



European
Commission

The European Union and Roma – Factsheet Latvia

<http://ec.europa.eu/justice/roma-integration/latvia/>

4 April 2014

1. Key Information

Roma population	
Estimate in National Roma Integration Strategy	8 517 Roma people in July 2011
Council of Europe Estimate	Approximately 12 500 (data from 2012) i.e. 0.56 % of the population
National Strategy	http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/roma-integration/latvia/national-strategy/national_en.htm
Funding	http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/roma-integration/latvia/index_en.htm

2. National Roma Integration – 2014 review

	Key steps taken since 2011	Identified Gaps
Education	<p>Evaluation of Roma participation in education.</p> <p>Measures focusing on early-childhood education, primary and secondary education.</p> <p>Roma teachers' assistants.</p> <p>Support centres for Roma parents.</p> <p>Training of professionals.</p>	<p>Needs systematic measures to tackle segregation and inclusion into mainstream education, starting with ensuring access to quality inclusive early childhood education and care as well as pre-school education.</p> <p>The impact of these measures now needs to be monitored.</p> <p>Proper monitoring of enrolment and attendance in order to effectively fight early school leaving.</p> <p>Further attention needed to tackle illiteracy.</p> <p>More efforts needed in inclusive labour market policies providing individualised support to Roma.</p> <p>Promote employment through labour market relevant training and reskilling.</p>

Employment	Active labour market policy in support of Roma as a vulnerable group.	More efforts needed in inclusive labour market policies providing individualised support to Roma. Promote employment promoted through labour market relevant training and reskilling.
Health	Support provided to Roma as part of national health policy.	Needs a more systematic and integrated approach to improve access for Roma to healthcare, including health insurance coverage. Promote training of healthcare professionals.
Housing	Support provided to Roma as part of general housing policy.	Needs a more systematic and integrated approach to improve access of Roma to quality housing.
Anti-discrimination	Awareness-raising activities (including by the Ombudsman) promoting inter-cultural dialogue.	Ensure the effective practical enforcement of anti-discrimination law.
Funding	<p>No specific amount has been allocated exclusively for Roma integration.</p> <p>Roma inclusion supported by national and EU.</p> <p>In the 2007-2013 financial period, Latvia has allocated 7.3 % (~ €42 million) of its total European Social Fund (ESF) budget for integrating disadvantaged people.</p>	Latvia should allocate at least 20% of its total ESF budget to fight social exclusion and poverty.
Priorities for the future (Commission recommendation)	<p>The implementation of effective Roma inclusion measures in education, housing, healthcare and employment should be secured, also through allocation of adequate funding.</p> <p>The impact of measures and activities to support Roma inclusion should be further monitored.</p> <p>Ensure constructive dialogue with civil society and close cooperation with local and regional authorities.</p>	

3. Contacts

Contact Points	
National Roma Contact Point	Ministry of Culture Department of Society Integration Affairs http://www.km.gov.lv/en/
Managing Authorities for ESF (European Social Fund) funded projects	Ms. Kristīne Dortāne, Head of EU Financial Assistance and ESF Division, EU Funds Department Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Latvia E-mail: Kristine.Dortane@fm.gov.lv http://www.esfondi.lv/
Managing Authorities for ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) funded projects	http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/manage/authority/authorities.cfm?lan=EN&pay=lv
Fundamental Rights Agency Country Report:	http://fra.europa.eu/en/country-data/2013/country-thematic-studies-situation-roma

4. Promising practices

Social services for Roma

The European Social Fund (ESF) has funded three projects in Latvia under the programme ‘Development of social rehabilitation and alternative social care services in regions’. In Jelgava in central Latvia, the city council has set up a social service for Roma families with children of pre-school and school age, to boost self-esteem among parents. Jelgava is home to some 1 500 - 2 000 Roma. These Roma families live in social housing with few or no amenities.

In the framework of the ESF project “Development and Implementation of Social Rehabilitation Program in the Day Centre for Roma Residing in Jūrmala City”, over 400 Roma persons have received social rehabilitation services in the day centre for Roma.

Other examples of good practices from funding allocated through the ESF and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) include the training of teachers’ assistants of Roma background, which started in 2008, and ESF projects targeting social rehabilitation of Roma populations, including work involving Roma communities in Jūrmala City. This includes access to services such as a ‘Healthy Life School’ and a health care centre.

http://issuu.com/iic_daiga/docs/celvedis_izgl_iest?e=5624051/2924677