



## DECADE OF ROMA INCLUSION 2005 – 2015 PROGRESS REPORT 2011

### CROATIA

#### 1. BASIC INFORMATION ON THE SITUATION OF THE ROMA MINORITY

Please indicate whether in 2011 the government acquired new data concerning:

- *Estimated total number of the Roma population in the country*
- *Number of Roma living under the poverty line*
- *Total number of population living under the poverty line*

According to the 2001 census there were 9,463 Roma in Croatia, while most would agree on the estimate of 30-40,000 Roma. The total population according to the census 2001 is 4,437,460, and EUROSTAT estimate for 2010 is 4,425,747. Results of census conducted in 2011 will be available in the second part of 2012.<sup>1</sup>

Nominal GDP per capita in 2010, according to the EUROSTAT (provisional) is 10,400 EUR. At-risk-of-poverty-rate threshold for 2010 was 20.5 (17.9 in 2009). Information on number of Roma living under the poverty line is not available.

#### 2. INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT FOR ROMA INCLUSION AND INTEGRATION

- *(For EU enlargement countries): Is your government planning to prepare a National Roma Integration Strategy as called for in the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020?*
- *Is there a structure on local (municipality) level responsible for the implementation of the Decade National Action Plan / National Roma Integration Strategy?*
- *Please, describe any planning for the use of EU funds in the 2014-2020 to address Roma inclusion/integration. Please, describe how experts and Roma NGOs are involved in the planning of the use of EU funds in the 2014-2020.*

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<sup>1</sup> N.B. Before the 2011 Census, Council for National Minorities suggested to the Croatian Bureau for Statistics (CBS) to include proportionally representation of Roma minority members in census teams, and CBS reported that 11 Roma were involved. The census data will be available in the last quarter of 2012.

- *What are the main institutional and procedural supports envisioned to ensure that EU funds will be used effectively for Roma inclusion (e.g. equal opportunities unit, simplification of funding procedures, technical assistance for beneficiaries)?*

In accordance with the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies, Croatia has started consultation process and drafting of a new national Roma strategy up to 2020, with full participation of Roma community throughout the process. In November 2011 the GOHRRNM organised a roundtable on the production of the new National Strategy for the Roma. Participants at the meeting, including members of the Committee for the Monitoring of the Implementation of National Programme for the Roma, representatives of relevant ministries, regional and local authorities, representatives of Roma organisations, academic or independent experts, as well as EC, MTM Fund, UNDP, UNICEF and UNHCR. By the end of 2011 GOHRRNM has received support from the MtM Fund for development of the Strategy in 2012, as well as to promote increase in absorption of EU funds for Roma. The Strategy is expected to be adopted by the Government in September 2012, and then submitted to the European Commission.

Like other national minorities in Croatia, Roma enjoy a high level of protection, especially under the Constitution and the Constitutional Law on the Rights of National Minorities. In order to further improve living conditions of this vulnerable minority and continue fighting against all forms of discrimination, the Government has adopted a National Programme for Roma in October 2003. In 2005, Croatia has joined several other European countries and has been participating in the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015 with a view to co-ordinating its efforts for Europe's biggest minority, by focusing mainly on education, health care, employment and housing, and improvement of its living conditions. Following the parliamentary elections in December 2011, support for this policy has been reconfirmed from the highest levels of government, since the Deputy Prime Minister is also the president of the Commission for the Implementation of the National Roma Program, and the National Coordinator of the Roma Inclusion Decade. According to the available reports, a total of 1,423,000 EUR from the state budget was used for measures promoting integration of Roma national minority. However, this amount does not include funds used from many other important sources, such as EU pre-accession funds, regional and local self-governments, funds provided to NGOs outside of programs specifically earmarked for Roma, and funds from other donors. The Commission for the Monitoring of the Implementation of the National Roma Program provided 102,540 EUR in 2011, mostly to individuals in need, but also to support various programs or projects, including pre-school education in Međimurje, or to co-finance a research on Roma civil society in Croatia.

It has been recognized that the implementation of above-mentioned policies on the local level should be further strengthened particularly through capacity building of both local authorities and Roma institutions and organisations. On the other hand, several best practice models have been recognized, particularly those based on cooperation between Roma NGOs and non-Roma NGOs, as well as through cross-border cooperation on local level targeting Roma national minority, such as those established with counties and municipalities in Hungary and Slovenia.

