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.
Shortfalls

• 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 cofounding, 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.
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