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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*

According to the data of the census conducted in 2001, based on ethnic affiliation, 190,000 persons declared themselves Roma, while based on the results of representative Roma surveys, researchers estimated the Roma population to be around 320,000 in 1971, 468,000 in 1993 and 570,000 in 2003. This represents approximately 5.5 per cent of the entire population of the country. At present, we do not have at our disposal research data more recent than 2003. Researchers estimate the Roma population to be between **650–750,000** in the present decade, subject to the reservation that „the Roma population most certainly does not exceed one million but is with all certainty greater than 700,000”.¹

The age composition of the Roma population is substantially younger than that of the non-Roma population. The rate of children aged between 0 and 14 amongst Roma is 36.8%, while this proportion within the non-Roma population is 15.4%.

The Roma population has an uneven geographical distribution in the territory of the country. In several counties of the country, their ratio to the entire population remains below 3 per cent, while in Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén and Heves Counties, it is near 15 per cent. Additionally, territorial differences are extreme at the level of smaller territorial units; in a number of localities and locality groups, the Roma constitute the majority of the population. More than 60% of Roma live in the countryside, in a rural environment, mostly in segregated residential zones, in rather poor housing conditions. There are some one hundred localities in Hungary which have definitively turned into poor Roma ghettos, while in another two hundred localities, this situation will emerge in the near future as a result of seemingly irreversible processes. Most of the segregated localities and localities on their way to ghettoing are situated in the country's economically depressed north-eastern and south-western regions which are typically characterised by a structure of small localities. As a consequence, we may also observe a process of micro-regional ghettoification and the phenomena of definitive segregation.

The employment rate of the Roma population barely reaches 20%. The 10 per cent employment rate amongst **Roma women** is particularly alarming. These figures are coupled with an extremely poor state of health (Roma die 10 years younger than non-Roma on average), a low educational level (barely 20% of them reach secondary final examinations) and ghetto-like housing conditions without modern conveniences.

(National Social Inclusion Strategy 2011-2020)

¹ Roma society – 2010. Quick report on part “A” of the study. (Research report drafted in conjunction with research pillar of Operative Programme for Social Renewal 5.4.1).



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- *Number of Roma living under the poverty line*

As regards the poverty rate of the Roma we have data from the Household Monitor Survey of TÁRKI Social Research Institute. According to this poverty rate among the Roma reached 70% in 2010. However this data should be interpreted cautiously because of the small sample size.

- *Total number of population living under the poverty line*

The main cause of poverty in Hungary is the low labour market activity of households. Besides the most important social factors influencing poverty are the low educational attainment, Roma origin, the number of children in the families or child poverty as well as the rural place of residence.

After the increase during the '90ies, poverty and income inequalities rather stagnated after 2000 in Hungary. The poverty rate in 2010 was more or less equal to that in the mid-nineties. In 2010 29.9% of the population belonged to one of the three poverty and social exclusion indicators. As a consequence of the crisis, deterioration was observable in the situation of the most disadvantaged groups in 2010 as compared to the 2008 data. An indication of this is that the rate of those living from an income under 60% of the median (at-risk-of-poverty threshold) remained stable as compared to the 2009 data (12.3%) under decreasing amount of the threshold, and furthermore the rate of those living in severe material deprivation increased (from 17.6% in 2008 to 21.6% in 2010). The rate of the third EU social inclusion indicator, people living in households with very low work intensity remained stable (12% in 2008, 11.8% in 2010).

Concerning the other age groups there is no sign of breaking the general trend, that the poverty rate decreases when age grows, and it is the most favourable in case of the elderly. If we look at the figures broken down by age we can see that the deterioration of all three poverty and social exclusion indicators occurred mostly by children, and this caused the deterioration of the general indicator. Poverty rate among children has not changed between 2008 and 2010 (it was 20.3% in 2010), but the rate of children under 18 living in severe material deprivation has increased from 21.5% in 2008 to 28.8% in 2010! The rate of children living in households with very low work intensity has grown from 11.1% in 2008 to 13.8% in 2010 which is still the second highest amount among the Member States.

The multiple disadvantaged situation of the Roma population originates in the fact that the other factors increasing the risk of poverty, ie. low employment and education, large families, rural residence, over-indebtedness, are cumulating among them. Their poverty rate reaches 70%. About half of children living in poverty are also Roma.

(National Social Report 2012)



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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?*

Not relevant

- *Is there a structure on local (municipality) level responsible for the implementation of the Decade National Action Plan / National Roma Integration Strategy?*

According to an amendment of law accepted at the end of 2011 the Government intends to strengthen the commitment of local authorities towards social inclusion by the following way: the municipalities can get access to the development resources, both EU and national resources, only in case if they prepare their own **local equal opportunity situation analysis and action plan**. Local equal opportunity plans need to be cover the situation and challenges of people living in deep poverty, the Roma, children, women, the elderly and disabled people living in the settlement. The government provides thorough instructions and training for their preparation.

- *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.*
- *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)?*

Hungary has just recently started the preparations for the 2014-2020 EU programming period. The institutional and procedural system is under development. Therefore at this stage we can only state that Hungary welcomes that the draft regulations put more emphasis on possibilities aiming at social inclusion and within this, Roma integration. Hungary has a wide range of interventions being implemented or to be implemented in this programming period aiming at the social inclusion of the most disadvantaged groups, especially the Roma (see below in the different chapters), and we intend to develop further or build on the experiences of these. Still in the current programming period we intend to use funds more effectively for social inclusion and launch pilot measures using for instance the simplified cost options or housing



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possibilities under Art 7(2) of ERDF regulation. These measures are currently under development and expected to start in 2012.



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3. EDUCATION

- *Please identify the key barriers that limit educational chances and access to quality education for Roma,*

The characteristic of the Hungarian educational system is that it is not able to decrease socio-economic disadvantages originating in the family. The findings of the PISA survey show that the Hungarian system is one of the systems amongst the OECD countries least providing equal opportunities and the educational success of children largely depends on the education and occupation of their parents.

It is a fundamental problem of the education system that some pupils and students suffering from multiple disadvantages do not even receive the locally available educational services. A substantially higher proportion of Roma children only start going to kindergarten at the age of 5, in contrast to non-Roma children, the majority of whom begin kindergarten at the age of 3. On national average, 88% of children aged between three and five attend kindergarten, while only 42% of Roma children in the same age group².

Exclusion from quality education is a major problem which stems, on the one hand, from the school migration of pupils of higher social status and is, on the other hand, a consequence of territorial segregation and the selectivity³ of the school system. In schools and classes where pupils living in extreme poverty and Roma constitute a separate group, the standard of education is lower. As a consequence, the existing social differences are multiplied. The number of Roma-majority schools has increased by some 34% since 2004 according to a survey from 2010⁴. In 70% of these schools, finding teachers covering the entire spectrum of subjects under the curriculum presents a problem.

Teachers are not prepared during the course of their basic and ongoing training for the education of disadvantaged children and cooperation with parents. Education does not sufficiently furnish children with the basic skills necessary for participation in the labour market and life-long learning. There is insufficient cooperation with child welfare and child protection services, and there is insufficient emphasis on the need for partnership with parents.

Roma children are extremely over-represented amongst children with multiple disadvantages. According to estimates, approximately one half of children with multiple disadvantages are Roma and almost two thirds of Roma pupils struggle with multiple disadvantages. The Roma

² Parliamentary resolution no. 68/2007. (VI. 28.) on the Strategic Plan of the Programme of the Decade of Roma Integration

³ Results of PISA surveys; Kertesi Gábor – Kézdi Gábor (2004): Segregation in basic elementary school – cause and consequences (*Általános iskolai szegregáció – okok és következmények*); Csapó Benő: The results of international surveys – conclusions for the establishment of the development of the Hungarian public education system (*A nemzetközi felmérések eredményei – következtetések a magyar közoktatás fejlesztésének megalapozásához*), 2011.; Csapó Benő, Molnár Gyöngyvér and Kinyó László (2009): The selectivity of the Hungarian education system in the light of the results of international comparative surveys (*A magyar oktatási rendszer szelektivitása a nemzetközi összehasonlító vizsgálatok eredményeinek tükrében*).

