



## PROGRESS REPORT 2011

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

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

In 2011, the Czech Government did not support any research providing us with data or educated guesses about the number of Roma or data on their situation which could be generalized to encompass the entire Roma population in the Czech Republic. The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (“MoLSA”) is preparing new comprehensive research mapping socially excluded Roma localities in the Czech Republic and the situation faced by their inhabitants. This should be funded mainly by the European Social Fund (“ESF”). The research should build on the “*Analysis of socially excluded Roma localities and the absorption capacity of entities operating in this area*” from 2006, which established a map of socially excluded Roma localities.

The Office of the Government Council for Roma Affairs should implement an annual research project “*Long-term monitoring of the situation of socially excluded Roma communities*” further to Government Resolution No 8 of 4 January 2006. As in 2010, the project was not implemented in 2011, although the Office of the Government Council for Roma Affairs (the “Office of the Council”) requested the funds from the central government budget for project implementation. Due to austerity measures in place in 2011, this claim was rejected.

New data on the number of people who voluntarily professed to be Roma can be found in the 2011 census.

- **Estimated total number of the Roma population in the country**

According to the 2011 census, the total population of the Czech Republic is 10,562,214. Qualified estimates suggest that there are between 150,000 and 300,000 Roma (for example, the government paper *Background to the Strategy to Combat Social Exclusion* provides an estimate made by the sociologists Ivan Gabal and Petr Višek, citing 150,000 to 200,000 Roma in the country). The qualified estimates do not correspond to the results of the census, in which self-identification is used to determine ethnicity and enables Roma to claim Roma nationality voluntarily.

According to the 2011 census, only 5,199 people claimed Roma nationality (compared to 11,746 in the 2001 census and 32,903 in the 1991 census). In 2011, 13,150 people claimed Roma nationality in combination with another nationality. These figures show that the majority of Roma prefer not to claim Roma nationality openly.

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

Table No 1 Number of people living below the poverty line (source: CSO, EU-SILC 2005 - 2011)

Year	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
<b>Population below poverty line (thousands)</b>	1140.9	936.4	884.9	925.2	980.0



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<b>Poverty rate</b>	9.7	9.0	8.6	9.0	9.6
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### • Number of Roma living under the poverty line

This information is not investigated at national level as ethnic data are not collected in the Czech Republic under Act No 273/2001 on the protection of national minorities (Section 4) and Act No 101/2000 on personal data protection.

According to the international research survey “*The situation of Roma in 11 EU Member States*”, which was conducted in 2012 by the World Bank, FRA and UNDP, in the Czech Republic about 70% of Roma living in Roma localities suffered material deprivation, as opposed to 23% among non-Roma. The concrete results of research on the economic situation are provided below.

Table No 2 Comparison of the -economic situation of Roma and non-Roma households living in Roma localities in the Czech Republic

	<b>Roma</b>	<b>Non-Roma</b>
Absolute poverty rate PPP\$ 4.30 income based	2%	2%
Absolute poverty rate PPP\$ 4.30 expenditures based	1%	0%
Absolute poverty rate PPP\$ 2.15 income based	1%	2%
Absolute poverty rate PPP\$ 2.15 expenditures based	0%	0%
Relative poverty rate (60% equalized median income)	71%	22%
Poverty gap PPP\$ 4.30 income based	1%	1%
Poverty gap PPP\$ 2.15 income based	0%	1%
Poverty gap PPP\$ 60% equalized median income	24%	7%
Gini coefficient	0,24	0,27
Ratio of richest 20% v. poorest 20%	3,71	4,21
Financial security	13%	60%
Outstanding payments (share of people)	40%	8%
Outstanding payments (share of people) - type		
1. Water	21%	4%
2. Electricity	25%	5%
3. Other housing related utilities	13%	2%
4. Mortgage	1%	1%
5. Credit for household appliance or furniture	9%	1%
6. Taxes	1%	0%
7. Education	2%	0%
8. Health services	20%	4%
Share of outstanding payments in HHs monthly income	64%	32%
Share of outstanding payments in HHs monthly income - type		
1. Water	27%	18%
2. Electricity	30%	13%
3. Other housing related utilities	32%	22%



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4. Mortgage	42%	89%
5. Credit for household appliance or furniture	102%	
6. Taxes		
7. Education	13%	66%
8. Health services	5%	
<b>Home production</b>	3%	12%
<b>Malnutrition**</b>	30%	6%

