

## BELGIUM

	Key steps since 2011	Assessment
Education	<p>A range of measures addressing the educational situation of Roma have been undertaken such as fighting early school leaving, encouraging Roma parental involvement, research on better understanding of the situation and needs of children from Eastern and Central Europe and addressing parents' illiteracy.</p> <p>Adoption of the National Child Poverty Reduction Plan (June 2013).</p>	<p><i>A series of good initiatives have been taken in the area of education, in particular in Brussels and Flanders.</i></p> <p><i>Special attention needs to be paid to increase school attendance and educational achievements of Roma children. Using Roma mediators could facilitate the process.</i></p> <p><i>More efforts are needed to put in place a comprehensive early school leaving strategy in the Walloon region (in cooperation with the French Community) and in the Brussels region (in cooperation with both the French and Flemish communities).</i></p>
Employment	<p>Amendment of the Law on work relations (strengthening the rules on self-employment).</p> <p>Action plan among the Public Employment Services to ensure registration and guidance of residents of Bulgarian and Romanian origin.</p> <p>Support to the Integration Centre "Le Foyer" for a project fostering entrepreneurship and skills of Romanian and Bulgarian newcomers.</p>	<p><i>More effective measures are necessary to ensure the integration of disadvantaged groups, including Roma, in the open labour market (e.g. personalised approach, job-search assistance, quality skills training in line with labour market needs).</i></p> <p><i>Measures to fight and monitor discrimination in the labour market should be considered, as well as policies for diversity in employment (including incentives for employers).</i></p>
Health	<p>Mobilisation of mediators in healthcare services (in over 50 Belgian hospitals).</p> <p>Specific action in the city of Sint-Niklaas, targeting Roma.</p>	<p><i>Additional attention should be paid to improve the access of Roma to preventive healthcare, such as vaccination. Furthermore, mediators should be used to overcome barriers and promote optimal use of healthcare services.</i></p>
Housing	<p>Priority given to access to housing in the federal poverty reduction plan and the Belgian National Roma integration Strategy.</p> <p>In July 2012, the Flemish government presented the strategic plan for caravan dwellers as part of the Flemish integration policy.</p>	<p><i>Supporting the access to social housing is a positive step. Attention needs to be paid to eliminating discriminatory practices in the property market.</i></p>
Anti-discrimination	<p>Guidelines drafted by a working group for the police and judiciary in order to deal with discrimination in a coherent way.</p>	<p><i>The legal protection mechanism should be reinforced.</i></p> <p><i>Awareness raising campaigns to promote intercultural dialogue and to enhance mutual trust should be carried out.</i></p>
Funding	<p>No specific amount has been allocated exclusively for Roma integration. However, Roma inclusion has been supported by national and EU funds under various</p>	<p><i>Further use of existing possibilities under the EU funds to support Roma inclusion should be considered.</i></p>

	<p>mainstream policy measures, including social inclusion measures.</p> <p>In the 2007-2013 financial period, Belgium has allocated 22,7 % of its total ESF budget (~€ 243 million) for integrating disadvantaged people</p>	
<p><b><i>Structural priorities that should be considered</i></b></p>	<p><i>The promising initiatives in Flanders and Brussels should be scaled up and extended. Monitoring the impact of mainstreaming measures and activities for Roma should be considered, and the conclusions of monitoring should be channelled back to policy development.</i></p>	