⁴ HAVAS Gábor, ZOLNAY János: Impact assessment of the integrative education policy (*Az integrációs oktatáspolitikai hatásvizsgálata*) 2010, Európai Összehasonlító Kisebbségkutatásokért Közalapítvány (EÖKIK)



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population's educational level is well below the average of the entire population; 85.5% of the adult Roma population have maximum elementary qualifications.

While the integration of Roma in elementary schools continued, their ratio in secondary schools providing final examinations remained below 15 per cent, in contrast to the national average in excess of 80 per cent. Additionally, most of the few Roma who do continue their studies tend to seek admission to vocational schools. They have a much higher drop-out rate than their non-Roma counterparts. In addition to the reduction and management of drop-out rates, it is important to ensure that Roma pupils with good results aim for institutions suited to their abilities.

(source: National Social Inclusion Strategy 2011-2020)

- *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).*

Broadening early childhood education, improving access to quality services

It is highly important to provide pre-school education at the earliest possible age to prevent and reduce failures of children at early school years, and to improve the pedagogical tools available to teachers. The target group of the measures aiming expansion of early childhood development is disadvantaged children and their families living in depressed micro-regions, as well as in isolated settlements who have limited access to quality services. Measures are taken to expand kindergarten capacities and implement programmes to improve kindergarten care, ie. introduction of the obligatory admission to kindergarten of three year old children.

- The Act on National Public Education adopted at the end of 2011 (Act 2011. CXC.) (further: Public Education Act) introduces **mandatory preschool attendance** from the age of three from 2014. This measure will improve the preschool attendance of Roma children which is particularly important from the point of view of disadvantaged children and their families.
- In order to improve access in the EU-funded development programmes the establishment of new preschool places have priority. Such programmes are the following: Southern Great Plain Operational Programme sub-measure DAOP-4.2.1-11, Northern Great Plain Operational Programme sub-measure ÉAOP-4.1.1/A-11, Northern Hungary Operational Programme sub-measure ÉMOP-4.3.1/A-11 and Central Hungary Operational Programme sub-measure KMOP-4.6.1-11. All of them are called: **Development of educational institutions**. The aim of these programmes is to decrease the territorial differences in the quality of education and equal access to quality education. All applications were published in November 2011 and.



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Resources available:

| OP | million HUF |
|--|-------------|
| Southern Great Plain Operational Programme | 2 350 |
| Northern Great Plain Operational Programme | 2 000 |
| Northern Hungary Operational Programme | 2 000 |
| Central Hungary Operational Programme | 3 040 |

- The early preschool attendance of multiple disadvantaged children is encouraged and the living of the families is improved by the **kindergarten benefit**, which is due to disadvantaged families twice a year after the three and four year old child if he/she regularly attends kindergarten. The amount of the kindergarten benefit is 20.000 HUF for the first time and 10 000 HUF in every further case.

Integrative Pedagogical System

The **school and preschool integration programs** operating since 2003 serve the purpose of counterbalancing the social disadvantages of pupils. In the framework of the programmes preschool development programmes and skills development and integrative development programmes in schools can be organised. In 2011 the system was reviewed and a renewed integrative pedagogical system is being operated.

The programme provides two kind of support:

a) Supporting programmes promoting equal opportunities

In 2011 **HUF 3.750 million** from the central budget was available for skills development and integrative pedagogical programmes. This serves the successful school career of disadvantaged and multiple disadvantaged children. The funding can be used for skills development or integrative programmes in schools or for development programmes in kindergartens. Skills development and integrative pedagogical programmes are promoting inclusive education for Roma and non-Roma children, pedagogic renewal of institutions, provides individually tailored learning support, cooperative social environment and contacts with the children's parents. Preschool development programmes should focus on pedagogic tasks of children's development, compensating social disadvantages, cooperation with social and health care systems and contacts with parents.

b) Supporting teachers working in institutions taking part in the integrative system

Pedagogues taking part in skills development, integrative or preschool programmes and fulfil certain other conditions specified in law are entitled to pay supplement. Its framework was altogether **HUF 3.420 million** in 2011.

Híd Program” “Bridge Programme”



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As part of the “**Híd Program**” (“Bridge Programme”) specified in the Act CXC 2011 on Public Education, compensatory courses can be organized with a view to primary school and vocational training including the continuation of broken studies and the increasing number of those attending vocational schools.

In order to improve the labour market chances of those leaving the education system without a qualification, the Act on Public Education orders the introduction of the **3-years long vocational training**. By the assistance of the 3-years long vocational training pupils can directly enter the vocational training system right after the completion of the elementary school and can get practical skills 9- and 10-grades which is a particularly responsive age. This can help decreasing their drop-out. The Act on Public Education adopted in December 2011 comes into force as of 1 September 2012.

“On the Road” Scholarship Programme

The Scholarship Programmes “On the Road” operating since 2005 was reformed in 2011. Disadvantaged pupils and their mentors (teachers) can apply and obtain scholarship together. There are three so-called “Equal opportunities” sub-programmes and one talent fostering sub-programme within the Programme:

- Road to secondary school
- Road to maturity
- Road to qualification
- Road to sciences (talent fostering sub-programme)

After reconciling the “On the Road” Scholarship Programme and the Scholarship Programme of the Hungarian Public Foundation of the Roma (“MACIKA”) previously operated separately, a new two-pillar programme was established known as “**On the Road – MACIKA**” Programme from the 2nd semester of the 2011/2012 school year.

The aim of the “Road to secondary school” sub-programme is to prepare disadvantaged children for continuing their studies in a secondary school providing maturity. The “Road to maturity” sub-programme aims at supporting pupils in successfully finishing their secondary education, while the “Road to qualification” sub-programme aims at promoting the successful studies of pupils in vocational schools. These three sub-programmes make the “On the Road – MACIKA” Equal Opportunities Scholarship Programme which provides scholarship and mentoring for pupils.

Since the rate of Roma children among pupils with the worst further learning chances, from September 2011 at **last 50% of new entrants** in each sub-programmes **should be Roma**. The total number of new entrant was also increased.

The other pillar of the programme is called „School-Network”

The other pillar of the programmes is the programme „School-Network”, which funds “good practices” of integrated school development of disadvantaged, especially Roma children, support the collections of good practices, and their evaluation.



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The grant scheme was launched in October 2011 with the amount of HUF 228 million. 26 applications could receive funding which implementation takes place in 2012.

Remedial education for those who have not finished the elementary school:

Within the framework of vocational remedial training, 15-year-old students can join the programme even if they lack elementary school qualifications. Parents can request their children to be admitted for remedial training (starting the next academic year instead of elementary school studies) the year when the child turns fifteen. Remedial training is designed for students to acquire the skills needed for starting vocational training (including the theoretical and practical skills). Remedial education organized on the basis of the local curriculum that is created in compliance with the National Core Curriculum. The number of participants is approx. 3000 pupils, while the amount of state funding was 242 million HUF in 2011.

“Arany János” Support Programmes

The aim of the **Arany János Support Programmes** initiated by the Ministry of Education is to support disadvantaged and multiple disadvantaged students in secondary schools and in vocational schools to minimize social disadvantages and help talented but socially disadvantaged students aged 14-18 to get into higher education.

The **“Arany János Talent Fostering Programme”** provides support for talented but disadvantaged children of the poorest parents to successfully attend full-time secondary education providing final examinations certificate, and therefore enable them to get into higher education. The programme focuses on the differentiated development of the talents of participants. The total number of students involved in the 2011/12 school year is **3000**. The funding of the programme adds up to HUF 2.205 million.