In general, members of the Roma national minority participate in the decision making process from the level of the Croatian Parliament to the level of local communities. At Parliamentary elections in December 2011, a new representative of the Roma national minority has been elected. The Roma minority voters' turnout was much larger than at 2007 elections. Four Roma members are elected to representative bodies (municipal councils) at the municipal level, and the July 2011 elections for councils of national minorities, key bodies for participation in the decision-making process in local and regional self-government units, brought further 10 % increase to their number in comparison to 2007 election. In total, 7 county Roma minority councils (RMC), 5 town RMCs, and 6 municipal RMCs were elected, as well as 4 representatives on the county level, 5 representatives on the town level, and 5 on the municipal level. Also, Roma minority voter turnout for these elections was significantly larger in comparison to the average turnout. These might suggest a larger interest of Roma voters for participation in decision making also on the local level. The percentage of Roma

women elected to RMCs remained low: out of 501 candidates, 76 were women (13.17 %), and out of 277 elected representatives, 37 are women (11.78 %).

Roma minority representatives participated in regional seminars for minorities (Rijeka, Osijek) organised by the Government Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities (GOHRRNM), in order to promote participation minority elections. A seminar in Sisak focused on strengthening cooperation on local level, and registration of minority councils.

Though there were more activities aimed at training young Roma, especially women, in order to facilitate their involvement in public and social life, in the decision-making process, and in the implementation of the National Programme for Roma, proportional involvement of Romani women and youth still remains a challenge.

Representatives from Roma culture and art organisations participate in various events organised with the aim to nurture the cultural identity of the Roma national minority. For this reason, 8<sup>th</sup> April, World Roma Day, Đurđevdan/Ederlezi, Roma Culture Day are organized with the financial support from the state budget.

Pursuant to National Programme for the Roma, through the 2011 tender for financing the traditional Roma culture preservation programmes 16,000 EUR were distributed to Roma associations. The most important funding source for minority needs is the national Council for National Minorities: In 2011 the Council distributed 44,470EUR for information programs, 21,300 EUR for publishing, 39,200 EUR for amateurism in culture, and 38,800 EUR for culture manifestations to 29 Roma NGOs. Similar support is frequently provided on the regional and local level, but data is available only for a very limited number of them. Activities of public institutions, such as local culture centres or libraries (Zagreb, Čakovec, Karlovac, Koprivnica) are also noted.

Several seminars targeted the issue of media. Council for National Minorities and GOHRRNM organised a seminar on media and national minorities, while another seminar focused on minorities and media on the threshold of Croatian entry into EU. The first conference discussed the analysis of reporting on national minorities in the media and the video of the Council of Europe's promotion campaign "Dosta!", joined by the Republic of Croatia, was shown. The goal of the Campaign is to overcome prejudices toward ethnic minorities, especially the Roma, and to combat all forms of discrimination. This event tried to reinstate public efforts to combat all forms of discriminations toward the Roma national minority.

The GOHRRNM has, for the purpose of developing tolerance, and acceptance and respect of diversities, encouraged cooperation and conducted activities among members of the Roma national minority. The Office organized a roundtable on the Roma integration in Croatia, which was held on 17th February 2011 in Zagreb. On the roundtable, it was highlighted that, with the Amendments to the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia, the equality of members of national minorities was improved. Also, it was stated that the system for the protection of rights of national minorities is constantly being upgraded, trying to respect as much as possible opinions of all national minorities.

GOHRRNM also provided support to the Conference on the Provision of Civil Documentation and Registration in South Eastern Europe, resulting in Zagreb Declaration.

In May 2011, the Government adopted Rules of Procedures in Hate Crime Cases. In 2011 there was a single criminal act involving Roma national minority motivated by the hate crime, while in 2010 there were 5 acts. All these cases were solved and criminal charges filed.

The Law on Legal Aid has opened a possibility for NGOs to get involved in providing free legal aid in certain procedures (primary legal aid). By October 2011, Ministry of Justice has registered 32 NGOs, including 2 Roma NGOs providing legal assistance.

A book on unaccompanied migrant children in Croatia in June 2011 was presented by GOHRRNM, UNHCR and NGO Centre for New Initiatives. The most important recommendation is a necessity to establish a single model of gathering data on all categories of unaccompanied minors, and following their problems by a roof national organisation which should create recommendations for future

activities. Another important meeting was on the issue of trafficking organised by GOHRRNM, a Roma women association, and a network of organisation for suppression of trafficking.

Ombudsman for Children report emphasizes underage weddings, parental care, education, and status issues as matters of particular concern.

Several important discussions also highlighted some aspects of Roma position in contemporary Croatian society, most notably those organised by Centre for Human Rights. One of them, supported by the Norwegian Embassy and GOHRRNM, has focused on Roma civil sector. Research, conducted in cooperation with the Roma NGO 'Roma for Roma' listed all Roma NGOs in Croatia (currently almost 150) and highlighted most important issues. Other meetings focused on status issues and education, resulting with recommendations to be taken into account during the development of National Roma Integration Strategy.