### 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?

The Czech Government has no plans to create a National Roma Integration Strategy up to 2020 further to the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020. Since 1997, when the Government adopted the first comprehensive report on the situation of the Roma in the Czech Republic, the Government has created a proactive policy of Roma integration, resulting in 2000 in the adoption of the first Roma Integration Concept, which has been updated several times, most recently in 2009, when the Government approved the *Roma Integration Concept 2010 - 2013*. In a resolution on the Concept, the task was set to submit to the Government, by the end of 2013, an updated medium-term Concept for the period from 2014 to 2017. Therefore, continuity has been ensured and there is a guarantee of follow-up strategic material which should flexibly develop further measures to improve the situation of the Roma with regard to the development of their situation. The current Government Concept includes measures in all areas recommended by the European Commission for incorporation into national strategies (it contains measures related to education, employment, housing and health, and also measures covering social matters, security and the development of Roma culture, as well as preservation of the Roma language).

In 2005, the Government approved a long-term strategy for Roma integration which is anchored in the Government paper *Principles of the Long-term Concept of Roma Integration up to 2025*. The principles include the Government's intention and goals to be achieved by 2025 in employment, education, housing, health, social matters, security and the development of Roma culture. The 14 principles include the Government's commitment to preserve the Roma identity and traditions. The Government seeks to protect the fundamental rights and freedoms of the Roma. The intention is to shift the platform for Roma integration to the local level; to this end, the Government will create sufficient financial, organizational and motivational tools for local entities. The goal is the mobilization of the Roma themselves, together with civil society, and their involvement in the process of creating, implementing and evaluating the impacts of Roma integration policy.



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On 21 September 2011, the Government approved the *Strategy to Combat Social Exclusion 2011–2015*, which focuses on addressing the situation of socially excluded localities, a substantial part of which comprises Roma. It develops measures to promote employment, the involvement of socially disadvantaged children in mainstream education, and the prevention of family breakdown and the placement of children in institutional care, and measures to ensure security in and around socially excluded localities.

In addition to these strategies, the Czech Republic, as a Decade member country, is bound by the *Action Plan of the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005–2015*, which was approved by the Government in 2005 and which also develops measures for employment, health, housing and education.

Progress in implementing the above strategies is evaluated annually in the *Report on the Status of the Roma Minority*, which is always submitted to the Government for its information.

It follows that a new Government strategy would duplicate existing material, repeating what has already been processed in strategies already adopted by the Government.

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

The Czech Republic has a network of experts who support the transmission of national strategies to regional and local level. These experts thus contribute to the implementation of the *Action Plan of the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005–2015*. The institutional arrangements for the integration of Roma in the Czech Republic are presented below.

➤ **Institutional arrangements for Roma integration**

**1) National level**

The *Government Council for Roma Affairs* (the “Council”) is an interdepartmental body whose aim is to unify the integration activities of the Ministries. The Council initiates system changes and the removal of barriers preventing the Roma from living fully and with dignity in the Czech Republic. It comments on proposed legislative changes as well as on strategic and policy documents. One of the Council’s committees is the *Committee on Cooperation with Local Governments and the Concept of Roma Integration*, whose members are all regional coordinators for Roma affairs, representatives of the Roma consultants of municipalities, field experts and mayors. Methodologies and recommendations for the performance of tasks and measures under the Concept contributing to Roma integration are established here.

Decade activities are coordinated at national level by a national coordinator. Until May 2011, the position was vacant; on 18 May 2011 Monika Šimůnková, *Government Commissioner for Human Rights*, was appointed national Decade coordinator. Decade activities are coordinated by the Office of the Council, with the involvement of members of the *Committee on the European Platform for Roma Inclusion and the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005–2015*, which is one of the Council’s committees.



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The *Agency for Social Inclusion in Roma Localities* is a coordinating body, an interface between institutions at national and local level. It pursues its objectives by establishing local partnerships with key institutions at the level of selected municipalities in which socially excluded localities are situated. The Agency promotes the implementation of strategic and conceptual documents and guides local partners to produce local strategies of social inclusion. It strives to eliminate the emergence and spread of socially excluded localities, supports the exchange of experience between regional partners, and provides methodological support for the development and implementation of integration projects.

