



European
Commission



The European Union and Roma – Factsheet Ireland

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

4 April 2014

1. Key Information

Roma population	
Estimate in National Roma Integration Strategy	22 435 Travellers and 3 000 Roma
Council of Europe Estimate	Approximately 37 500 (data from 2012) i.e. 0.84 % of the population
National Strategy	http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/roma-integration/ireland/national-strategy/national_en.htm
Funding	http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/roma-integration/ireland/index_en.htm

2. National Roma Integration – 2014 review

	Key steps taken since 2011	Identified Gaps
Education	Promote measures that fight early school leaving, support at-risk pupils and the transition from primary to post-primary education, English language support, etc. Closing all segregated schools and pre-schools for Travellers.	Monitor the impact of these measures. Better coordinate measures addressing education with other policies, in particular employment and housing.

<p>Employment</p>	<p>National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007-2016.</p> <p>Review of the Special Initiative for Travellers to improve its effectiveness. A number of local projects (e.g. Community development projects; support to Travellers' entrepreneurship in Galway).</p>	<p>Scale up local initiatives promoting Roma employability.</p> <p>Consider providing relevant labour market training and assistance for entrepreneurship among Travellers and Roma.</p>
<p>Health</p>	<p>National measures and local initiatives supporting access of Travellers and Roma to healthcare.</p> <p>Mainstream measures (Future Health 2012-2015; Healthy Ireland 2013-2025).</p> <p>A wide range of specific health services and initiatives (e.g. GP Roma Mobile Clinic, vaccination campaigns, development of training on healthcare and Travellers, various initiatives from the Health Service Executive).</p>	<p>Monitor the impact of these measures.</p> <p>Health policy measures should be better coordinated with other policies, in particular housing.</p> <p>Raise awareness on health issues among Travellers in close cooperation with civil society organisations.</p>
<p>Housing</p>	<p>Implementation of the 2009-2013 Traveller Accommodation Programmes by local authorities and development of new 2014-2018 Traveller Accommodation Programmes.</p>	<p>Secure adequate funding for local authorities to deal with higher risk of homelessness among Travellers and Roma.</p>
<p>Anti-discrimination</p>	<p>Various local initiatives and activities from the Equality Authority.</p> <p>Work on building positive relations between the police and the Travellers/Roma.</p> <p>Publication of anti-bullying procedures to be adopted and implemented by all primary and post-primary schools.</p>	<p>Develop a systematic approach to tackle prejudices against the Traveller and Roma communities, ensuring the participation of mass media outlets.</p>
<p>Funding</p>	<p>Roma and Travellers' inclusion has been supported by national and EU funds.</p> <p>In the 2007-2013 financial period, Ireland has allocated 28.6 % (~€107.5 million) of its total European Social Fund (ESF) budget for integrating disadvantaged people.</p>	<p>Consider further use of existing possibilities under the EU funds to support Roma inclusion.</p>

Priorities for the future (Commission recommendation)

Development of mechanisms to ensure a constructive dialogue, better communication and coordination between public authorities, Travellers and Roma communities, and local and regional authorities. Reinforce the role of the National Roma Contact Point.

Address Travellers’ and Roma integration across all relevant policy areas.

Monitor the impact of measures and activities taken to support Roma inclusion.

3. Contacts

Contact Points

<p>National Roma Contact Point</p>	<p>Department of Justice and Equality Traveller Policy Division</p> <p>http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/JELR/Pages/Traveller_Policy_Division</p>
<p>Managing Authorities for ESF (European Social Fund) funded projects</p>	<p>Mr Vincent Landers Head of ESF Policy and Operations Unit Department of Education and Skills, Block 2, Marlborough Street, Dublin, 1 Tel.: +353 (0)1 889 2174 E-mail: Vincent.Landers@education.gov.ie http://www.esf.ie</p>
<p>Managing Authorities for ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) funded projects</p>	<p>http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/manage/authority/authorities.cfm?lan=EN&pay=ie</p>
<p>Fundamental Rights Agency Country Report:</p>	<p>http://fra.europa.eu/en/country-data/2013/country-thematic-studies-situation-roma</p>

4. Promising practices

Pavee Point, Traveller and Roma centre

The Traveller Education Strategy launched in 2006 covers current and future policy in relation to Traveller education. The focus is on the development of a more inclusive school environment through the whole school planning process, teaching practice, admissions policies, codes of behaviour and whole school evaluation.

The Traveller and Roma centre, Pavee Point in Ireland is directly aimed at Roma communities. Pavee Point was founded as the Dublin Travellers and Education Development Group in 1985 at a time of significant struggle for the Traveller population. Pavee Point works in many specific areas, including drug and alcohol addiction, youth work, education, information, violence against women and health. Pavee Point also runs a dedicated Roma programme, focusing on the rights of the Roma population in Ireland. The organisation is made up of Roma, Travellers and members of the majority population working together for the realisation of human rights for minority groups.

<http://www.paveepoint.ie/>