Roma Youth NGOs received support from local and state authorities through mainstream programs, for example through National Program for Youth 2009-2013. Other NGO projects were funded through other programs, such as awareness raising for women belonging to national minorities. A project financed by the Ministry of Science, Education and Sport, 'Education for Gender Equality' provided workshops for Roma pupils in Eastern Croatia on gender stereotypes in media, self-respect, reproductive health and gender based violence.

In regards to welfare, in spite of general austerity measures related to the budget, including a ban on employment in public administration, additional 16 welfare workers were employed in Welfare Centres in regions with Roma population, and employment of additional volunteer interns allowed. Among numerous activities conducted by Welfare Centres, we may note programs targeting parents and children of pre-school and school age in Čakovec, Koprivnica, Bjelovar, Dubrovnik, Đurđevac, Karlovac, Ludbreg, Rijeka, Slavonski Brod, Vinkovci, Vukovar, Zagreb, and Županja. Ministry of Social Policy and Youth report also notes that Roma NGOs applications for funds have not met criteria, again indicating a need for further capacity building of NGOs.

Very active institutions are Family Centres; in addition to 17 existing Family Centres, two were established in 2011 in Osijek and Međimurje, counties particularly important for Roma integration. A notable example of their activities on the local level is a charter on cooperation signed between the Koprivnica-Križevci County Family Centre, Roma NGO 'Step by step', local authorities, and other citizens' associations, and workshops on trafficking, economic violence and many others by Family Centre in Međimurje.

The report of Ministry of Social Policy and Youth notes that engagement of Roma mediators in measures related to families has not brought expected results, due to difficulties they have with the families who are subject of legal measures.

### 3. EDUCATION

- *Please identify the key barriers that limit educational chances and access to quality education for Roma,*
- *Please list the policies and programs that were designed and implemented to support Roma education in 2011 with a special focus on the goals and implementation of the Decade National Action Plan/National Roma Integration Strategy (if applicable).*
- *What were the outcomes of the policies and programs that your government implemented in 2011?*
- *Please identify the most important mainstream and targeted EU funded schemes launched in last year that will contribute to Roma inclusion in education. Please, specify the activity, the funding source (ESF, ERDF, etc.), the operational programme, the amount allocated, the goals to be reached, and the indicative number and share of Roma beneficiaries.*
- *Please list other initiatives (policy, program, activity) that were not designed and implemented to directly support Roma and other marginalized people but affect the aforementioned target groups.*

Please provide information about list achievements in the following fields in 2011:

- *Number of Roma children attending pre-school, elementary, secondary, and tertiary education; number of Roma children not in school*
- *Number of Roma teaching assistants in pre-school, elementary, secondary, and tertiary education*
- *Number of Roma children moving from segregated "Roma" pre-schools, primary and secondary schools, to mainstream schools*
- *Number and proportion of Roma children in special schools/classes*
- *Number of Roma children attending preparatory class before elementary, secondary, and tertiary education*
- *Access to counseling services for Roma families with children.*
- *Inclusion tools in elementary and secondary education (teacher assistants, individualized education plans, tutoring, other inclusion measures),*
- *Dropout rates of Roma in primary, secondary, and tertiary education*
- *Number of Roma in primary and secondary Adult education education*
- *Number of Roma students receiving scholarship and other support in primary, secondary, and tertiary education*

The project Literacy Decade Project - For Literacy in Croatia 2003-2012 included members of the Roma national minority. In 2011, literacy programmes included 181 attendants (118 men, 63 women), and training 16 attendants (11 men, 5 women). The total of 57,300 EUR was spent, including 5, 340 EUR for training.

In early September 2011, in the new programme period of the IPA programme, the recruitment procedure was published for the submission of project proposals for the award of funds for the implementation of the project "Integration of Groups in a More Unfavourable Position into the

Regular System of Education" that continues activities on the harmonisation of the needs of children/pupils/students in a more unfavourable position with the work of regular schools, special educational institutions and the civil sector at all levels of education from preschool, primary and secondary to higher education. The funds will primarily be used to support the promotion of equal opportunities in access to the education of people in a more unfavourable position (preschoolers/pupils/students with difficulties, the Roma and other national minorities) and strengthening the capacity of schools and teaching staff in the promotion of social inclusion and innovative projects that will promote social inclusion in education. In October, informative workshops for potential applicants were held in 7 Croatian towns, and the deadline for the submission of project proposals was by November 2011.

