

Slovakia

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Roma population	Estimate in the document	approximately 440 000
	<i>Council of Europe estimates</i>	<i>approximately 500 000 i.e. 9.17 % 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 pre-school participation of Roma children from 3 years of age.</p> <p>Increasing inclusiveness of the educational system and effectiveness of the social support system.</p> <p>Eliminating barriers in the transition to high schools; linking secondary education with the labour market's needs.</p> <p>Increasing the number of teachers and specialists fluent in Romani language.</p>	<p><i>More focus on desegregation, second chance education and ensuring that mainstream policies also respond to the specific needs of Roma could further improve this part of the strategy.</i></p> <p><i>Measures to develop local policies preventing 'non-Roma children flight' from schools attended by many Roma pupils would be needed.</i></p> <p><i>Compulsory pre-school education, offering increased financial support to high school and tertiary school students should be examined.</i></p>
Employment	<p>The strategy includes in particular the following positive elements:</p> <p>Supporting "second-chance" education and increasing training opportunities.</p> <p>Motivating public and private employers to adopt a culture of offering job opportunities to the marginalised and socially excluded.</p> <p>Improving non-discriminatory access to work opportunities.</p>	<p><i>High inactivity, long-term unemployment and low skill levels should be addressed by more specific measures and supported by adequate budgets.</i></p> <p><i>Ineffectiveness of current Active Labour Market Policy and public work creation should be also addressed with increased focus on effective integration to the open labour market.</i></p> <p><i>Public Employment Services providing accessible and targeted services for Roma job-seekers could improve results.</i></p> <p><i>Non-discriminatory access to the labour market, policies involving the majority population, schools, social partners, and media, to fight prejudice are necessary. Strengthening territorial aspects of policy making with focus on most disadvantaged regions should be considered.</i></p> <p><i>Possibilities of job creation in rural areas in sectors other than agriculture and forestry, e. g. traditional crafts and micro businesses should also be considered.</i></p>

	KEY ELEMENTS	IDENTIFIED GAPS
Health	<p>The strategy includes in particular the following positive elements:</p> <p>Improving accessibility of healthcare including preventive health-care and health education.</p> <p>Improving hygiene in deprived Roma settlements.</p> <p>Considering resettlement, should the residents of such locations be under health risks.</p> <p>Improving the communication between the members of Roma communities and the medical personnel, focus on health education, awareness raising on sexual and reproductive health, drug addiction, and domestic violence in marginalised Roma communities.</p>	<p><i>A quantitative assessment of the health situation of Roma, greater focus on children and the role of the Roma health mediators would strengthen the strategy.</i></p> <p><i>Clear actions, responsibilities and budget need to be defined. Further work is needed to monitor progress and health outcomes.</i></p>
Housing	<p>The strategy envisages to the use EU funds (especially ERDF in the area of housing).</p>	<p><i>Concrete, more ambitious and integrated measures to provide non-discriminatory access to housing are necessary.</i></p> <p><i>The link between the goals and the process to reach them needs to be strengthened.</i></p> <p><i>The issue of eligibility for housing support for people with temporary residence in shelters or in undocumented dwellings should be addressed.</i></p>
Structural requirements and funding	<p>The strategy provides an accurate description of the Roma situation. A holistic approach is followed. Emphasis is put on cooperation with Roma civil society and local and regional authorities.</p> <p>An important aspect is the recognition of the need to work with the majority population to tackle widespread prejudices/stereotypes. The strategy also covers the area of Roma financial inclusion.</p> <p>The overall budget allocation is quantified (€141m) for the period 2011-2015. However, individual measures in the action plan do not always specify budget implications.</p> <p>The Slovak strategy plans to use ERDF for housing.</p> <p>The strategy makes reference to the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), without mentioning any amount.</p>	<p><i>The sustainability of EU funded measures requires further attention.</i></p> <p><i>Funding is not always properly quantified and appears to be insufficient.</i></p> <p><i>It would be useful to draw lessons from the past concerning the implementation of projects financed by structural funds.</i></p> <p><i>It will be also important to align Operational Programmes for the programming period 2014-2020 with the strategy.</i></p> <p><i>The commitment to a strong involvement of civil society and local authorities in planning and implementation should be ensured.</i></p>