



European
Commission



The European Union and Roma – Factsheet The Netherlands

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

4 April 2014

1. Key Information

Roma population	
Estimate in National Roma Integration Strategy	20 000 - 40 000
Council of Europe Estimate	Approximately 40 000 (data from 2012) i.e. 0.24% of the population
National Strategy	http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/roma-integration/netherlands/national-strategy/national_en.htm
Funding	http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/roma-integration/netherlands/index_en.htm

2. National Roma Integration – 2014 review

	Key steps taken since 2011	Identified Gaps
Education	<p>A series of local level projects organised by local municipalities to fight school absenteeism and reducing school drop-out rates.</p> <p>Individual approach to school attendance of Roma children (one family-one plan-one case manager).</p> <p>Employing school attendance officers and Roma school assistants at primary schools</p>	<p>Should consider awareness-raising activities to enhance mutual trust between Roma parents, Roma pupils, in particular Roma girls and schools.</p> <p>Should pay more attention should be paid to the fight against adult illiteracy.</p>
Employment	<p>Support provided as part of mainstream active labour market policies.</p>	<p>The impact of these measures now needs to be monitored. Could consider vocational training of young Roma.</p> <p>Needs to address discriminatory practices in the labour market.</p>

Health	Support provided as part of mainstream health policy measures.	Should consider awareness-raising campaigns on preventive health-care targeting Roma families.
Housing	Access to social housing and subsidised rental properties provided as part of mainstream housing policy. Municipalities provide for halting sites.	Needs to address discriminatory practices in the property market.
Anti-discrimination	No specific steps to address discrimination against the Roma, beyond general policy measures.	Need for awareness-raising campaigns to tackle prejudices and stereotyping against Roma and Sinti, to enhance mutual trust between Roma and non-Roma. Should reinforce training activities for administrative staff working closely with Roma communities.
Funding	No specific amount has been allocated exclusively to Roma integration. Roma inclusion supported by national and EU funds under various measures, including social inclusion measures, through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • national and municipal budgets. • EU Labour Plus project running in nine countries and funded by INTERREG IVC in cooperation with the European Towns and Pilot Cities Platform. In the 2007-2013 financial period, The Netherlands allocated 8% (~ €66 million) of its total ESF budget to the integration of disadvantaged people.	The Netherlands should allocate at least 20% of the ESF budget for the 2014-20 period to social inclusion.
Priorities for the future (Commission recommendation)	Representation and active participation of Roma in the planning, implementation and evaluation of activities should be encouraged. Evidence from the “Roma monitor” survey could inspire measures reflecting the complexity of the Roma’s situation. The impact of measures and activities to support Roma inclusion should be further monitored.	

3. Contacts

Contact Points

National Roma Contact Point

Ministry for Interior Affairs and Kingdom relations
Department for Integration and Society

<http://www.rijksoverheid.nl/ministeries/bzk>

Managing Authorities for ESF (European Social Fund) funded projects	Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment Ministerie van Sociale Zaken en Werkgelegenheid Tel. (31-70) 315 20 00 http://www.agentschapszw.nl www.europaomdehoek.nl
Managing Authorities for ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) funded projects	http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/manage/authority/authorities.cfm?lan=EN&pay=nl
Fundamental Rights Agency Country Report:	http://fra.europa.eu/en/country-data/2013/country-thematic-studies-situation-roma

4. Promising practices

Increasing school attendance

The Netherlands created a specific platform bringing together local authorities with large Roma communities in order to increase school attendance of Roma children. School absenteeism of Roma is a major concern for the Dutch government, and municipalities are increasingly aware of the problem. School attendance is mandatory for children from the age of five.

In several Dutch municipalities there are projects to involve Roma (as well as other minority groups) in the school system. Dutch municipalities employ assistant teachers of these minority groups (for instance from the Sinti, Iranian or Chinese community). This reduces school drop out rates of children and proves to be successful.

As part of a transnational initiative, the LabourPlus project was launched in 2012. The municipality of Nieuwegein is its lead partner and funding comes from the European Regional Development Fund. The initiative's aim is to address social exclusion of vulnerable groups from the labour market, especially exclusion of migrants and the Roma in particular.

<http://www.labourplus.eu>