For children, members of the Roma national minority, inclusion in the programmes of preschool education is ensured in order to bridge the gap between the socio-economic situation in which Roma children live and possibilities for their successful integration in the mandatory primary school education. If in a certain environment there is no possibility of inclusion in integrated preschool education conditions in a regular preschool institution, a preschool programme, that is, a programme of preparation for entry to primary education is ensured, which is often provided in primary schools, and partly in preschool institutions. In 2011, that is, at the end of 2010/2011 school year, there were 586 children in preschool education, of which 276 (136 boys and 140 girls) in regular preschool education and care programmes and 310 (156 boys and 154 girls) in the preschool programmes. At the beginning of 2011/2012 school year, a total of 623 children were included, of which 289 (137 boys and 152 girls) in preschool education and care, and 334 (185 boys and 149 girls) in the preschool programme. In 2011, a total of 238,230 EUR was spent on preschool education and care/preschool programme from the state budget. Out of this, 86,215 EUR were spent on co-financing of parental contribution, which covers expenses for 2011 calendar year for part of 2010/2011 school year. For the period from September to December 2011, that is to the beginning of 2011/2012 school year, 42,640 EUR were spent. The Ministry of Education, Science, and Sport (MoSES) has ensured, in agreement with Međimurje County, a preschool programme for all Roma children in the year before attending primary school i.e. for the children who enrolled in the first grade of primary school in school year 2011/2012. The children were in the preschool programme from 15th September 2010 to 15th June 2011, five hours a day, with two meals and transportation provided. The MoSES monitors the implementation of the programme in cooperation with state administration offices in counties regarding the duration of the preschool programme, so the mechanism for this type of monitoring was established in 2008. This form of activities is essential for the preschool age Roma population, it gives good results and indicates the obligation to organize preschool education groups for all Roma children as preparation for the inclusion in the educational system, especially in environments where there are no capacities for integrated preschool education and care. The preschool programme depends on finances, especially from the State Budget funds allocated to the National Programme for the Roma. Sustainability of this programme has become more difficult due to a shift in priorities, because in case of executing the judgment by the European Court for Human Rights, and with the introduction of preschool programmes for all children in Međimurje, a small amount of funds remained for the preschool programmes in other parts of Croatia, and for the funds on local and regional levels this is often not a priority or the funds are insufficient. The problem is intended to be solved through the project "Integration of Groups in a More Unfavourable Position into the regular education system" by funds from the EU IPA pre-accession assistance programme.

In the last six years, the coverage of Roma children in primary education was expanded. In school year 2006/2007 there were 3 010 Roma children in primary schools, in 2007/2008 s.y. there were 3 786 pupils (1 934 boys, 1 852 girls), in 2008/2009 s.y. 3 936 (2 041 boys, 1 895 girls), in 2009/2010 s.y. 4 186 pupils (2 176 boys, 2 010 girls), in 2010/2011 s.y. 4 723 (2 409 boys, 2 314 girls), and at the beginning of 2011/2012 s.y. 4 915 pupils (2 509 boys, 2 406 girls). At the same time, data on the number of primary school leavers, after multiple re-attendances, show that the numbers of pupils who finish primary education are low. So, for example, in 2008/2009 136 pupils abandoned primary education (68 boys, 68 girls), in 2009/2010 144 pupils (69 boys, 75 girls) abandoned education which also includes pupils who reached the age of 15, and in 2010/2011 173 pupils abandoned education (101 boys, 72 girls). When the attendance of the same year for the second time is in question, in

2008/2009 there were 565 pupils who re-attended the same class (331 boys, 234 girls), in 2009/2010 there were 638 pupils (372 boys, 266 girls), and in 2010/2011 there were 643 (347 boys, 296 girls), and at the beginning of 2011/2012 school year 604 (331 boys, 273 girls), according to the data from schools. Data at the end of the school year show an increase in the number in relation to the beginning of the school year.

From school year 2010/2011, data are collected on the number of Roma pupils who were offered special assistance in Croatian language learning, pursuant to Article 43 of the Primary and Secondary Education Act. In that year, assistance was offered in 9 counties for 555 pupils (289 boys, 266 girls) of 4 723 (2 409 boys, 2 314 girls) Roma pupils that were in primary education in that year. At the beginning of 2011/2012 school year, special assistance in Croatian language learning included a total of 568 pupils (282 boys, 286 girls) of 4 915 (2 509 boys, 2 406 girls) Roma children that attended primary school in 2011/2012.

