EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR JUSTICE AND CONSUMERS

Directorate D – Equality and Non-Discrimination
Unit D.2 – Non-Discrimination: Anti-Racism and Roma Coordination

Synopsis report

Consultations on the implementation of National Roma Strategic Frameworks covering the period from 1 June 2023 to 31 March 2025

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1. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

This synopsis report summarises stakeholder consultations conducted to inform the Commission's third Report on the progress made in the implementation of national Roma strategic frameworks. It concerns the implementation period from 1 June 2023 to 31 March 2025.

It presents views expressed by civil society, public authorities and EU citizens. The synopsis covers two consultations:

- **Implementation Dialogue with Commissioner Lahbib on the implementation of the EU Roma Strategic Framework** ([1]), which brought together a range of stakeholders working at the EU, national and local levels, took place on 12 November 2025.

- **The Call for Evidence** (CfE) ([2]) was made available to interested stakeholders on the Commission's 'Have Your Say' platform from 21 November to 19 December 2025.

The Commission's third implementation report draws on several evidence sources, including Member States' national progress reports, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) Roma Survey 2024 and independent assessments from the Roma Civil Monitoring initiative, involving more than 120 Roma and pro-Roma NGOs across the EU as well as findings from the Implementation Dialogue and the Call for Evidence.

([1]) Available at: https://commission.europa.eu/get-involved/events/implementation-dialogue-eu-roma-strategic-framework-commissioner-hadja-lahbib-2025-11-12_en.

([2]) Available at: https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/15852-National-Roma-strategic-frameworks-third-Commission-report-on-their-implementation_en.

2. OVERVIEW OF THE STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS

- **Implementation Dialogue with Commissioner Lahbib**

The Implementation Dialogue brought together 29 representatives of Roma and pro-Roma civil society organisations, national authorities, academia and social enterprises to discuss the implementation of the EU Roma Strategic Framework and national Roma strategic frameworks. Participants raised a range of challenges affecting Roma equality, inclusion and participation, including concerns about antigypsyism and shrinking civic space, limited Roma participation, difficulties in accessing funding, poverty and social exclusion.

In discussions on employment, education, housing and health, participants reported limited progress and continuing segregation. They also raised concerns about local implementation of national Roma strategies and the recognition of Roma-led social enterprises. Participants repeatedly linked antigypsyism to exclusion and emphasised the need for equality data, stronger local implementation and adequately funded, integrated policies.

The Commission recalled ongoing and forthcoming initiatives relevant to the issues raised by stakeholders, including support for Roma and pro-Roma civil society, the implementation of the European Child Guarantee, the Anti-Poverty Strategy and the European Affordable Housing Plan, as well as continued monitoring of Member States' compliance with EU legislation. For more information about this consultation please see the website: Implementation dialogue on the EU Roma Strategic Framework with Commissioner Hadja Lahbib - European Commission .

- **Call for Evidence**

The public Call for Evidence received 19 responses and six supplementary technical documents. The analysis covered the 17 eligible responses and all six supplementary technical documents submitted through the Call for Evidence.

Table 1: Respondent Profile (Analysed responses)

Stakeholder Type	Number of Responses	Percentage
EU Citizens	7	41.2%
Public Authorities	6	35.3%
NGOs (non-governmental organisations)	4	23.5%
Total Analysed	**17**	**100%**

Source – National Roma strategic frameworks – third Commission report on their implementation

Table 2: Geographic Distribution (Analysed Responses)

Country of Origin	Number of Responses	Percentage
Czechia	4	23.5%
Belgium	2	11.8%
Germany	2	11.8%
Ireland	2	11.8%
Slovakia	2	11.8%
Spain	2	11.8%
Other countries	3	17.5%

Source – National Roma strategic frameworks – third Commission report on their implementation

3. KEY FINDINGS FROM THE CALL FOR EVIDENCE

The following section summarises issues raised in the 17 analysed CfE responses and the six supplementary technical documents submitted through the Call for Evidence. It is organised according to the seven objectives of the EU Roma Strategic Framework, with funding and implementation addressed separately. Given the limited number of responses, the findings should be read as a synthesis of the views and information submitted to the consultation and not as a representative assessment of stakeholders across the EU. Country-specific measures mentioned below are presented as reported by respondents and do not constitute an independent assessment of their implementation or effectiveness.

