

# Latvia

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Roma population	Estimate in the document	8 517 Roma people in July 2011
	<i>Council of Europe estimates</i>	<i>approximately 14 500 i.e. 0.65 % 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>The policy document sets the goal for “an effective system in place for the inclusion of Roma children in general education schools” by 2018.</p> <p>Combination of mainstreamed and targeted measures.</p> <p>Roma mediators.</p> <p>Teacher support.</p> <p>Education seminars for Roma families.</p> <p>Exchanges of good practice.</p> <p>Good description of the situation of Roma people.</p>	<p><i>More attention to early childhood education, and adult education would have been relevant.</i></p> <p><i>Data used in the strategy should be updated.</i></p>
Employment	<p>The strategy includes in particular the following positive elements:</p> <p>Emphasis on research in order to support evidence-based policies.</p> <p>Promotion of dialogue between Roma, NGOs and employers.</p> <p>Support for groups at risk of social exclusion.</p>	<p><i>The local and regional authorities should be involved.</i></p> <p><i>Measures should be foreseen to facilitate registered self-employment of the Roma.</i></p> <p><i>Data used in the strategy should be updated.</i></p>
Health	<p>Research foreseen in order to collect data to support evidence-based policies.</p>	<p><i>Data used in the strategy should be updated.</i></p> <p><i>Measuring the impact of the equal treatment approach on the situation of Roma people is necessary</i></p>

	KEY ELEMENTS	IDENTIFIED GAPS
Housing	<p>The strategy includes in particular the following positive elements:</p> <p>Presentation of information on the basis of various sources on the housing situation of Roma people.</p> <p>Forthcoming study on the socio-economic situation of Roma people in Latvia, followed by a foreseen reflection on the need to amend the existing legislation regulating housing assistance to Roma people.</p> <p>Foreseen training within the local authorities dealing with Roma people on housing issues.</p>	<p><i>The involvement of local authorities should be strengthened, in particular in relation to social housing.</i></p> <p><i>Data used in the strategy should be updated</i></p>
Structural requirements and funding	<p>Local and regional authorities have been consulted and follow-up activities (seminars, network of regional coordinators) are foreseen to maintain dialogue with stakeholders.</p> <p>Civil society has been consulted and public debates have taken place in the drafting phase. Strengthening the civil society capacity is foreseen.</p> <p>A dynamic monitoring mechanism is planned including a consultative board for the coordination of the implementation and regular reports and surveys.</p> <p>Measures to fight against discrimination and support Roma culture are indicated.</p>	<p><i>Clearer allocation of funding would further improve the strategy.</i></p>