The aim of the **“Dormitory subprogram of the Arany János Programme”** is to support multiple disadvantaged children by the tools applicable in dormitories to successfully learn in secondary school classes providing maturity. In the schools year 2010/2011 **776** pupils participated in the programme. Its funding was HUF 326 million.

The aim of the **Dormitory Vocational School sub-programme of Arany János Programme** is to give opportunity for multiple disadvantaged pupils acquiring marketable vocational qualification. It also provides inclusive pedagogical environment in dormitories for the target group which decreases early drop-out. **567** pupils took part in the sub-programme in the school year 2010/2011, while its funding added up to HUF 477 million.

Roma nationality preschool and school education

The Roma minority – just like other minorities – has the right to initiate education on the language they speak and the education of **Romani** and **“Beás”** (Beash) language.



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In the school year 2010/2011 children were taught Romani language in 31 primary schools in lessons and in 1 school in the form of a study group. There is also Roma language education in 6 secondary schools. The Beash language is taught in 12 primary schools in lessons and in 3 in the form of study groups or other facultative form. In addition there is Beash language education in 2 secondary schools.

The review of the ministerial decree on the guidelines and requirements of minority education was launched in 2011: the professional work covers such issues like the possible change of the number of weekly lessons on Romani or Beash language or the maintenance of the possibility of language teaching in blocks.

The modification of the Governmental decree no. 289/2005. (XII. 22.) has been finished which contains the training requirements of the Romology teacher qualification.

In the framework of an EU-funded programme Roma language textbooks, digital curricula, materials of teacher further training programmes and framework curricula were developed. The Romani and Beás language textbooks for the 1-3 grades of primary schools as well as the textbook for the education of ethnical knowledge were prepared.

The **Gandhi** Secondary General School was established in 1994 with the aim of supporting the education of Roma youths taking into consideration their language, culture, history and lifestyle. In order to make its operation more stable the maintenance of the institution was taken over by a not-for-profit company. The company is owned by the State, the local self-government and an association established by the founders.

Christian Roma boarding schools

In the field of higher education the creation of the network of **Christian Roma boarding schools** in 2011 is worth to be highlighted. Surveys show that the rate of Roma youths in higher education is very low. In order to decrease the drop-out of Roma youth in higher education the Hungarian Christian Churches established Christian Roma boarding schools in four cities with Governmental support. The aim of the institutions is to reinforce the dual identity of Roma youth, strengthen their Christian cast of mind as well as transfer social knowledge. An important pedagogic element of Christian boarding schools is community development.

The boarding schools operate with the following number of places:

Greek Catholic Roma Boarding Schools (in the city of Miskolc): 18 people

Wáli István Reformed Roma Boarding School (Debrecen): 25 people

Evangelical Roma Boarding School (Nyíregyháza): 18 people

Jesuit Roma Boarding School (Budapest): 25 people

In the first year they operated from state support, while in 2012 EU-funding will also open for them via tender. Long-term aim is financing through normative state support. In 2012 two other Roma boarding schools are expected to open, in Szeged and in Pécs.



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- *What were the outcomes of the policies and programs that your government implemented in 2011?*

The **Sure Start Child Houses** (see under the next point in details) took care of more than 4000 children in 2011.

“On the Road – Macika” Scholarship Programme

In the sub-programmes of the **“On the Road – Macika” Scholarship Programme** altogether 11.422 new entrants are entitled for scholarship in the **2011/2012** school year which is **15% more** than in the previous school year. **60%** of the new entrants or 6849 pupils **are of Roma origin**. Besides supporting the new entrants, a number of 8782 pupils, already in the scholarship system get additional financial and mentoral support. Thus in the school year 2011/2012-es altogether 20.204 pupils and 10.196 mentors receive financial support.

Considering that the rate of Roma children among those with the least chances for further education is very high, from the autumn of 2011 in the equal opportunity sub-measures (Road to secondary school, Road to maturity, Road to qualification) of On the Road - Macika programme the rate of the supported students of Roma origin must have **been at least 50 percent**.

The applications for the first semester of school year 2011/2012 were launched in September 2011. There was an about double over-application for the Equal Opportunities Sub-Programmes. 22 337 pairs of pupils and mentors submitted their applications, and out of the pupils 12 132 (or 54%) declared themselves as Roma. In the “Road to secondary school” and “Road to qualification” sub-programmes this rate was above 60%, while in case of the “Road to maturity” sub-programme 38%. The “Road to maturity” subprogram in 2011/2012 has supported **1509** new entrants of Roma origin, while the “Road to qualification” sub-programme has supported **1162** new entrants of Roma origin.

Integrative Pedagogical System

The data on the participants in the **Integrative Pedagogical System in the school year 2011/2012** are the following:

- 1038 educational institutions or member institutions provide integrative skill development in which **74 259** multiply disadvantaged children receive financial support,
- the pre-school (kindergarten) integration development program covers 738 institutions and **20 864** multiply disadvantaged children, furthermore
- 14 957 pedagogues receive wage supplement.

On the basis of the number of participant institutions, pupils and pedagogues as well as the resources the Integrative Pedagogical System is one of the largest social inclusion programme fitting into the system of public education.



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We do not have exact data on the number of total participants of Roma origin in the programme, however surveys estimate that the rate of children of **Roma origin reach 50% among those with multiply disadvantaged background.**

- *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.*

Besides preschool developments (see above) the following programmes were implemented by EU funding in 2011:

Sure Start Programme

The Sure Start Children Houses established by EU support are a key starting point of the social inclusion process of disadvantaged children/families. Their aim is to help small children living in deep poverty and mainly of Roma origin compensating their social disadvantages and developing their skills and capabilities in the most important early ages (0-5 and especially 0-3 years of age) which is essential for a successful school career.

The Sure Start Children House is a service where disadvantaged parents can be present together with the child in order to learn how to develop the child and get also support for reinforcing their independent living competences (family planning, household budgetary competences). By the end of 2011 Sure Start Children Houses provided for more than 4000 children. There are 48 Children Houses at the moment, which were established by the support of the European Social Fund and the Norwegian Fund. For the operation of those Children Houses which finished their projects the central budget gives support.

Comprehensive micro-regional Child chance programmes

The SROP 5.2.3. sub-measure called “Integrated territorial programmes for tackling child poverty” operates between 2010-2013 gives possibility to implement comprehensive development of a wide range of services from early childhood development and care to youth community services in the most disadvantaged micro-regions. As a result of the programmes 10-year long micro-regional child and youth strategies, as well as action plans and resource maps are to be prepared, too. The programme was launched in 5 most disadvantaged micro-regions in 2010 with the funds of HUF 2.590 million, furthermore the call for applications was opened for six micro-regions in 2011 with the funds of HUF 3.400 million.

The latest call for applications for another 15 micro regions has been launched in 27 January 2012.



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SROP sub-measures 3.3.7-09/1 and SROP 3.3.7-09/2: projects in the most disadvantaged micro-regions for supporting quality education and promoting life-long learning by the tools of culture

The aim of the sub-measures is to implement developments fitting to public education and equal opportunities programmes and adjusting to micro-regional specificities in order to create the most adequate public education and cultural services system. A fundamental aim is to reinforce the role of the school system in providing equal opportunities in connection to multiple disadvantaged pupils: to promote pre-school attendance, to decrease school segregation, and to promote further education. The programmes also provide opportunities for micro-regions to improve their cultural services especially adult training services in libraries and museums according to their local needs. To prepare the developments the regional training centres conduct a survey in every affected micro-regions on human services along quality and quantity indicators. Based on the results of the surveys micro-regional development plans are prepared.

In the SROP sub-measure 3.3.7-09/1 48, while in SROP sub-measure 3.3.7-09/2 8 projects received funding. Until 31 March 2012 HUF 629 million in SROP sub-measure 3.3.7-09/1 and HUF 224 million in SROP sub-measure 3.3.7-09/2 was paid.

