



European
Commission



The European Union and Roma – Factsheet Austria

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

4 April 2014

1. Key Information

Roma population	
Estimate in National Roma Integration Strategy	Approximately 50 000
Council of Europe Estimate	Approximately 35 000 (data from 2012) i.e. 0.42 % of the population

National Strategy	http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/roma-integration/austria/national-strategy/national_en.htm
Funding	http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/roma-integration/austria/index_en.htm

2. National Roma Integration – 2014 review

	Key steps taken since 2011	Identified Gaps
Education	Measures to help Roma children e.g. free final year of kindergarten, support in overcoming language barriers, Roma school assistants. More focus on vocational training to ease transition from school to employment.	Impact of these measures now needs to be monitored.
Employment	Counselling and training to get more Roma into employment, e.g. through Thara project (see below). Support provided under labour market policies.	Successful projects should be rolled out on a larger scale (e.g. Thara project). Labour market policies should better reach out to the Roma community.
Health	Support provided under health policy measures.	The impact of these measures now needs to be monitored.

Housing	Support provided under national policy measures.	More to be done in fighting discriminatory practices in property market.
Anti-discrimination	Awareness raising activities; promoting inter-cultural dialogue between Roma and non-Roma.	Closer cooperation between non-governmental organisations is needed.
Funding	Roma inclusion has been supported by national and EU funds. In the 2007-2013 financial period, Austria has allocated 25.0 % (~€ 131 million) of its total European Social Fund (ESF) budget to integrating disadvantaged people.	Consider further use of existing possibilities under the EU funds to support Roma inclusion.
Priorities for the future (Commission recommendation)	The impact of measures taken to support Roma inclusion should be further monitored.	

3. Contacts

Contact Points	
National Roma Contact Point	Federal Chancellery Constitutional Service Directorate http://www.bundeskanzleramt.at/site/7656/default.aspx
Managing Authorities for ESF (European Social Fund) funded projects	Bundesministerium für Arbeit, Soziales und Konsumentenschutz Tel. (43-1) 71100-0 http://www.esf.at
Managing Authorities for ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) funded projects	http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/manage/authority/authorities.cfm?lan=EN&pay=at
Fundamental Rights Agency Country Report:	http://fra.europa.eu/en/country-data/2013/country-thematic-studies-situation-roma

4. Promising practices

Thara projects and Romani Lives

The THARA projects in Austria aim to integrate Roma in the area of employment, access to the labour market and to vocational educational institutions. Professional opportunities for adult and young Roma are created through career advice, advice and training on social issues, intercultural coaching and vocational training.

Within the THARA projects, European funding combined with national funding has supported associations and organisations of the autochthonous Roma of Burgenland.

The project 'THARA Roma Biznis' is a contact point and information platform for Roma looking for work. The information platform is the continuation of a series of projects from the People Aid Austria with the aim of improving the opportunities of Romani people in the labour market. Beside the internet platform THARA offers also job and career counselling.

www.volkshilfe.at/thara

"Mamas Küche" is a project in Burgenland aimed at guiding long-term unemployed women towards permanent employment. It offers transitional jobs of different kinds for a 12 month period, which is seen as a transitional period in which women can slowly get used to a regulated daily working routine and can work towards finding a job.

<http://www.mamas-kueche.volkshilfe-bgld.at/1016,,2.html>

Romani Lives is an exhibition that will travel to different European countries. The project's goal is to communicate a European cultural heritage portraying the Roma population. The overall exhibition shows the recent history of European Roma. The project also offers an educational programme including seminars and workshops (for example on the role of women in the Roma community).

<http://igkultur.at/projekte/romani-lives>

Students from a vocational school for Roma in Burgenland completed a project entitled *Roma Kinderwelten* [Roma Children's Worlds]. The exhibition highlights the childhood of several Roma by using narrative interviews to demonstrate under which social and cultural conditions Roma children are raised.

Moreover, the Romani Project at the University of Graz entails the study of the language and culture of the Roma. Initially limited to Burgenland, the project now covers both Romani as a European minority language as well as the socio-cultural and socio-political situation of its speakers in the European context. The Romani Project contributes to the preservation of culture and identity and thus also to the emancipation of Roma as a European ethnic group.

<http://romaniprojekt.uni-graz.at/index.en.html>