

Portugal

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Roma population	Estimate in the document	Approximately 40 000 - 60 000
	<i>Council of Europe estimates</i>	<i>approximately 40 000 - 70 000, i.e. 0.52% of the population</i>
Approach		National strategy

	KEY ELEMENTS	IDENTIFIED GAPS
Education	<p>The strategy includes in particular the following positive elements:</p> <p>Improving knowledge of the school situation of Roma students and trainees at school.</p> <p>Ensuring access to pre-school education; Increasing rates of school attendance, ensuring that all Roma children complete compulsory education.</p> <p>Encouraging students to stay on at secondary school, by providing incentives to higher education and training.</p> <p>Preventing early school leaving; Ensuring access to lifelong learning; Combating illiteracy.</p>	<p><i>More focus on desegregation and ensuring that mainstream policies also respond to the specific needs of Roma could further improve this part of the strategy.</i></p>
Employment	<p>The strategy includes in particular the following positive elements:</p> <p>Training staff and tailoring training provision to the specific characteristics of Roma communities.</p> <p>Facilitating access to employment and creation of self-employment.</p> <p>Improve vocational qualifications with a view to integration in the labour market.</p> <p>Developing an integrated approach to Roma communities, giving priority to working in partnership.</p>	<p><i>More attention should be dedicated to recent economic and social transformations and its implications.</i></p>
Health	<p>The strategy includes in particular the following positive elements:</p> <p>Organising training/information actions on health education and available services.</p> <p>Preventive measures.</p> <p>Training health professionals in, and improving their awareness of, cultural diversity.</p> <p>Creating and/or strengthening close relations between health service providers and Roma communities.</p>	<p><i>Further work could be considered on monitoring progress in the implementation of the actions proposed and in health outcomes.</i></p>

	KEY ELEMENTS	IDENTIFIED GAPS
Housing	<p>The strategy includes in particular the following positive elements:</p> <p>Development of a knowledge base on the housing conditions of Roma communities.</p> <p>Development of integration practices of Roma communities.</p> <p>Measures aimed at improving the housing conditions and access to housing.</p>	<p><i>The strategy could be further improved by concrete measures to provide non-discriminatory access to housing.</i></p>
Structural requirements and funding	<p>Roma communities participated in the preparation of the strategy and it is acknowledged that they should be more involved in its implementation.</p> <p>The strategy foresees the creation of a consultative body which will be responsible for the monitoring of the strategy.</p>	<p><i>Detailing a calendar, targets, indicators, and budget are needed to secure the effective implementation.</i></p>