The number of Roma pupils enrolled in the secondary school education is increasing. When enrolling pupils, pursuant to the Decision on elements and criteria for selection of candidates for enrolment in secondary education, adopted by MoSES, a special clause determines the enrolment of Roma pupils on the grounds of the National Programme for the Roma, in a way that members of Roma national minority can be enrolled in their desired secondary education programme with a smaller number of points. Although the number of pupils who continue their education in three-year secondary school programmes is higher than the number in four-year programmes, an increase in the number of pupils enrolled in first grades of four-year schools is noticeable. It is also noticeable that pupils drop out the school, that is, leave their secondary education unfinished. In secondary schools at the end of 2009/2010, there were 290 pupils (154 boys, 136 girls), at the end of 2010/2011, 327 pupils (158 boys, 169 girls), and at the beginning of 2011/2012, 425 pupils (214 boys, 211 girls) included in the secondary education. In 2009/2010, 37 pupils (21 boys, 16 girls) abandoned education of 290 of them (154 boys, 136 girls), and 14 (10 boys, 4 girls) re-attended the same grade; in 2010/2011 57 pupils (27 boys, 30 girls) abandoned education of 327 of them (158 boys, 169 girls), 20 re-attended the same grade (9 boys, 11 girls). The MoSES provides scholarships to all regular pupils in the secondary education who are members of the Roma national minority in the amount of 670 EUR 5,000.00 annually per pupil, or 67 EUR 500.00 per month during the school year. Condition for obtaining the scholarship is the statement on Roma national minority origin, which is not usually mandatory. In 2011, from the state budget, 213, 180 EUR were spent on scholarships. In 2011 the Ministry co-financed accommodation in pupil dormitories for Roma pupils in the secondary education in the amount of 5,250 EUR. When we take into account how many Roma pupils finish primary school, that is, how many of them are in the eighth grade at the end of the school year in relation to the number enrolled in secondary schools in the same year, it is possible to conclude that without an increase in successfulness and completion of the primary education it is not possible to significantly increase the number of Roma pupils in the secondary education.

For post-secondary education, the MoSES provides scholarships to all Roma students who request them, under the condition that they declare themselves as members of the Roma national minority. In 2006/2007 academic year 10 students received scholarships (7 girls, 3 boys), in 2007/2008 12 students (8 girls, 4 boys), in 2008/2009 20 students (11 boys, 8 girls), in academic year 2009/2010, 25 students (12 boys, 13 f), in 2010/2011, 28 students, and in 2011/2012, 27 students (10 boys, 17 girls). The amount of the scholarship is 133.5 EUR per month during ten months, or 1,335 EUR per year. Having in mind that the right to accommodation in student dormitories is acquired under equal conditions as for all students who live in difficult socio-economic conditions, it was not possible to ensure a different right for the members of the Roma national minority, but, on the Ministry's recommendation, in certain cases solutions were found, if necessary.

In most schools, Roma assistants are employed, 23 of them (of which 11 women), and their work is financed from the state budget in the amount of 467 EUR net monthly, for all 12 months, together with other benefits provided for school employees. Roma assistants, among other things, have to, in cooperation with the teacher, help with writing homework during the after-school care and with acquiring learning contents. In 2011, a total of 198,612 EUR were spent on Roma assistants from the state budget funds. A local review of teaching assistants contribution to the improvement of Roma

education held in Koprivnica has confirmed their importance in the education system and suggested several venues for further improving assistants' role in the process.

Other programs financed by MoSES include outdoor school (EUR 90,760.00), graduation travel, dormitory accommodation, programmes for youth, marking of the World Roma Day, etc.(31,880 EUR), and summer school (18,000 EUR).

In 2011, for after-school care 15,630 EUR were spent from the state budget, and there were no funds from international sources. At the beginning of school year 2010/2011, 340 pupils had after-school care (183 boys, 157 girls), and at the end of the same school year, 246 pupils had after-school care (142 boys, 104 girls). At the beginning of school year 2011/2012, schools reported that 256 (141 boys, 115 girls) pupils were included in the after-school care. Although the after-school care is one of the preconditions for the Roma pupils to improve their success and complete primary education, many communities do not organise after-school care due to the lack of funds. Namely, the work of teachers in after-school care is financed from the county budget. The problem is intended to be solved through the project "Integration of Groups in a More Unfavourable Position into the regular education system" by funds from the EU IPA pre-accession assistance programme. The public tender was issued in 2011. Training for teachers on teaching Croatian as a second language took place in Međimurje County, where the problem of knowledge of Croatian among Roma children entering the education system is a huge challenge.