SROP sub-measure 3.3.1. „Equal opportunities and integration in education”

Within the frame of SROP sub-measure 3.3.1. „Equal opportunities and integration in education” training materials in 11 pedagogical methodological areas were developed for teacher training and further training. The budget of the programme is HUF 2.090 million, and it lasts until 2012.

- *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.*

The majority of the Roma population live in some Northern and Eastern Hungarian as well as South Transdanubian counties. Their rate is especially high in small villages. The educational qualification of the Roma must be improved considerably for their social inclusion. Therefore it is an important goal not to close down schools in small settlements. The ministry responsible for education launched a call for application in 2011 for re-opening closed small schools. The funding available was HUF 300 million from national sources. 4 institutions received funding which affects 100 children altogether. 24 additional schools received also funding which would have been closed without the state support: 11 in the Transdanubian region and 13 in the eastern part of the country. Support provided was between HUF 5-10 million per institution.

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



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Hungarian national educational registers do not contain ethnic markers. The target groups of educational equal opportunities programmes are, in every instance, regardless of ethnicity, groups of pupils/students qualifying as pupils/students with multiple disadvantages or as disadvantaged as defined in Section 121 Point 14 of Act LXXIX of 1993 on Public Education⁵. It is not defined on an ethnic basis, since the problems characteristic of a significant proportion of the Roma minority are not due to their ethnic background but due to their social and health-related status according to surveys⁶.

Roma children are extremely over-represented amongst children with multiple disadvantages. According to estimates, approximately one half of children with multiple disadvantages are Roma and **almost two thirds of Roma pupils struggle with multiple disadvantages**⁷.

- *Number of Roma children attending pre-school, elementary, secondary, and tertiary education; number of Roma children not in school*

Since there is no statistical data collection disaggregated by ethnicity, we can only provide the requested data in relation to disadvantaged / multiple disadvantaged situation.

The concept of socially disadvantaged situation is based on the per capita income in the household, while the multiple disadvantaged situation means that the parent of the child has maximum primary school qualification at the time the child reaches the mandatory school age.

Kindergartens:

Overall number of pupils: 328.545

Out of which socially disadvantaged children: 95.989

Multiple disadvantaged children (disadvantaged pupils with low educated parents): 37.081

⁵ Section 121 Paragraph (1) Point 14 of Act LXXIX of 1993 on Public Education: „disadvantaged child, pupil, student: a person whose eligibility for regular child protection services was established by a notary public due to his/her family circumstances or social situation; within this category, a disadvantaged child has multiple disadvantages if his/her parent providing statutory supervision only successfully completed his/her studies in the eighth grade of elementary school, in the case of a child attending kindergarten, at the time when the child completes the age of three or, in the case of a pupil, at the time when the child becomes eligible for entering school, on the basis of a voluntary statement issued in the procedure regulated in the Act on the Protection of Children and the Guardian Authority; a child also qualifies as a pupil with multiple disadvantages if he/she was taken into long-term foster custody.

⁶ Kézdi G., Surányi É.: The experiences of a successful school integration programme – The impact assessment of the educational integration programme of disadvantaged pupils 2005-2007. (*Egy sikeres iskolai integrációs program tapasztalatai. A hátrányos helyzetű tanulók oktatási integrációs programjának hatásvizsgálata 2005-2007.*), Kertesi G., Kézdi G.: Children of undereducated parents and Roma youth in secondary education (*Iskolázatlan szülők gyermekei és roma fiatalok a középiskolában*); Hungarian Academy of Sciences Economic Science Institute, 2010.

⁷ Kertesi, G.– Kézdi G (2010): Children of undereducated parents and Roma youth in secondary education. Report on the 2006 and 2009 surveys of the Educatio Life Course Survey (*Iskolázatlan szülők gyermekei és a roma fiatalok a középiskolában. Beszámoló az Educatio Életpálya-felvételének 2006 és 2009. közötti hullámaiból*)



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Primary schools:

Overall number of pupils: 775.741

Out of which socially disadvantaged pupils: 257.335

Multiple disadvantaged pupils: 106.535

Vocational schools:

Overall number of pupils: 135.268

Out of which socially disadvantaged pupils: 37.947

Multiple disadvantaged pupils: 13.470

Special vocational schools:

Overall number of pupils: 10.017

Out of which socially disadvantaged pupils: 3.096

Multiple disadvantaged pupils: 1.384

Secondary general schools:

Overall number of pupils: 239.992

Out of which socially disadvantaged pupils: 17.370

Multiple disadvantaged pupils: 2.637

Secondary vocational schools:

Overall number of pupils: 273.344

Out of which socially disadvantaged pupils: 33.464

Multiple disadvantaged pupils: 6.689

(source: Educational Year Book 2009/2010. Ministry of National Resources, 2011.)

- *Number of Roma teaching assistants in pre-school, elementary, secondary, and tertiary education*

Educational support personnel:

Kindergarten – 15.783 people

Primary school – 3.119 people

Vocational schools – 243 people

Special vocational school – 186 people

Secondary general school – 428 people

Secondary vocational school – 530 people

There is no data on the number of Roma personnel.

- *Number of Roma children moving from segregated “Roma” pre-schools, primary and secondary schools, to mainstream schools*



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Professionally unjustified decisions - which assign a considerable share of children of poor and uneducated parents to special education classes – are lessened:

| School year | Share of children classified as having special educational needs due to a mild mental disability in the percentage of all children - % |
|-------------|--|
| 2003/2004 | 2,1 |
| 2004/2005 | 2 |
| 2005/2006 | 2 |
| 2006/2007 | 2 |
| 2007/2008 | 1,9 |
| 2008/2009 | 1,8 |
| 2009/2010 | 1,7 |
| 2010/2011 | 1,6 |

- *Number and proportion of Roma children in special schools/classes*

There is no ethnically disaggregated data available

- *Number of Roma children attending preparatory class before elementary, secondary, and tertiary education*

There's no preparatory classes before elementary and secondary education in Hungarian education system.

- *Access to counseling services for Roma families with children.*

There is no ethnically disaggregated data available

- *Inclusion tools in elementary and secondary education (teacher assistants, individualized education plans, tutoring, other inclusion measures),*

The Integrative Pedagogical System (IPS) introduced in 2003 is a pedagogical system which is designed to create equal opportunities for children with multiple disadvantages in the local pedagogical practice. IPS is now employed by one quarter of elementary schools, and kindergartens and secondary schools, too, have joined the methodology-based programme. From 45 schools in 2003 to about 1600 schools and kindergartens, 86 000 pupils and 10.000 teachers in 2011 are as a result involved in educational integration (see above more details).

- *Dropout rates of Roma in primary, secondary, and tertiary education*



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There is no ethnically disaggregated data collection in public education, but there are some estimation in surveys:

According to a survey conducted in 2009⁸ only 62 per cent of the Roma population having completed the eight grades of elementary school attend the fourth year of secondary school as full-time students, and only 40 per cent of them avoid having to repeat a year of their studies (this rates in case of non-Roma students are 95% and 80% respectively!). As regards continuing education after secondary level huge differences are observable between Roma and non-Roma students irrespective of the differences in the educational qualification of parents. According to 2008 estimates, 2 per cent of young Roma begin their studies in higher education and 0.5 per cent obtains a degree⁹.

- *Number of Roma in primary and secondary Adult education*

There is no ethnically disaggregated data collection in public education. See above the number of socially disadvantaged students and multiple disadvantaged pupils

- *Number of Roma students receiving scholarship and other support in primary, secondary, and tertiary education*

Number of people supported within the frame of “On the road - Hungarian Public Foundation of the Roma” (“Útravaló-Macika”) Equal Opportunities Scholarship Programme

| School year 2011/2012 | Number of new entrants | Out of them Roma | Number of mentors |
|--|------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| “Road to secondary school” sub-programme | 5926 | 4180 | 2595 |
| “Road to maturity” sub- programme | 3376 | 1509 | 1937 |
| “Road to qualification” sub- programme | 2120 | 1160 | 1003 |

⁸ Kertesi G –Kézdi G. (2009): The primary school results, continuation in secondary education and secondary school results (*A roma fiatalok általános iskolai eredményessége, középiskolai továbbtanulása és középiskolai sikeressége*). Final report. Product called ROMA 608. of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences TKI programme „Measure and evaluation of the performance of the public education system.