### 2) Regional level

Regionally, there are *regional coordinators for Roma affairs*, who coordinate the implementation of the Action Plan of the Decade of Roma Inclusion and the Concept of Roma Integration at regional level, and participate in the creation and implementation of policies related to social services and to the prevention of risky behaviour and criminality, promoting the fulfilment of the needs of the Roma minority. They also offer methodological support and provide training for Roma advisers. They play an irreplaceable role in addressing current cases and issues in the various locations, where they defend the interests of the Roma, and act as spokespersons and facilitators of communication between the different parties (e.g. between the Roma, municipalities, and public institutions and commercial entities). Their activities since 2008 have been supported by grants under a grant scheme of the Office of the Government entitled “Support of Coordinators for Roma Affairs”.

### 3) Municipal level

Municipalities have *Roma advisers* who are kept busy addressing the problems of local Roma in their catchment area. They pressure the municipal assembly and foster the protection of Roma interests and rights, and ensure that the needs of the Roma are met. They also cooperate with other providers of social programmes in the municipality and coordinate their activities in accordance with the current situation of the Roma minority.

### 4) Committees on national minorities

Support for Roma integration may be of interest to *committees on national minorities*, which can be established at regional and municipal level. The establishment of these committees and their membership structure depends on the number of members of national minorities claiming that national minority in the census. Municipalities are required to establish a committee if more than 10% of the population claims to be a national minority; for regions, this obligation arises if 5% of the regional population claims to be a national minority. These thresholds are laid down in Act No 128/2000 on municipalities (Section 117) and Act No 129/2000 on regions (Section 78).

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### ➤ Financing of Roma integration by the central government budget in 2007–2011

Every year, the Government earmarks funds from the central government budget to improve the situation of Roma. In some grant schemes, funding is allocated in a targeted way taking into account not only the needs, but also the ethnicity, of recipients of support. The following table shows the amount of funds invested in Roma integration in the last five years.

Table No 3 Overview of funds invested by the central government budget in Roma integration from 2007 to 2011

Ministry	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
MoEYS	25,000,000	25,519,400	22,161,200	12,783,400	21,891,000
MoC	2,000,000	20,525,760	21,843,524	20,449,435	19,937,350
MoLSA	42,000,000	0	0	0	0
MoI	0	0	0	0	0
GTA	7,100,000	0	0	0	0
MRD	0	0	1,704,000	2,894,642	1,403,405
OGCR	0	71,648,530	55,244,054	49,431,001	34,981,913
<b>Total</b>	<b>76,100,000</b>	<b>117,693,690</b>	<b>157,383,278</b>	<b>85,558,478</b>	<b>85,171,668</b>
<b>Total for last five years</b>					<b>521,907,114</b>

- 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.

Negotiations on planning of the use of European Structural Funds for the period 2014–2020 are already underway at national level. They involve representatives of the MoLSA, the Ministry for Regional Development (“MRD”), and the Office of the Government (the Unit for the Coordination of COREPER I Sectoral Policies and the Agency for Social Inclusion in Roma Localities). Representatives of Roma NGOs do not participate in these discussions. The needs of the Roma are promoted in the planning of the use of funds by the director of the Agency for Social Inclusion in Roma Localities. The Czech Republic currently holds a position that does not enforce the setting of specific Roma priorities in the 2014–2020 programming period.

- 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)?

This is mainly the responsibility of the managing authorities of individual operational programmes, which, to this end, have established the monitoring committees of the individual operational programmes to monitor the targeting, efficiency and effectiveness of projects and expediency in the use of funds. The process of the redistribution of funds and the monitoring



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of efficiency in 2007–2013 involves Roma representatives (including certain members of the Government Council for Roma Affairs) and as evaluators of project applications, and as members of the monitoring committees of individual operational programmes.

The national coordination body and individual managing authorities are responsible for running a uniform and comprehensible information campaign, providing ongoing publicity for EU grant schemes, and publishing information relating to grant aid on their websites (e.g. the websites of the MoLSA, the MoEYS, and the MRD). Separate sites have also been set up, including “*EU Structural Funds*” (<http://www.strukturalni-fondy.cz/>), “*European Social Fund*” (<http://www.esfcr.cz/>) and <http://www.prahafondy.eu/cz/oppk.html> for operational programmes targeting the City of Prague.

This method for disseminating information is also used by applicants and recipients of grants for programmes aimed at the inclusion of the Roma. Information on the preparation of projects is disseminated specifically in relation to the Roma and project assistance is offered by the *Agency for Social Inclusion in Roma Localities* (the “Agency”).



