

Czech Republic

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Roma population	Estimate in the document	approximately 150 000 - 200 000
	<i>Council of Europe estimates</i>	<i>approximately 250 000 i.e. 1.93 % of the population</i>
Approach		National strategy

	KEY ELEMENTS	IDENTIFIED GAPS
Education	<p>The strategy includes in particular the following positive elements:</p> <p>Increasing accessibility to pre-school education and early care services in socially excluded Roma localities.</p> <p>Improving the process of diagnosing the special educational needs of Roma pupils.</p> <p>Supporting teaching assistants.</p> <p>Supporting Roma children from elementary schools when transferring to the secondary and tertiary education systems.</p> <p>Full day schools.</p> <p>Life-long-learning on key skills and literacy.</p> <p>Developing models for inclusive education.</p>	<p><i>More concrete targets and corresponding measures are needed on how to tackle segregation of Roma children in the educational system. An integrated approach is also necessary.</i></p>
Employment	<p>The strategy includes in particular the following positive elements:</p> <p>Reform of public employment services in favour of disadvantaged Roma job applicants.</p> <p>Building the capacity of social services providers in socially excluded Roma localities.</p> <p>Supporting social businesses.</p> <p>Offering requalification courses and individual professional counselling on starting up a business.</p> <p>Fighting against illegal employment.</p> <p>Building financial literacy of Roma in socially excluded Roma localities.</p>	<p><i>Developing more concrete measures in the area of social economy and integration into open labour market would be needed. Reform of the public employment service should be complemented by accessible and targeted social services of high quality. Support for self-employment of Roma by microcredit schemes would be beneficial. Focus on effective grant policy for implementing the measures would be relevant.</i></p>

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Health	<p>The strategy includes in particular the following positive elements:</p> <p>Includes support for a programme of health social assistants in socially excluded Roma localities.</p> <p>Improving the communication between the members of Roma communities and the medical personnel.</p> <p>Awareness raising on health and healthy lifestyle.</p>	<p><i>The strategy could be significantly improved through further measures to address accessibility of health-care, preventive care and social services; the inclusion of measurable targets; a clearer timeframe for implementation; a clearer financial allocation and information systems to monitor health needs and health outcomes of Roma.</i></p>
Housing	<p>The strategy includes in particular the following positive elements:</p> <p>Revitalisation of socially excluded Roma localities via integrated urban development plans.</p> <p>Increase access to social housing for Roma households with low incomes.</p> <p>Reduction of the incidence of discrimination and unlawful practices applied to Roma in the housing market.</p> <p>Prevention of the loss of accommodation by socially excluded members of Roma communities as a result of rental arrears.</p>	<p><i>The strategy could be further improved by concrete measures to provide non-discriminatory access to housing, including good quality social housing.</i></p> <p><i>The implementation of measures should be underpinned by legal steps in the area of protection of Roma households against unlawful practices in the property market.</i></p>
Structural requirements and funding	<p>All goals fit the national context.</p> <p>Special attention is also paid to indebtedness and security of Roma as well as culture and language.</p> <p>The cooperation between the central government and regional authorities is foreseen.</p>	<p><i>The strategy would be more precise with a detailed description of the timeframe, monitoring and evaluation system. The sustainability of EU funded measures requires further attention. Specific attention should also be devoted to an integrated approach and cooperation and involvement of civil society.</i></p>