Horizontal objectives

Antigypsyism and discrimination

Several civil society and public-authority respondents described antigypsyism and discrimination as cross-cutting barriers affecting access to education, employment, housing, healthcare and other services. Respondents called for stronger implementation and enforcement of anti-discrimination and desegregation measures and for racism against Roma and Travellers to be addressed across relevant national policies. Some submissions also linked the prevention of antigypsyism to education, including greater inclusion of Roma history, culture and perspectives in curricula. A Czech public authority reported the adoption of a non-binding definition of antigypsyism by the Government and parliamentary bodies as a positive institutional development.

Roma participation

Civil society respondents raised concerns about the quality and timing of Roma participation. Some described engagement as symbolic and reported that Roma organisations are not consistently involved on an equal footing in policy design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Several submissions stressed that meaningful participation requires stable funding, institutional recognition and sustained dialogue with Roma and pro-Roma civil society.

- **Strategic engagement:** Respondents called for deeper and more regular engagement with Roma civil society throughout policy design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
- **Roma youth and community participation:** Respondents called for greater involvement of Roma youth in governance and decision-making. In the housing context, one NGO also stressed the participation of Roma women and community-led planning. Public-authority submissions referred to structured participation mechanisms, including national, regional and local councils in Spain, the B-Roma Platform in Belgium and Roma participation in monitoring structures in Czechia.
- **Support for civil society:** Respondents called for sustainable funding and institutional support for Roma and pro-Roma organisations so that they can contribute to implementation, monitoring, service delivery and policy development without relying only on short-term projects.

Poverty and social exclusion

Respondents linked poverty and social exclusion to disadvantages in housing, employment, education and access to services. Several submissions criticised reliance on short-term, fragmented projects and called for long-term, adequately funded and integrated approaches. Respondents also stressed that mainstream policies should be combined with targeted measures where Roma and Travellers face specific disadvantages. Some called for Roma-specific needs to be reflected more explicitly in broader anti-poverty, child and social-inclusion policies. Measures proposed included:

- **Multi-annual funding:** Move from short-term projects towards stable, multi-annual programming and structural investment.
- **Mainstream and targeted approaches:** Integrate Roma equality and inclusion objectives across mainstream sectoral policies while retaining targeted measures where specific disadvantages persist.
- **Cross-sectoral coordination:** Strengthen coordination and budgeting across relevant areas, including education, employment, housing, health and social protection.
- **Accountability:** Set clear targets, timelines, responsible actors and monitoring arrangements for policy and financial commitments.
- **Policy co-creation:** Involve Roma communities and representative organisations in the design and implementation of inclusion measures.

Sectoral objectives

Education: Segregation and assessment practices

Respondents highlighted continuing educational segregation and unequal educational outcomes. Several submissions raised concerns about the disproportionate placement of Roma children in special education and linked this to inappropriate assessment or confusion between social disadvantage and intellectual disability. Other issues raised included low participation in early childhood education, early school leaving, barriers at transition points, limited access to lifelong learning, and insufficient inclusion of Roma history, culture and perspectives in curricula. Measures proposed included:

- **Desegregation:** Review school district boundaries and other local arrangements that may reinforce segregation, and support municipalities and schools in implementing desegregation measures.
- **School incentives and monitoring:** Use appropriate financial incentives and monitoring so that mainstream schools enrol and support Roma and socially disadvantaged pupils without reinforcing segregated provision.
- **Early education and transitions:** Support participation in pre-school education where applicable and provide targeted support at key transitions within the education system.
- **Admission and assessment:** Apply clear and objective admission and assessment criteria and strengthen oversight of diagnostic practices to reduce discriminatory sorting and inappropriate placement in special education.
- **Inclusive school environment:** Improve information on education rights and appeals, address racist bullying, and strengthen inclusion of Roma history, culture and perspectives in education.

Employment: Discrimination and access to opportunities

Respondents highlighted discrimination and unequal access to employment, low employment levels in some local contexts and weak links between employment services, social services and employers. Social enterprises and targeted employment measures were identified as possible instruments for improving labour-market inclusion. Czech public authorities reported the adoption of legislation on integration social enterprises and pilot cooperation on integration jobs, while Spanish respondents referred to a 2025-2028 employment plan/action plan targeting Roma. Some respondents also argued that Roma exclusion from the labour market has wider economic costs and called for employment measures to address the interaction between pay, benefits and access to social protection.