⁹ Open Society Institute: Comparative Data Set on Education 2008.



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| | | | |
|--|-------|------|------|
| | 11422 | 6849 | 5535 |
|--|-------|------|------|

The three Equal opportunities sub-programmes support 20204 disadvantaged pupils in the school year 2011/2012, however we owe ethnically disaggregated data only on the new entrants entered at the beginning of school year 2011/2012.



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4. EMPLOYMENT

- *Please provide the average unemployment rate on national level, and unemployment rate of the Roma population.*

The employment rate of persons of 15 to 64 years was 55.8% in 2011. The employment rate of men was 61.2% while the female employment rate was 50.6%. Unemployment rate was 11% for both sexes.

The employment rate of youth (between 15-29 years) was 36% and the unemployment rate 17.6%. The employment rate of the older age groups (45-64 years) was 53.7% and the unemployment rate 9.3%. The labour market situation of people between 30-44 years was the more favourable with 74.6% employment rate and 9.6% unemployment rate.

Educational background strongly influences labour market situation. The unemployment rate of people with primary education was 24.9% while their employment rate was 25.7%. With medium level education the unemployment rate was 10.6% and the employment rate 61.1%. In the case of highly educated people employment rate was 74.6% and unemployment rate 9.6%.

The low labour market participation in general is the result of the high inactivity of people with low educational background, which is characterize each age group and both gender. Besides low educated people other disadvantaged groups are older people, women with young children and disabled people. Labour market participation of youth (especially between 15-24 years) is also low. There are also significant geographical differences. The employment rate is the highest in the Central Hungarian Region, the second and third is in the Western Transdanubian and Central Transdanubian Region, while the lowest in the North-Great Plain and North Hungarian regions.

The above mentioned problems characterise especially strong and often cumulated the Roma and therefore their labour market situation highly unfavourable. However, employment data by ethnical background are not collected in Hungary certain estimations show that the employment rate of Roma is the half of, unemployment rate is three-five times higher than the non-Roma population's.

- *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.*

See above

- *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).*

Labour market integration programmes of Roma in 2011



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Complex labour market programmes for disadvantaged people were continued in 2011. Programme SROP 1.1.2 **“Improving employability of disadvantaged people – decentralized programmes in the convergence regions”** was implemented by the employment centres. Between 2008 and 2011 58 051 unemployed participated in the programme among them 3796 Roma. (7%). 3074 Roma people participated in trainings and 2824 finished it successfully. 3434 Roma unemployed accomplished the tailor-made personal plan. 596 Roma people was still in employment on the 180th day after the programme finished. (The data refer to the whole project period. NB: the programme did not contain special target regarding the Roma.)

The second phase of SROP 1.1.2 has started on 1st May 2011. Until 31st December 2011 25 214 unemployed were involved into the programmes, among them 2944 Roma (12%). (However, there are regional differences in the proportion of Roma participants.) The target is to involve 15% of the planned 90 000 participants from the Roma population until the end of the programme in 31st July 2015.

SROP 1.1.4 **„Labour market programmes for the employment of disadvantaged people in the Central Hungarian Region”** project has also started on 1st May 2011. During the first 8 months 110 Roma unemployed were involved into the programme.

Since 1st May 2012 all employment centres (20 in total) hire 2-2 ‘Roma employment officers’ who work on higher Roma involvement into SROP 1.1.2 and 1.1.4 programmes.

Programme SROP 1.1.3 **„Way to the world of work”** was implemented between 1st October 2009 and 31st October 2011. The programme aimed the labour market re-integration of long-term unemployed and inactive people receiving social benefits. The programme was implemented by the regional employment centres which provided tailor-made services, trainings and subsidies to the participants. Among the 9254 former inactive participants 729 were Roma (8%). 425 of them participated in trainings and 393 finished it successfully. 413 Roma participants had the opportunity to gain work experience. 650 Roma finished the programme successfully among who 51 persons were still in employment on the 180th day after the programme closure. (Data refer to the whole project period. No data are available separately for 2011.)

START EXTRA and START PLUS Programmes support the employment of certain disadvantaged groups by targeted wage-subsidies. Both programmes have been implemented in the framework of SROP 1.2.1 with the co-financing of the European Social Fund. START EXTRA and START PLUS cards could issue until 31st December 2011 and the supported employment period can last until the end of 2013. START EXTRA supports the employment of unemployed with low educational background and above 50 while START PLUS supports the employment after the period of parental leave and after the period of taking care sick relatives. The proportion of the wage subsidy is 17% in the first and 7% in the second year of the employment in the case of START PLUS while 27% in the first and 17% in the second year in the case of START EXTRA. In 2011 in total 53 384 cards were issued. Card holders could report their ethnical background on voluntary basis by sending a statement. 17 680 people sent this document and among them 760 persons identified themselves as Roma



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(4.3%). Correlating this number to the total number of participants, estimations show that 2296 Roma unemployed issued START EXTRA or START PLUS card in 2011. (However, this data could distort negatively as only one-third of the participants made the voluntary statement.)

Subprogram „**Roma employment organizing activity**” has been implemented within the programme SROP 1.3.1 „Development of National Employment Services”. The subprogram aims at increasing the Roma participation in employment programmes in general and through this improving the labour market situation and educational level of Roma. The aim is to be reached through the guidance and involvement of as many as possible inactive and unemployed people from Roma origin into labour market programmes. Besides it also provides entrepreneurship guidance for Roma people and enterprises employing Roma people.. 27 ‘Roma employment officers’ are hired in those 29 small regions, which have the highest proportion of Roma population in the country. The goal is increasing the number of Roma participants in employment programmes by 1200 per year. As a result 4723 Roma people participated in employment programmes between 1st May 2009 and 31 December 2011. Among them 608 participated in training and 707 people partook services. With the indirect help of the project 1824 Roma unemployed found a job.

There were no special **training programmes** implemented in 2011. Programme ‘Take a step forward!’ (SROP 2.1.1), which supported the training of unemployed people with low educational background finished in 2009. SROP 2.1.6 programme ‘Back to training’ starts in 2012.

In 2011 268 000 unemployed people participated in **public work programmes** financed by Ministry for National Economy. Based on the data of the employment centres the estimated number of Roma within the programme was around 80 000. (6700 Roma participated in the national public work programme and 72 500 in public work programmes organized by local municipalities.) Therefore, the proportion of Roma participants in the public work programmes reached as high as 30%. However, in certain regions the proportion of Roma participants reached even 50-80%.

The primary aim of the **social agricultural programme** as an active tool for social inclusion launched in 2011 was to promote the living of disadvantaged families living in surroundings suitable for agricultural production but don’t possess facilities for agricultural production. The grant scheme was launched with an amount of **300 million HUF**. 168 projects were supported which enabled the involvement of 1590 people (in 6 or 8 hours work schedule).

- *What are the outcomes of the policies and programs that your government implemented in 2011?*

See above

- *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,*



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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.

See above

- *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:

See in the programmes concerned

- *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*



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5. HOUSING

The 10 year long strategy called National Social Inclusion Strategy – deep poverty, child poverty and the Roma adopted by the Government in November 2011 specifies the following tasks in case of housing:

„Chapter 6.5. Housing

Complex problems leading to precarious housing conditions have to be treated in an adequate manner. In order to facilitate the access to housing for families, improve the housing conditions, and reduce the risk of losing residence and the home maintenance burdens, the current housing benefit system has to be revised. Through the transformation of social housing and housing benefit system, the sanitary and safe segregation-free housing has to be promoted.

