



European
Commission



The European Union and Roma – Factsheet Cyprus

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

4 April 2014

1. Key Information

Roma population	
Estimate in National Roma Integration Strategy	Approximately 650 - 700 (government controlled area)
Council of Europe Estimate	Approximately 1 250 i.e. 0.11% of the population (data from 2012)

National Strategy	http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/roma-integration/cyprus/national-strategy/national_en.htm
Funding	http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/roma-integration/cyprus/index_en.htm

2. National Roma Integration – 2014 review

	Key steps taken since 2011	Identified Gaps
Education	Multicultural education, efforts to overcome language barriers, teacher training, bilingual teachers and special support offered to Roma students.	Safeguarding the right to education of Roma students, especially non-Greek speaking Roma. Encouraging Roma families to enrol their children in school, establishing intercultural dialogue and respect between persons of different ethnic origins.
Employment	Public employment services provide assistance, including vocational guidance, counselling and training programmes.	Impact of these policies needs to be measured.
Health	Healthcare offered free of charge to all Turkish Cypriots, including Roma.	Impact of health policy measures should be evaluated.

Housing	Two housing projects launched - one in Limassol and one in Paphos.	Closely monitor implementation of housing projects.
Anti-discrimination	No specific initiatives in this area have been taken.	Awareness raising campaigns to promote Roma integration.
Funding	Roma inclusion has been supported by national and EU funds. In the 2007-2013 financial period, Cyprus has allocated 11.4 % (~€ 13 million) of its total European Social Fund (ESF) budget for integrating disadvantaged people.	Further use of EU funds to support Roma inclusion. Cyprus should allocate at least 20% of its total ESF to fighting social exclusion and poverty
Priorities for the future (Commission recommendation)	Monitoring the impact of the measures and activities is now needed.	

3. Contacts

Contact Points

National Roma Contact Point	Social Welfare Services, Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance Email: emarouchou@sws.mlsi.gov.cy
Managing Authorities for ESF (European Social Fund) funded projects	Planning Bureau/Γραφείο Προγραμματισμού Tel.: +357 22 602 814 Fax: +357 22 666 810 E-mail: planningbureau@planning.gov.cy www.structuralfunds.org.cy
Managing Authorities for ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) funded projects	http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/manage/authority/authorities.cfm?lan=EN&pay=cy
Fundamental Rights Agency Country Report:	http://fra.europa.eu/en/country-data/2013/country-thematic-studies-situation-roma

4. Promising practices

Getting more Roma children to school

There are a number of actions undertaken to promote the educational opportunities for disadvantaged children. In this context, special attention is given to Roma pupils. The Cyprus Ministry of Education and Culture has implemented the following measures addressing the education needs of Roma students:

- Provision of remedial teaching for learning Greek (for adult and children, during and after school hours);
- Financial support for: books, transport, uniforms and other items connected to schooling;
- Providing breakfast and lunch free of charge to Roma students attending state primary schools.