

## SLOVAK REPUBLIC

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>National Strategy(NRIS)</b>   | National Roma Integration Strategy adopted on 11 January 2012.<br><a href="http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/roma-integration/slovakia/national-strategy/national_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/roma-integration/slovakia/national-strategy/national_en.htm</a><br>The Action Plans of the Strategy are being currently revised.   |
| <b>Roma population</b>   | Council of Europe Estimate:<br>Approximately 500 000 (data from 2012) i.e. 9.17 % of the population  |
| <b>National Roma Contact Point (NRCP)</b>  | The Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Government for Roma communities, under the Ministry of Interior<br><a href="http://www.minv.sk/?kontakty_rk">http://www.minv.sk/?kontakty_rk</a>   |
| <b>Roma related Country-specific recommendations (CSRs) under the European semester:</b> | <p><b>2015:</b><br/>"Increase the participation of Roma children in mainstream education and in high-quality early childhood education".</p> <p><b>2014:</b><br/>"Adopt systemic measures to improve access to high quality and inclusive pre-school and school education for marginalised communities, including Roma and take steps to increase their wider participation in vocational training and higher education".</p> <p><b>2013:</b><br/>"Step up efforts to improve access to high- quality and inclusive pre-school and school education for marginalised communities, including Roma."</p> <p><b>2012:</b><br/>"Take active measures to improve access to and quality of schooling and pre-school education of vulnerable groups, including Roma. Ensure labour market reintegration of adults through activation measures and targeted employment services, second-chance education and short-cycle vocational training".</p> |

### Planned approach to fund Roma integration in the 2014-2020 period

| KEY ELEMENTS  | GAPS TO BE ADDRESSED   |
|---|--|
| <p>The multi-fund Operational Programme Human Resources (OP HR) aims under two priority axes European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and European Social Fund (ESF) for integration of the most deprived marginalised Roma communities in Slovakia.</p> <p>The ESF priority axis OP HR <i>Integration of marginalised Roma communities</i> under the investment priority "Socio-Economic integration of marginalised communities such as Roma" includes measures related to education, employment and health. The assistance will be delivered mainly through social workers, teaching and healthcare assistants, etc. ESF contribution to this priority axis is €139 million.</p> <p>The ERDF priority axis OP HR <i>Technical facilities in municipalities with presence of marginalised Roma communities</i>, under the investment priority "Providing support for physical economic and social regeneration of deprived communities in urban and rural areas" focuses on improving the housing conditions of marginalized Roma communities, improving their access to social infrastructure (community centres) and access to early childhood and care (pre-school facilities). The ERDF contribution to this priority axis is €243 million.</p> <p>Roma integration can be also supported under mainstream measures of other priority axes of OP HR, such as education, employment, social inclusion, etc. as well as under other mainstream Operational Programmes. The SK administration committed, in the 2014-2020 Operational Programmes, to apply social considerations in public procurement to offer job opportunities to long-term unemployed, including marginalised Roma.</p> | <p>Effective monitoring of the implementation and measuring the impact of planned measures needs are crucial.</p> <p>Involvement of all stakeholders in the process of monitoring, in particular Roma NGOs needs to be strengthened.</p> <p>More systemic measures to make mainstream education, employment, social policies more inclusive could be better exploited in line with relevant CSRs. The impact on Roma of mainstream measures is also to be monitored.</p> |