#### 4. EMPLOYMENT

- *Please provide the average unemployment rate on national level, and unemployment rate of the Roma population.*
- *Please evaluate the position of Roma in the labor market - access to regular jobs, and barriers preventing the Roma employees from successful integration in the labor market.*
- *Please list the policies or programs that were designed and implemented to support Roma employment in 2011 with a special focus on the goals and implementation of the Decade National Action Plans or the National Roma Integration Strategy (if applicable).*
- *What are the outcomes of the policies and programs that your government implemented in 2011?*
- *Please identify the most important mainstream and targeted EU funded schemes launched in last year that will contribute to Roma inclusion in the area of employment? Please, specify the activity, the funding source (ESF, ERDF, etc.), the operational programme, the amount allocated, the goals to be reached, and the indicative number and share of Roma beneficiaries.*

A good example of a local EU funded project tackling several areas, including education and employment, is provided by a project implemented by the Đurđevac welfare centre, the City of Đurđevac, local Roma organisation, and local employment office, worth 117,000 EUR. Several EU funded projects were focused on employment. 'Better Perspective of Roma Women at the Labour Market', a 157,000 EUR project implemented in Zagreb, through cooperation of Zagreb Employment Service, Roma Women Association 'Better Future', and NGO CESI targeted 30 unemployed Roma women. Međimurje County, Association 'Dawn', Međimurje regional employment office, and other partners implemented a 110,000 EUR project addressing long-term unemployed Roma women, unemployed women, and victims of family violence. „Bioknoblach – Romanes' is a project with participation of local authorities and NGOs from Koprivnica (Croatia), Graz (Austria), Banska Bystrica (Slovakia), Pecs (Hungary), and Moldova Noua (Romania), involving development of local cooperatives of most vulnerable Roma for healthy food production.

- *Please list other initiatives (policy, program, activity) that were not designed and implemented to directly support Roma and other marginalized people but affect the aforementioned target groups.*

Please provide information about the following fields in 2011:

- *Successful measures tackling discrimination of Roma in the labor market*
- *Use of active labor market measures for improving the situation of Roma in the labor market and evaluation of the effectiveness of these programs (participation in re-qualification courses, public work programs, etc),*
- *Improved labor market skills of long-term unemployed Roma*
- *Improved employment rates of long-term unemployed Roma*

According to the CBS, registered unemployment rate in 2011 was 17.8%, i.e. 305,033 persons. Since unemployed persons are not obliged to declare their ethnic background, Croatian Employment Service (CES) estimates (December 2011) that there were 4,499 registered unemployed Roma persons. Out of this number, there were 3,179 persons without any education or incomplete primary school (70.6 %), and 1,017 persons with primary school education (22.6 %). 262 persons (5.8 %) have a three-year

vocational school, 37 (0.8 %) persons have a four year secondary school degree Only 4 registered unemployed persons have a degree beyond secondary school.

As part of the implementation of the National Employment Promotion Plan 2011-2012, Croatian Employment Service (CES) implemented measures of employment and education of persons of the Roma national minority. In 2011 the employment of 12 persons of the Roma national minority on the open market was co-financed, 493 persons of the Roma national minority were employed through public works and the education of 35 people of the Roma national minority financed. The total number of persons included in these measures grew from 304 in 2010 to 542 in 2011. For the purpose of creating conditions for increased Roma employment, all recorded unemployed persons of the Roma national minority were included in regular activities of the CES and activities directed exclusively at of the Roma national minority. The purpose was to try to influence their accelerated inclusion in the labour market. In 2011 the activities of group informing included 1 177 persons of the Roma national minority. Persons of the Roma national minority underwent 5 588 individual counselling sessions. Group informing on self-employment was organized for persons of the Roma national minority who expressed their interest in self-employment and registering of companies and trades. In 2011, the total of 21 informing and counselling sessions on self-employment was held. The total of 38 persons of the Roma national minority was included in informing and counselling sessions on self-employment.

As regards the regulations on employment of national minorities, comprised by the Constitutional Act on Rights of National Minorities (CARNM), according to the data from temporary records on the number and structure of the employed civil servants and employees, on 31 December 2011, two members of the Roma national minority were employed. According to data from the records of the Ministry of Public Administration (MoPA) concerning the representation of national minority members in local administrative bodies of local self-government and regional self-government as on 31 December 2011, there were 3 Roma employed.

Within the framework of the EU program PROGRESS, GOHRRNM in association with CES, conducted several workshops A training related to national and EU framework for tackling discrimination and introducing a technique of mediation was held. Also, Guidelines on how to recognize discrimination were developed for representatives of Croatian Employment Service Centre and representatives of county co-ordinations and published. Within the same program, a research on discrimination in employment has confirmed relatively high level of discrimination of minorities in general, and Roma minority in particular.