Programs have to be launched in order to rehabilitate segregated urban settlements with low infrastructure, as well as the stock of apartments in parts of the settlement. These programs have to operate along with the aim of facilitating the social integration and the employability of those residing there.

In the interest of inclusion of those residing in segregated settlements or slum-like living environments, complex programs aiming to improve social, community, education, health employment and housing conditions have to be launched.”

- *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)*

The State Secretariat for Social Inclusion (Ministry of Public Administration and Justice) devised in 2011 the model program concept aiming the social inclusion of those residing in segregated living environment. One of the novelties of the concept is that the target group must be first prepared for the social integration through the means of the *social settlement programs* and simultaneously, but more usually subsequently, programs for bettering housing conditions can be launched. 410 million HUF is available from domestic resources from which the implementation in 8 localities has started at the end of 2011. (details see below)

- *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*

Several surveys attempted to identify segregated environments in the recent years. The most recent one from 2010 found segregates or slums in **one quarter of settlements**. According to



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the survey approx. 3% of the domestic population, ie. **300 thousand people** lives in segregated environment.

The survey qualified those urban areas as segregated living environments, where according to the 2011 Census data of CSO at least 50% of the active-age population (*between 15-59 years of age*) doesn't have a regular income from work and their highest educational qualification does not exceed 8 grades. On the other hand in case of settlements with a population under 2000 people all those depreciated parts of settlements were qualified to be segregates where the poorest inhabitants are living in one block and the local public opinion considers them to be poor or Roma colonies.

Apartments of those living in segregated living environment can be characterized as follows: the houses are tight close to each other with no separation between homes. The buildings are in run-down condition in most of the cases with no comfort facilities. The only public utility is the electronic grid with uncertain maintenance due to the fact that families without income cannot afford to maintain it. Drinking water is fetched from public taps near the settlement; apartments are heated with waste collected waste wood.

The apartments are 40-60 square meter in size containing a room and a kitchen. The estates are owned by individuals or the local municipality but many of them used without proper authorization. The estates owned by the municipality can be rented for a small amount of money and for utilities a small amount of contribution is meant to be paid. Maintenance of the apartments exposes families without income to great difficulties; therefore they cannot afford to preserve the estate's constitution.

The lots belonging to the apartments are neglected and contaminated by waste. Several outbuildings can be found in the settlements which can be utilized for keeping livestock. Through the support of civil organizations the inhabitants of disadvantaged areas received forage and seed in order to grow vegetables and keep small domestic animals.

- *What are the outcomes of policy or programs that your government implemented in 2011?*

In 2011 the complex settlement program was launched in 8 segregated parts of settlements. The goal of the program is to create a broad community of interest at the settlements concerned and to involve as many people as possible into the programs till 2012 30th of June. The program promotes the social inclusion of citizens living in disadvantaged territories and segregated conditions and assists the amelioration of their living standards through complex interventions. As the part of the program reintegrative skill development trainings are available. The program is implemented through the cooperation of the National Roma Self-Government and its local partners.

Planned outputs:

- Institutes and instruments providing community service
- Refurbished residency units and community buildings
- Trainings



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- Employment, public employment
- *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?*

In order to implement the new concept, the thematic preparation of the following EU constructions was carried out, which implemented will be launched in 2012:

Complex settlement program (SROP sub-measure 5.3.6)

In 2012 February call for application of complex settlement program with fund of 4.68 billion forints was issued. The target group of the program consists of those living in slum-like settlements, in segregated settlements, the multiply disadvantaged ones, those of Roma or not Roma origin with low or outdated qualifications and social-financial problems. In addition the program provides such services for the whole community living in the settlement which facilitate the inclusion of the disadvantaged ones and their reintegration into the bloodstream of the community. The program includes social, community development, educational, health-related, training and employment-related components and promotes the improvement of housing conditions for those residing there. The funded activities must include complex and consequent (modular) measures; therefore the implementers need to achieve synergetic effects with the improvements occurring in target areas.

One of the important elements of the program is that the National Roma Self-Government, as cooperative partner, participates in each program which may help the cooperation with the local actors. 30-50 winning projects are expected.

The program is funded from the resources of European Social Fund. Currently a related program component funded by ERDF is in course of preparation which is meant to aid the improvement of housing infrastructure of settlements.

Establishment of 16 community centres (Social Infrastructure Operational Programme – SIOP sub-measure 3.2.3)

Establishment of 16 community centres in the most disadvantaged areas is being planned. The community centres are meant to provide functions which increase the opportunities people with difficulties on job market, with low qualifications or with no qualification at all. These functions are also meant to provide opportunities for developing life skills, basic skills as well as for mental health, psycho-social support and motivational trainings. In addition the community centres are meant to facilitate the access to basic services.



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In the interest of locally utilizing those trainings provided within the community centres' infrastructure, the project administration needs to cooperate with the local municipalities. The cooperation includes organization of social employment, joining to various forms of social economy and the promotion of self employment.

- *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.*

Government regulation on apartment construction benefit is one of the components of the Home Making Program, which issues non-repayable state benefit in order to promote access to housing. The benefit is aimed to encourage construction of energy-efficient apartments, child rearing, and employment in such way that it determines the amount of the benefit on the basis of number of children and the floorspace-ratio. The new regulation enables the advance of the benefit in case of one or two children.

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*

No data available

- *Number of Roma affected by colony / settlement elimination / development programs*

5948 people altogether out of which 5208 Roma people are participating in the 8 settlement development programmes launch at the end of 2011

- *Number of Roma affected by the regulation of property ownership regimes*

No data available

- *Number of Roma affected by evictions*

No data available

- *Number of Roma included in social housing programmes*



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No data available



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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.*

The difference between the average health status of Roma communities in Hungary and the overall Hungarian average corresponds to the difference between the Hungarian and the international average. The distribution of Roma communities in Hungary is geographically uneven, it shows a concentration in disadvantaged micro regions, segregation-like settlements or city districts. Poorer health status of the Roma is influenced by several factors, including unfavourable situations in preconditions to health at local level, as well as in socio-economic determinants of health (poverty, low education level, poor housing conditions, unemployment etc.).

National averages show the existence of social exclusion, however they might hide major local health inequalities and do not reflect inequities in individual cases.

No minority registry exists in health care, therefore no data characterising the service access averages of the Hungarian Roma communities are available. However, we know very well that the percentage of the Roma population in poor, lagging behind micro regions is higher than the national average (some 5-7%), and shortcomings in primary health care (such as vacancies among GPs and public health nurses) as well as in conditions determining access to specialist care (for example roads, public transport) have a major negative influence on the situation of the Roma being overrepresented among the poor. The consistent strategy of social inclusion generally contributes to the integration of vulnerable groups, including the improved access to health 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)*

The Faculties of Public Health and Health of Debrecen University have launched a health status survey among the Roma living in segregated-like housing environment in **three counties** (Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén, Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg, Hajdú-Bihar) **of the country**. The **health survey** is conducted on a voluntary basis among the adult (18 years and above) population.

The following indicators shall be determined (by standardized means or methods) and **recorded** in the course of **screening examinations by the family doctor**:

- by physical examination (height, weight, abdominal circumference, blood pressure),
- by survey data sheet (demographic data, anamnestic data, data characterising compliance and coherence sensation),



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- data from laboratory tests (lipid values: serum triglyceride, serum HDL-cholesterol, serum LDL-cholesterol, total cholesterol, fasting blood sugar level, genetic polymorphisms predisposing cardio-vascular diseases and diabetes).

The data shall be compared to general indicators of the Hungarian population.

The planned comparative health status survey shall provide a basic description of the **differences in health status among the Roma living in segregated-like housing environment and the majority of society**. This health survey shall be, even internationally, one the **first correct professional and ethic health status surveys** among the Roma population claiming **the identification of problems determining the health status and showing the highest prevalence rates among the Roma population**. Results of the grant supported survey shall be made available and used to support decision making.

