Roma Youth as a Specific Target Group in Roma Policies

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Content

• Short summary of the current situation on Roma youth policies
• Why targeting Roma youth individually?
• Recommendations
In the NAPs, Roma youth are:

• passive beneficiary of measures, not stakeholders;

• addressed specifically only with second-chance education and in terms of support in formal education;

• encouraged to promote cultural and ethnic identity,
Brief analysis of the NAPs

- In HR, CZ, RS, ES, young Roma are discussed also in employment;
- The HU NAP promotes participation of Roma youth in competitive sports;
- In SK, the Roma Youth Forum participated in the design of the NAP; however it is not particularly different from other NAPs on youth’s perspective;
- In ES, NAP mentions the need to provide rental housing for young Roma.
EU Framework for NRIS

- EU Youth Strategy 2010-2018
- EU Structured Dialogue – totally missing when creating the EU Framework for NRIS
- No consultations conducted with any Roma youth networks
1. Young Roma are the most vulnerable group

- Roma population is the youngest in Europe – average age is 25, compared to 40 across the EU
- The youth is the majority – the biggest beneficiaries of any policies and the ones that mostly face the challenges
- Current economic crisis exposes them to greater social exclusion and poverty
2. Young Roma are the basis towards integration

- Taking advantage of civic and political participation, volunteering, creativity, entrepreneurship, sport and global engagement will further integration;
- Youth policies can have cross-sectoral impact;
- Enabling access to political participation and drafting policies in cooperation with young Roma will enhance opportunities for empowerment
3. Young Roma can change their communities from within

- Young people are easier to integrate
- It is easier to address sensitive issues such as gender identity, sexual orientation and diversity within the Roma community.
- Neglecting these issues triggers consequences such as: early marriage, health issues, domestic violence, and gender inequality.
- Help combat multiple discrimination
Recommendations

• Include Roma youth organizations in decision-making processes on local, national and international level
• Empower young Roma to embrace European Values in their communities
• Invest in young Roma by developing policies that are a reflection of their everyday lives and needs
• Encourage young Roma to take part in mainstream youth policies and programs in their respective countries
Thank you for your attention