



European
Commission



The European Union and Roma – Factsheet Greece

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

4 April 2014

1. Key Information

Roma population	
Estimate in National Roma Integration Strategy	Approximately 50 000
Council of Europe Estimate	Approximately 175 000 (data from 2012) i.e. 1.55 % of the population

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

2. National Roma Integration – 2014 review

	Key steps taken since 2011	Identified Gaps
Education	Policy incentives implemented to increase school attendance via two programmes – ‘Education of Roma Children’ and ‘Roma Children in Macedonia and Thrace’.	Need to develop systematic measures to reinforce inclusion in compulsory education. Ensure access to high quality and inclusive early childhood education and childcare, as well as pre-school education. Need to ensure proper monitoring of enrolment and attendance. Reinforce desegregation measures.
Employment	Implementation of Local Integrated Programmes for Vulnerable Social Groups (TOPEKO). Continuation of 29 Support Centres for vulnerable groups, including Roma.	Complement active inclusion policies with targeted measures focusing on effective integration in the open labour market. Secure the proper functioning of the 29 Support Centres for vulnerable groups, including Roma through adequate and sustainable funding.

Health	Focus on preventive healthcare, mainly on vaccination.	Improve access of Roma to health-care through more systematic measures. Reinforce training of healthcare professionals.
Housing	Three regional integrated pilot programmes with an infrastructure component.	Support the implementation of well-designed regional programmes with adequate and sustainable funding.
Anti-discrimination	The Greek Ombudsman has created a separate office for Roma issues.	Ensure effective practical enforcement of anti-discrimination law. Adopt effective measures to combat anti-Roma rhetoric and hate speech. Accompany desegregation measures by awareness-raising activities among both Roma and non-Roma.
Funding	Roma inclusion supported by national and EU funds. Main support has been provided via: - European Regional Development Fund: € 18.9 Million in Thrace and Thessaly € 3.7 Million in Thessaly In the 2007-2013 financial period, Greece has allocated 9.2 % (~€ 397 million) of its total ESF budget for integrating disadvantaged people.	Strong cooperation and coordination necessary between the National Roma Contact Point and the authorities responsible for management of EU Funds to ensure successful mobilisation of EU funds for Roma integration. Should allocate at least 20% of its total ESF budget to fighting social exclusion and poverty.
Priorities for the future (Commission recommendation)	Mainstream policy reforms should support Roma inclusion. Measures targeting Roma should be supported by adequate and sustainable funding. Ensure the monitoring of the impact of these measures. Ensure constructive dialogue with civil society, as well as close cooperation with local and regional authorities.	

3. Contacts

Contact Points	
National Roma Contact Point	National Center for Social Solidarity (E.K.K.A.) Ministry of Employment, Social Insurance and Welfare of Greece
Managing Authorities for ESF (European Social Fund) funded projects	ESF Actions Co-ordination and Monitoring Authority (EYSEKT) Tel: +30 210 52 71 400 Fax: +30 210 52 71 420 E-mail: eysekt@mou.gr www.esfhellas.gr

Managing Authorities for ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) funded projects

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/manage/authority/authorities.cfm?lan=EN&pay=gr

Fundamental Rights Agency Country Report:

<http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2012/situation-roma-11-eu-member-states-survey-results-glance>

4. Promising practices

Improving school attendance and access to healthcare

The 'Education of Roma Children' Programme supervised by the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and the 'Roma Children in Macedonia and Thrace' Programme supervised by the Aristotle University of Thessalonika includes many innovative aspects that may improve school attendance rates. A centre in Volos had first-rate results at getting children to attend school, among other things. Thanks to these centres, the Greek government has been able to have a record of the Roma communities, issue official papers like identity cards and vaccination records for children.

Greece's socio-medical centres help Roma get work, deal with health issues and find out about their social rights. The project 'Health for the Greek Roma' started in 2005 and continued till the end of 2013. It provided medical examinations, inoculations and psycho-social support services through visiting camps or mobile units of the Disease Prevention Centre.