| <b>Cooperation and coordination: local authorities, civil society, NRCP involvement</b>  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>KEY ELEMENTS</b>  | <b>GAPS TO BE ADDRESSED</b>   |
| <p>Participation of local authorities and civil society organisations in the working group meetings focusing on the preparation, implementation and monitoring of the EU Funds for Roma inclusion.</p> <p>Targeted assistance through integrated and comprehensive approach, so called "Take away packages" will be provided in 150 most deprived villages/towns. A comprehensive approach will involve outreach activities, early childhood education and care, financial literacy and health awareness initiatives, social housing, preschool facilities, community centres and social enterprises.</p> <p>Implementation to be guaranteed by national authorities through bigger and longer interventions and complemented by smaller-scale projects by municipalities or NGOs.</p> <p>The National Roma Contact Point (NRCP) has been involved in the negotiations and preparation of the new programming period.</p> <p>Involvement of the NRCP in the drafting process of Amendments to various legal Acts which can affect Roma (e.g. Act on Equal Treatment in Certain Areas and Protection against discrimination, Construction Act, the National Strategy for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights).</p> | <p>The capacity building of municipalities and Roma civil society organisations need to be strengthened, also by providing dedicated budget for this purpose. The capacities of the NRCP could be also reinforced.</p> <p>Local development plans should be put in place well in advance, before the use of the European Structural Investment Funds (ESIF) in order to maximise their impact on the ground.</p> <p>It is also important to agree well in advance on a detailed implementation structure with clear responsibilities and mechanism for cooperation as well as on clear and transparent methodology for selecting projects.</p> <p>Formal coordination structures need to be turned into effective cooperation mechanisms with full involvement of all stakeholders.</p> |

| <b>Stepping up efforts to fight against discrimination</b>  |  |
|---|--|
| <b>KEY ELEMENTS</b>   | <b>GAPS TO BE ADDRESSED</b>  |
| <p>Introduction of temporary equalising measures which can be adopted on the grounds of ethnicity in all areas protected by the Antidiscrimination Act (i.e. employment, education, healthcare, social security and access to goods and services).</p> <p>New government pilot initiative on inclusive education (PRINED) to prevent misplacement of children from socially disadvantaged environment in special-needs education.</p> <p>Focus on gender equality, increased attention paid to multiple discrimination of Roma women.</p> | <p>Temporary equalising measures are welcome. However, in order for them to be effective, a practical enforcement is needed.</p> <p>Ensuring access and promoting participation of Roma children to quality inclusive pre-school and school education needs to be reinforced. Desegregation measures should be accompanied by awareness-raising activities.</p> <p>Activities, such as sensitising media, providing appropriate training to professionals, public officers, including police forces would be highly relevant.</p> <p>Effective measures should also be taken to combat anti-Roma rhetoric and hate speech.</p> <p>Measuring the impact of the amendments of existing law on the situation of marginalised Roma is necessary.</p> |

| <b>Developing better monitoring and enabling policy adjustment</b>  |  |
|---|--|
| <b>KEY ELEMENTS</b>   | <b>GAPS TO BE ADDRESSED</b>  |
| <p>The outcomes of external monitoring of the Strategy have been channelled into policy design. 7 Action Plans of the Strategy are being currently revised in order to be more responsive to the needs and better</p> | <p>Data collection tools and methods need to be improved. Measuring of the impact of policies and measures is necessary to ensure.</p> <p>Stronger involvement of the NGOs and other</p> |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>linked with the EU funds. Process is to last until October 2015.</p> <p>Slovakia plans to fund under the Operational Programme Human Resources a national project on monitoring and evaluation of Roma integration policies, covering four substantive areas – monitoring framework consultation activities, data collection activities, analytical work and information portal on National Roma Integration Strategy in 2015-2020. Impact monitoring based on data collection will be supplemented by administrative reporting and external independent evaluation, including by civil society.</p> <p>Coordination and monitoring of Roma integration policies is also ensured through 6 regional offices of the NRCP.</p> <p>Participation of the NRCP in the Working Party on Roma integration indicators coordinated by the EU Fundamental Rights Agency.</p> <p>Update of mapping of Roma communities – Atlas of Roma communities, which was used for the identification of the most deprived areas.</p> <p>Monitoring also includes ERDF and ESF monitoring and audits.</p> | <p>stakeholders is needed, also by providing a dedicated budget for external evaluation.</p> |
|---|--|

| <b>Example of good approach</b>  |
|--|
| <p>Active participation of the NRCP in the negotiations and preparations of the individual Operational Programmes, in particular the multi-fund Operational Programme Human Resources the measures of which will focus on promoting Roma integration.</p> <p>Comprehensive mapping of the marginalised Roma communities and their development needs in 2013 for effective targeting of investments and monitoring the progress in improving the living conditions and desegregation (Atlas of Roma communities).</p> <p>Revision of 7 Action Plans of the Strategy in order to be more responsive to the current needs and aligned with national and EU funds.</p> |