Programmes implemented are described under initiatives that were not designed and implemented to directly support Roma and other marginalized people but affect the aforementioned target groups.

- *What are the outcomes of the initiatives (policy, program, activity) that your government implemented in 2011?*

Outcomes are described under initiatives that were not designed and implemented to directly support Roma and other marginalized people but affect the aforementioned target groups.

- *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.*

There are no health mediators employed. Health professionals' training programmes comprise general knowledge on how to work in a multicultural environment.

- *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.*

Programmes implemented in the framework of the Social Renewal Operational Programme (SROP - TÁMOP)

SROP sub-measure 6.1.2 Lifestyle programmes promoting healthy living

Objectives of the project:

- Influencing major health risk factors, forming health-conscious behaviour in each age group with targeted preventive and complex preventive health development programmes.



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- Reducing mortality and disease burden of major chronic, non-communicable (cardiovascular, tumorous) diseases.
- Improving mental health - particularly preventing depression and suicide – through the early development of a personality with good coping skills as well as reducing the use of psychoactive substances.
- Strengthening community activities, partnership cooperation and “participation”.
- Enhancing effective, evidence-based, health-supportive decision making – by institutional development, methodological guidance and capacity building at national and local levels as well as in minor regions.

Based on calls for application published on 30 June 2009, by the end of 2011 altogether 300 applicants were awarded some 2.762 billion HUF grants in convergence regions and in Central Hungary. To provide support to the most disadvantaged micro regions, a call for application was published on 30 June 2009 and altogether 15 applicants (local governments and non-governmental organisations) were awarded about 784.088 million HUF by the end of 2011. Up to the sum of remaining, non-allocated financial resources, the most disadvantaged micro regions could submit further preliminary project plans. For supporting such proposals, an amount of 1.033 billion HUF was made available in January 2012.

SROP sub-measure 6.1.4 Early childhood (age 0-7) programme – 2.5 billion HUF

The project aims at supporting the optimal bio-psycho-social development of the age cohort of 0-7 through further development of paediatric primary health care. The main direct target area is primary health care (network of health visitors /public health nurses/, paediatric general practitioners, GPs in mixed practices providing care also for children) as well as parents. The project also aims at providing support to professionals of paediatric primary care, primarily through the development and renewal of applied methodologies. The objective is to improve conditions contributing to optimal health status of children in line with professional requirements, with particular attention to children and their families who are in special need or disadvantaged. This project aims at mitigating, eliminating problems arising from operational characteristics and deficiencies of the institutional system in place, as well as planning new model developments that improve the quality of current services.

Call for proposal to be published: May 2012

Planned implementation period: 3rd quarter of 2012 – 4th quarter of 2014

SROP sub-measure 6.2.2/A Training programmes and courses for health care employees

The programme aims at supporting vocational training, postgraduate training, re-training of those possessing medical qualifications to acquire new human resource competencies as required by the modernisation and structural transformation of the health care system. The programme also aims at enhancing the availability of health paramedics through providing grants, among others, for young Roma individuals to acquire health qualification.

Based on calls for proposals published in May 2009 – and reopened in December 2009 up to the limit of the remaining sum of non-allocated financial supports - altogether 29 projects could be implemented by receiving training grants up to the total sum of 766.395 million HUF. Call for proposals for training applications for the years 2011-2013 were published in



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January 2012: in the convergence regions some 9.062 billion HUF has been made available, while in Central Hungary 903.104 million HUF.

SROP sub-measure 6.2.4 Employment support for healthcare institutions and providers

Long-term vacancies in general practitioner practices are characteristically located in disadvantaged regions. The majority of such practices do not have enough ensured inhabitants in their district as would ensure the economic operation of the practice, so the solution in the long run might be the merging of practices.

In order to operate merging practices that cover a greater population, involvement of further human resources is necessary. To encourage such merging processes, training and employment support is proposed, and in order to comply with minimum conditions, further equipment procurement is necessary and infrastructural development is inevitable.

Within the first call for proposal, published in December 2008 – and reopened in December 2009 up to the limit of the remaining sum of non- allocated financial resources – altogether 67 applying health service providers were awarded 2.526 billion HUF.

Call for proposals for the years 2011-2013 was published in January 2012, for some 6.625 billion HUF.

For the years 2011-2013, the allocated amount in the action plan for the most disadvantaged micro regions was 1 billion HUF, which can be used for employment purposes by successful applicants under the outpatient specialist care development projects, similarly to the amount of 1.5 billion HUF, available for convergence regions.

- *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.*

1. Shaping incentives aiming at the full utilisation of unused health care provider capacities and vacancies in areas with dense Roma populations.

Practice Programme I

The **Practice Programme** was launched by the National Institute of Primary Health Care in 2006 with the aim of **ensuring health services in permanently vacant adult and mixed practices, based on applications by the local authorities.**

Calls for application are published for local governments with **permanently vacant practices where territorial health care responsibilities could only be fulfilled during a 12-month period by substitution.** In the majority of cases, these are **regions qualified as being disadvantaged** on other reasons. Medical doctors (who are not specialist General Practitioners /GPs/) entering the system under the programme, are employed as **public employees by the National Institute of Primary Health Care** until passing their specialist examination. For this period, the National Institute of Primary Health Care signs contracts with local authorities concerned for undertaking responsibilities of providing GP services and requests the necessary licence from the relevant institution of the public health authority. Following that, the financing contract can be concluded with the health insurance fund. Contracted physicians provide GP services and in the meantime, they fulfil their compulsory



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professional practice periods necessary for passing the specialisation examination in family medicine. So far, **78 medical doctors have joined the system.**

Practice Programme II

Under the Programme, **medical specialists holding clinical specialities can provide GP services either as entrepreneurs or public employees of local authorities**, while signing a specialist training contract in family medicine with the National Institute of Primary Health Care. This Programme was launched in June 2009, and so far **88 medical doctors have joined it.**

Practice Fund

Preparations for establishing a Practice Fund were completed in 2011, aiming at **providing possibilities for retiring family doctors to transfer and for young, entering medical doctors to take over practices.**

As of 1 January 2012, a sum of 2 billion HUF has been made available for young entrants and retiring family doctors to be connected and receive support for the transfer of property rights of the practice. Shaping conditions to the sustainable operation of the system is in progress.

Providing modern care for pregnant women in Primary Health Care

Health visitors (public health nurses) **play a growing role in primary prevention.** They have **a prominent role in the care for pregnant women and in keeping contact with GPs** in these activities. To support activities of health visitors, in 2011 the National Institute of Primary Health Care organised a series of training courses at three venues, with 387 participants.

SROP sub-measure 6.2.2/A Training programmes and courses for health care employees SROP sub-measure 6.2.4 Employment support for healthcare institutions and providers

Detailed description of the projects is under the EU funded schemes contributing to Roma inclusion in the area of health.

2. Increasing participation of the Roma in health screening examinations

Public health oncology screening programmes

The operation of **organised population-wide screening programmes is a public health activity** based on the health service, financed publicly, covering population groups identified as being at age related risk, based on individual call-in and follow-up of target persons, being repeated at intervals as indicated on professional grounds.

Financing of the population-wide breast and cervical cancer screening programme is from double resources since 2001, partly from central budget resources allocated through the Public Health Programme and from the Health Insurance Fund. In addition, grants through European Union and national projects are also used.

Cervical cancer screening provided by Health Visitors (Public Health Nurses) – Pilot programme III.



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The pilot programme of cervical cancer screening to be provided by health visitors was introduced to contribute to decreasing cervical cancer mortality. **181 health visitors have applied for participation in the programme and they care for the concerned female population of 300 settlements in the 19 counties.**

The programme proved to be successful both among the population and among health visitors. Screening attendance rates have improved, and health visitors could prove that they are capable and qualified to do cervical screening and to approach the population. In the course of the three phases of the cervical screening pilot programme provided by health visitors, smear samples were taken from 15425 women, and from among them 983 were advised to turn to a gynaecologist due to inflammation, while 82 due to suspected cancer.