Housing and Essential Services

Respondents described severe housing deprivation, residential and spatial segregation, lack of affordable housing and limited access to essential services in some Roma communities. Several submissions stressed that housing conditions affect outcomes in health, education,

employment and social inclusion. One housing-focused NGO called for integrated approaches combining construction and renovation in non-segregated locations with secure tenure, affordable financing, community participation and support for housing agencies or cooperatives. The same submission highlighted the specific barriers faced by Roma women in access to financial resources and housing decision-making. Czech public-authority feedback also reported measures linking the revitalisation of segregated localities with affordable and social housing.

Health: Access barriers and equality data

Respondents reported unequal access and barriers to healthcare and social services and linked these to broader patterns of discrimination and socio-economic disadvantage. Some submissions called for anti-discrimination measures to be implemented more consistently in health services. Respondents also stressed the need for equality data to identify disparities, support targeted measures and monitor health outcomes, while noting the close relationship between health and housing conditions.

Implementation and governance issues raised

Funding

Funding was a recurring theme across civil society and public-authority submissions. Respondents stressed that implementation depends on sufficient, stable and long-term resources at EU, national and local levels and raised concerns about reliance on short-term projects and uncertainty over post-project financing. Several submissions referred to the importance of EU funds, including ESF+ and ERDF, while also stressing the need for national budgetary commitments. Issues raised included:

- **Local and institutional funding:** Ensure that municipalities and responsible institutions have adequate resources and capacity to implement strategy commitments.
- **Long-term sustainability:** Reduce reliance on short-term project funding and address continuity after EU-funded projects end.
- **Mainstream and targeted funding:** Reflect Roma equality and inclusion objectives in relevant sectoral budgets while retaining targeted allocations where specific disadvantages require them.
- **EU funding instruments:** Several respondents highlighted the role of ESF+ and ERDF and called for Roma equality and inclusion to remain visible in future EU financial frameworks.
- **Civil society funding:** Civil society respondents called for stable and dedicated support for Roma and pro-Roma organisations involved in participation, monitoring and implementation.
- **Linking funding to results:** Connect funding to clear objectives, measurable targets, timelines and monitoring arrangements.

Local implementation and municipal capacity

Respondents described gaps between national strategies and implementation at regional and local level. Public-authority and civil-society submissions stressed the importance of multilevel coordination, sufficient administrative capacity and clearer responsibility for implementation. Issues raised included:

- **Links between levels of governance:** Strengthen coordination between national, regional and local authorities and ensure that national objectives are translated into locally implemented measures.
- **Municipal and institutional capacity:** Address shortages of staff and technical expertise and provide methodological support to authorities implementing Roma inclusion measures.
- **Training and professional capacity:** One regional submission called for systematic training of staff working in education, social services, health, policing and public administration on issues relevant to Roma inclusion.
- **Local commitment and incentives:** Strengthen political and financial incentives for local authorities to integrate Roma equality and inclusion into local development and sectoral plans.
- **Coordination structures:** Respondents reported examples of formal participation and coordination structures at national, regional and local levels and called for these mechanisms to be strengthened and adequately resourced.

Data collection and monitoring

Respondents called for more consistent and comparable equality data to support evidence-based policy development, monitoring and evaluation. Submissions pointed to gaps in the availability and use of data at national and regional level and called for clearer methodologies to assess outcomes and disparities. Civil society respondents stressed that equality data should be collected in line with human-rights and data-protection standards, including voluntary self-identification and informed consent. One Irish submission called for disaggregated data by ethnicity and gender across administrative systems and statutory services. Respondents also reported examples of developing monitoring tools and external evaluation processes to assess implementation and the reach of funded measures.

4. CONCLUSIONS FROM STAKEHOLDERS FEEDBACK

Across the two consultations, stakeholders called for more sustained, integrated and locally implemented approaches, rather than reliance on isolated or short-term projects. Frequently raised priorities included tackling antigypsyism, strengthening Roma

participation, addressing segregation in education and housing, improving local implementation and ensuring sustainable funding.

Stakeholders also emphasised the need for stronger monitoring and equality data, as well as adequate capacity and accountability at local level. The findings reflect the views expressed by participants and respondents in the two consultations and are not intended to constitute a representative assessment of stakeholders across the EU.

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