GOHRRNM in cooperation with the Ombudsman Office, and support of the Embassy of UK held a round table on Directive 2000/43/EC, and Directive 2000/72/EC, and presented a publication with selected verdicts of the European Court related to antidiscrimination.

## 5. HOUSING

- *Please list the policies or programs that were designed and implemented to support housing for Roma (or the housing of marginalized people, including Roma) in 2011 with a special focus on the goals and implementation of the Decade National Action Plans and the National Roma Integration Strategy (if applicable),*
- *Please describe the housing situation of the Roma population, especially in excluded communities (e.g. quality and price of housing, accessibility in general, development of a concept for social housing on the local level for disadvantaged families) and identification of obstacles that prevent access to acceptable housing conditions,*
- *What are the outcomes of policy or programs that your government implemented in 2011?*
- *Please identify the most important mainstream and targeted EU funded schemes launched in last year that will contribute to Roma inclusion in the area of housing? Please, specify the activity, the funding source (ESF, ERDF, etc.), the operational program, the amount allocated, the goals to be reached, and the indicative number and share of Roma beneficiaries. Where ERDF is used, how is the 2010 amendment of the ERDF regulation utilized?*
- *Please list other initiatives (policy, program, activity) that were not designed and implemented to directly support Roma and other marginalized people but affect the aforementioned target groups.*

*Please provide information about the following fields in 2011:*

- *Number of Roma benefited by infrastructural development. How is desegregation, a priority issue in the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies, dealt with in infrastructure development?*
- *Number of Roma affected by urban social restoration programs*
- *Number of Roma affected by colony / settlement elimination / development programs*
- *Number of Roma affected by the regulation of property ownership regimes*
- *Number of Roma affected by evictions*
- *Number of Roma included in social housing programmes*

The Ministry of Construction and Physical Planning provided funds to local authorities for drafting of spatial development plans for the locations inhabited by the Roma population (spatial development plans of towns or municipalities in the part relating to those locations and/or detailed plans of the development of those locations). By ensuring means from the state budget in 2011 in the amount of 20,000 EUR for the support for Popovača Municipality in Sisak-Moslavina County and the support for the town of Belišće in Osijek-Baranja County, the production and adoption of spatial plans for locations resided by Roma, which are on the territory of these LSGU, was enabled; and consequently, the creation of spatial planning preconditions for the integration of locations and facilities into the spatial and functional systems of the settlements (utility and social infrastructure), that is, preconditions for the legalisation of illegal facilities, development and equipping of these locations and improvement of housing conditions of the Roma population who live on these locations. In the area of housing, all spatial plans have been produced and thereby preconditions for the legalisation of 14 locations settled by Roma population have been created. 14 counties have so far made County programmes. Whenever it is possible, continuous measures for the legalisation of illegal Roma settlements are taken.

Three Roma settlements in Međimurje County (Pribislavec, Piškorovec and Lončarevo) were included within the framework of Phare 2006 Programme – Roma Support Project phase II, with the aim to improve the living conditions of Roma national minority, for which the total of EUR 3,147,304.99 were spent. EU provided 70% of the funds (2,261,626.18 EUR), and the RoC 30% - (885,678.81 EUR). The improvement of the settlements has ensured to the residents equal living conditions as other RC citizens have. The completion of works in mentioned settlements was marked on 7th September 2011. The implementation of the third Roma Support Project in Međimurje County has begun in September 2011, funded within the IPA 2008 programme. The contracted project amount is EUR 1,957,233.76, and Croatia is co-financing the project with 25%. The project plans to improve the infrastructure (roads, water supply and electricity grid) in two settlements in Međimurje County (Orehovica and Sitnice). Legalisation process has continued in all these settlements, supported by 1,227,000 EUR from the central state budget.

Cross-border cooperation can also play an important role in improving the housing situation of Roma, particularly social infrastructure: during 2011 municipalities of Orehovica (Croatia) and Črešnovci (Slovenia) have established a cross-border Roma cultural transversal „DROM“ The EU funded project value on the Croatian side of the border is 160,000 EUR, and one component of the project is construction of communal facilities in Roma settlements.

Improvement of the housing situation was funded from other sources as well. For example, national Council for National Minorities provided a total of 40,000 EUR for interventions in Ludbreg, Mursko Središće, and Sisak for legalisation of houses and improvement of local infrastructure.