Under the **SROP sub-measure 6.1.3/A project**, being in the preparatory phase, in the forthcoming two years all health visitors will be trained for smear sample taking for cervical cancer screening and about 1500 health visitors will join these activities in settlements with less than 5000 inhabitants.

Accredited seminars held under the project on the National Communication of Screening Programmes - SROP sub-measure 6.1.3-08/1-2008-0002

In 20 venues all across the country, in county centres and in the capital, an **accredited team training programme** (professional day, communication day) was implemented with 700 participants.

The training was attended by **medical doctors and health professionals working in Primary Health Care, who are in the position - through communication, information transfer, motivation - to have an influence on those being invited to organized screening and ensure higher attendance rates.**

“Equal chances against cancer” programme

The aim of the programme is to **promote breast screening** and information for women living in the **most disadvantaged small settlements**, through organising **days of health**. Other health screenings are also provided for the population in disadvantaged situation. The program strongly relies on cultural traditions, strengths, specialities, resources of the settlements. The Programme also intends to promote the **screening** of women with **restricted disposing capacity**, paying special attention to persons living with cognitive **disabilities** as well as to the **on the spot screening** of women with **multiple disadvantages living in institutions.**

The programme mainly focuses on settlements where the share of the Roma is significantly high in national comparison, the number of still birth is dramatically high and life expectancy at birth is low, while unemployment is a general phenomenon due to the discontinuation of industrial activities like mining or the operation of multinational companies, where GPs are not permanently available, or travelling to the county centre or just to the venue of screening meets with difficulties. Although no data exist on the participation of Roma women in screening programmes, it is known that their attendance rate at screenings is lower and their life expectancy at birth is far much lower than the average.



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Days of health and information with the aim of supporting the Roma community with the involvement of the Public Health Authority of the County Government Office

In 2011, **days of health and information were organised** in several counties of Hungary. The series of events was expected to assist in assessing the health status in minor regions with high rates of Roma population and contribute to mitigating their multiple disadvantaged situation.

These initiatives were linked to local communities' events, where members of the Roma minority participated in **health screening examinations** (definition of body mass index, measurement of body fat percentage, blood pressure, blood sugar and cholesterol tests). Appropriate information and knowledge about lifestyle, first aid, care for elderly and infants was provided by professionals to families with multiple disadvantages.

SROP sub-measure 6.1.2 Lifestyle programmes promoting healthy living

SROP sub-measure 6.1.4 Early Childhood (age 0-7) programme

Detailed description of projects is under EU funded schemes that contribute to Roma inclusion in the area of health.

Health development pilot project aiming at desegregation

In the framework of the desegregation programme operated by the National Institute of Health Development, in the 8th district of Budapest, the **sensomotor maturity status of 5-9 years old multiple disadvantaged Roma children was tested, children concerned were identified and dealt with, while their teachers were trained.**

The programme was implemented with the support of the Ministry of National Resources and during the school year of 2010-2011, a total number of 172, mainly disadvantaged children participated in regular sensomotor development activities in 17 groups of 11 institutions. In the course of the age- and development-specific activities the "sense of task" and its sustainment is strengthened while, through the interconnection of verbal and motional tasks, body-consciousness and communication skills are improved. Comparing the results of the group developed with that of the control group, school maturity levels were reached by nearly twice as many children in the group developed as in the control group.

Other initiatives

Prevention of violence against children

In the year 2011, in the frame of "Our common treasure: the Children" programme, operated by the National Institute of Child Health, the teaching programme named "**Never shake your baby**" was continued by a series of conferences for medical doctors, health visitors, social workers, child carers, policemen. The objective of the program was to raise awareness of professionals and, through them, parents to the **severe complications caused by shaking infants and young children.**

As of 6 July 2011, the website www.gvermekbantalmazas.hu is available. This is the first comprehensive Hungarian webpage in this subject, being used both by the population and professionals. Its special feature is that the theme of violence against children is differently



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approached to address different target and age-groups. The National Institute of Child Health, through updating earlier issued methodological letters and establishing an extensive professional partnership, started the elaboration of a **Professional Protocol** on the prevention of violence.

Prevention of smoking in kindergartens

The National Institute of Health Development **prepared an online registration system for newly joining kindergartens. 6000 printed information materials were published on the activities of the Tobacco Focal Point as well as its website.** Their distribution and dissemination can essentially contribute to taking up relations with new kindergartens.

Prevention of smoking in schools

Since the **introduction of the school programme of the National Institute of Health Development, 407 institutions have downloaded elements of the “Fag is sticky!” Smoking Prevention Programme,** mainly teachers’ materials, flash-based presentation and teachers’ and pupils’ questionnaires.

Legislation – smoking

On 26 April 2011, Parliament approved with 84% majority **the amendment of the Act 42 of 1999 on the protection of non-smokers,** providing for a ban or essential restrictions on smoking in indoor and certain outdoor public places. The State Secretariat for Health works intensively on enhancing and supporting compliance with the legislation through providing relevant information and campaigns. Activities are strengthened to **motivate and provide the necessary support for quitting smoking.**

As of 1 September 2012, the packaging of tobacco products can only be produced with pictorial health protection warnings, while as of 1 January 2013 only such tobacco products can be marketed. It will be an important milestone in combating smoking, as it is supported by evidence that pictorial warnings can have much stronger impacts, contributing to the health protection of individuals concerned, particularly those needing special attention due to their age. Specific information supporting quitting smoking shall be printed on the packaging, referring to the webpage www.leteszemacigit.hu and the specific phone number 06 40 200 493. A communication campaign was launched to provide information on the essence of legal modifications and to influence public opinion.

Joint Action on Health Inequalities – “Equity”

The objective of the EU-funded project is to improve the knowledge base and cooperation among Member States in combating inequalities in health status. The National Institute of Health Development is acting as the co-leader of the working group on involving stakeholders and it also participates in the working group dealing with the methodology of equity-focussed health impact studies. The expected result of the project is to enhance enrichment of professional experiences in the fight against health inequalities, the mobilisation of internal public health resources and furthermore to give a priority to the issue of addressing inequality in decision making in the health as well as in other sectors. Experiences have already been



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benefited from when preparing the new format of the impact assessment files prepared by ministries.

Time frame of the project: 2011-2014, the total amount of the grant: 80.946€.

“Health Inequalities: from theory to practice” conference

As part of a long-lasting professional co-operation with the National Institute of Health Promotion, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation organised a Conference on **“Commitment for Health – What can we do locally?”**. International and local best practices were presented and discussed by participating public health experts.

Please provide information about the following fields in 2011:

- *Number of Roma who can benefit from the insurance system.*

No data exist

Act CXII of 2011 on the right to information self-determination and the freedom of information specifies rules on the management of particular data, including, among others, data on nationality or health status. In line with provisions of law, no records can and are made referring to belonging to the Roma community or not.

- *Number of fully immunized Roma children*

No specific data for the Roma population exist. However, vaccination coverage of children in Hungary **exceeds 99%** (it has been so for many years), **as regards immunisation under the age-related, routine compulsory vaccination scheme, covering ten diseases. This high immunisation rate is relevant for the Roma population** as well, there is no lagging behind in this respect. This can be mainly due to the operation of the health visitor (public health nurse) system. Hungarian health visitors are highly educated, specialised in health promotion and disease prevention, having direct contacts with families, focussing on pregnant women, postpartum mothers, families with children.

In case of routine, **voluntary vaccination** (against pneumococcal infection), in counties with higher percentage of Roma population (Borsod-Abauj-Zemplén and Szabolcs-Szatmár counties) the **vaccination coverage does not reach the desirable level, it is slightly above 70%.**

- *Rate of infant and maternal mortality among the Roma population*

No data exist

- *Number of Roma women receiving pre and post natal health care; number who should receive such care but do not*



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No data exist

- *Roma life expectancy*

No data exist