

Belgium

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Roma population	Estimate in the document	30 000 Roma; 9 250 Travellers
	<i>Council of Europe estimates</i>	<i>approximately 30 000 i.e. 0.29 % of the population</i>
Approach		Integrated set of policy measures

	KEY ELEMENTS	IDENTIFIED GAPS
Education	<p>The strategy includes in particular the following positive elements:</p> <p>Principle of equal and non-discriminatory access to education.</p> <p>Provision of education to every child and young person (6-18 years old) from the Roma community, independently of his/her status, which corresponds to the full enforcement of compulsory primary education in compliance to national law.</p>	<p><i>The action plan requires more information on the order of magnitude, indicators, monitoring and funding at the different levels of implementation.</i></p>
Employment	<p>The strategy includes in particular the following positive elements:</p> <p>Measures targeted at intermediaries dedicated to train, improve knowledge and collect information for welfare services.</p> <p>Data collection.</p> <p>Pilot project: "from migrants to middle class" (Brussels)</p>	<p><i>Indicators and data (e.g. clear description of the baseline etc.) as well as clear earmarking of financial means should be added in order to enable monitoring and assessing whether the actions meet the objectives. Attention should also be paid to the gender issue.</i></p>
Health	<p>The strategy includes in particular the following positive elements:</p> <p>Ensuring Roma have accessible, quality and sustainable healthcare services, mainly using existing services.</p> <p>Pilot project focused upon the provision of healthcare services to Roma patients in the area of Sint-Niklaas.</p>	<p><i>Further work is needed to clarify goals, how progress will be evaluated and to develop an action plan with detailed measures.</i></p>
Housing	<p>The strategy includes in particular the following positive elements:</p> <p>Housing policy (for Roma and other target groups) aiming at increasing the availability of good and appropriate housing, for an accessible price.</p> <p>Development of halting sites by the Flemish authorities to use as caravan camps by the local authorities or social housing agencies.</p>	<p><i>Cohesion policy financial instruments could contribute to social housing in the framework of an integrated approach. Local plans should also be taken into account by the strategy, particularly those plans implemented through urban type of interventions.</i></p>
Structural requirements and funding	<p>The strategy includes in particular the following positive elements:</p> <p>A "Council for the Roma and the Travellers" will be established by the federal government.</p> <p>A special "Roma Helpdesk" will be established within the federal ministry for social integration</p> <p>Implementation of the national strategy will be monitored on an annual basis through a working group/committee gathering representatives of the various instances.</p>	<p><i>Details on the funding of the proposed action plans by the different decision-making levels should be included. Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms should be specified in the strategy.</i></p>