## 6. HEALTH

- Please describe the health situation of the Roma population and identification of major obstacles that the Roma are facing in access to quality health care services.
- *Please list the policies and programs that were designed and implemented to support the improvement of health care services for the Roma population in 2011 with a special focus on the goals and implementation of the Decade National Action Plan/National Roma Integration Strategy (if applicable)*
- *What are the outcomes of the initiatives (policy, program, activity) that your government implemented in 2011?*
- *Please specify if there are health mediators employed. If so, please specify what type of contract the health mediators have, how often do they have to renew it. Are there any trainings for health care providers in addressing the needs of Roma.*
- *Please identify the most important mainstream and targeted EU funded schemes launched in last year that will contribute to Roma inclusion in the area of health? Please, specify the activity, the funding source (ESF, ERDF, etc.), the operational programme, the amount allocated, the goals to be reached, and the indicative number and share of Roma beneficiaries.*
- *Please list other initiatives (policy, program, activity) that were not designed and implemented to directly support Roma and other marginalized people but affect the aforementioned target groups.*

Please provide information about the following fields in 2011:

- *Number of Roma who can benefit from the insurance system.*
- *Number of fully immunized Roma children*
- *Rate of infant and maternal mortality among the Roma population*
- *Number of Roma women receiving pre and post natal health care; number who should receive such care but do not*
- *Roma life expectancy*

Regarding the monitoring process of vaccination coverage of the Roma population of infant, preschool and school age, and pursuant to Action Plan for the Decade of the Roma Inclusion, in February 2011 the Central Institute for Public Health sent memorandums to all county institutes for public health with the aim to gather epidemiological data on vaccination of Roma children. In the majority of counties, the vaccination coverage of the Roma children is approximately on the same level as the vaccination coverage of general population, especially the coverage of school children vaccinated in schools.

Within the draft of the new National Roma Strategy which is currently being made, new activities are included which aim at increasing sensibilization of workers in the healthcare system for the work with the Roma population, and the improvement of communication between the Roma population on one side and family medicine physicians and other healthcare providers on the other. In order to realize the mentioned objective, specific education of healthcare providers is foreseen, especially in areas where there is a greater number of the Roma population, pertaining to more intensive cooperation with social services.

In Accordance with the Decade Action Plan for the inclusion of the Roma 2005-2015, the Ministry of Health (MoH) implements the following measures: 1. Improvement of health of Roma babies and

children by equalling the rate of vaccination among Roma children and the rest of the population; 2. Improvement of health of Roma babies and children by implementing measures of educating parents as well as preventive and curative measures in healthcare; 3. Education regarding family planning and preservation of reproductive health, as well as of measures of safe motherhood, especially among pregnant women and post-partum women; 4. Improvement of hygienic-sanitary conditions in residences and villages by implementing deratisation measures in order to create the hygienic prerequisites for prevention of infectious diseases; 5. Education and training of members of the Roma community for medical professions. As a part of the 3rd measure of the Action Plan (Education regarding family planning and preservation of reproductive health, as well as of measures of safe motherhood, especially among pregnant women and post-partum women) the MoH worked on the prevention of uterine cancer and breast cancer in women members of the Roma national minority who do not have health insurance and reside in the area of the Town of Zagreb. In 2011 6,700 EUR was provided for gynaecological examinations which would include a PAP test, palpatory examination of the breasts and a medical history questionnaire. After the Roma women's associations were contacted, as well as the councils of the Roma national minority in the Town of Zagreb and visiting nurses from the Zagreb health centres provided the women in Roma settlements with information regarding the place and time where they can receive a free examination, and why such examination is important for their health, by the end of 2011 only 19 of them responded.

MoH also notes a visible improvement in cooperation regarding infectious diseases, and decrease in number of persons infected by some types of IDs.

Regional activities included workshops for children in youth in Osijek, promoting physical and mental health, affirmation of children and youth activities in the area of culture, as well as creating a positive perception of Roma in local communities. Međimurje County has continued with thorough review of vaccination among Roma children in Međimurje, and reacted in two cases when local health centres did not achieve the full vaccination coverage. Working with parents was also an important part of activities: in schools with Roma children workshops took place on hygiene, proper diet, and prevention of infectious diseases. Roma children were also beneficiary of work of Advisory centres in relation to chronic diseases, emotional and learning issues, as well as regards reproductive health. Public Health institute, in cooperation with the Međimurje county and municipalities ensured Roma involvement in project on HPV prevention.

However, for most activities actual data on Roma involvement is not available, since the ethnic background of persons is not collected in health related records.

#### *Abbreviations*

CARNM - Constitutional Act on Rights of National Minorities

CBS - Croatian Bureau of for Statistics

GOHRRNM - Government Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities

MoH - Ministry of Health

MoPA - Ministry of Public Administration

MoSES - Ministry of Education, Science, and Sport

RoC - Republic of Croatia

RMC - Roma minority council