + Anti-discr.
- Health
- Employment
- Education

BULGARIA
HUNGARY
SLOVAKIA
TOTAL
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
Findigs 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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