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### 3. EDUCATION

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

These barriers can be divided into external obstacles arising from the Czech educational system and internal barriers related to the Roma themselves. Fundamental problems are the lack of preparedness of mainstream educational institutions for the education of Roma children and pupils and students with special educational needs, and the inconsistent and vaguely defined procedure for the education of socially disadvantaged children, pupils and students. There are shortcomings in the Czech legal system, in which the principle of primarily educating socially disadvantaged students in mainstream schools is not sufficiently vigorously anchored. Overall, the law fails to provide a clear definition of socially disadvantaged pupils, a category which also encompasses Roma pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds, and there is no detail on the method in which they are to be educated.

Mainstream schools are prevented from providing good conditions for education by the major under-financing in this area. Decree No 492/2005 *on regional norms* grants a supplement to the financial norm only to one group of pupils with special educational needs, namely pupils with disabilities. Pupils who are socially disadvantaged are completely disregarded in this respect and schools thus lack the financial resources to create educational conditions that are responsive to their special educational needs. Although the MoEYS tries to ensure a basic level of grant support for countervailing measures in the form of grant schemes and development programmes, this method is unsystematic, uncertain for schools and administratively burdensome, as applications for grants must be submitted every year. Providing pupils with adequate technical equipment and tools to develop their knowledge and skills is also problematic.

There are large numbers of pupils per class, preventing a teacher with a high proportion of disadvantaged children from applying an individual approach, i.e. where individual education plans are drawn up for pupils, they remain more or less on paper. A fundamental problem is the lack of professional readiness to work with disadvantaged Roma children among teachers and counsellors responsible for the diagnosis of training needs and for proposing measures to handle those needs. Their training does not include educational programmes focused on these issues. A response to problem areas is provided by strategy documents, particularly the *National Action Plan for Inclusive Education*, with measures intended for the comprehensive pro-inclusive reform of Czech education. However, the process of developing and implementing this plan has slowed significantly in the period from the second half of 2010 to the present.

As a result of systemic barriers in the Czech Republic, indirect discrimination against Roma children, who still tend to be educated in schools for pupils with disabilities, has continued. Another problem is the segregation of Roma children in mainstream schools with





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a high proportion of Roma pupils. These schools are often situated in the vicinity of socially excluded Roma localities where there is a high concentration of the Roma population. The existence of segregated schools has set the stage for the emergence of mutual intolerance, prejudice and xenophobia. In addition, these schools have a lower quality of education, which ultimately leads to a reduction in the future educational opportunities of disadvantaged Roma pupils and their chances of making a successful transition to secondary school or active participation in the labour market when they reach adulthood.

Internal barriers lie mainly in the attitude of socially excluded Roma families to education, which is formed by their order of values and circumstances. There is still a lack of belief here that education can provide Roma with success in the labour market and social advancement; this position negatively affects the educational and professional aspirations and trajectories of socially disadvantaged Roma children and youth. Roma often attribute this distrust and reluctance to personal experience, where even Roma with higher levels of education have failed to find work either because of the unavailability of suitable jobs in their excluded community or due to discrimination in the labour market. Overall, an environment where low levels of education and unemployment are common does nothing to encourage excluded Roma. The Roma parents of disadvantaged children often voluntarily encourage the easier education of their children in special schools as fewer demands are then placed on domestic preparations for the teaching of the children; there are also fewer demands on the children to prevent stress at school. Furthermore, here they are not exposed to conflict with pupils from the majority population because they are educated in a group of Roma children.

The localities where Roma live and their social status prevent them from creating a suitable backdrop for Roma children for the development of their abilities and skills. The disadvantages of Roma children start from the beginning of their life, when the parents cannot or do not know how to develop their skills and prepare them for compulsory schooling. In addition, distrust and lack of funding prevent the children from enjoying a preschool education in nursery schools. The unpreparedness of Roma children is then addressed by making them undergo preschool preparation in preparatory classes. As this preparation is short, a number of children here fail to gain the necessary range of knowledge and skills to enter compulsory schooling. The preparatory classes are often set up in special primary schools for pupils with disabilities. A large proportion of Roma children then remain in that school, embarking on compulsory schooling here with parental consent and on the advice of educational counselling facilities at the special primary school. However, such a school is unable to create an environment that can stimulate the children to harness their maximum potential. Some Roma children who enrol at a mainstream school are found to be unprepared over time, and are then forced to repeat a year or transfer to a special primary school.

A significant proportion of Roma children end education early, not progressing beyond primary school [= lower secondary education]. They are then exposed to a future of unemployment, poverty and social exclusion. The community lacks positive role models to stimulate children to study and plan a career. Parents are not prepared to support children, even financially. The situation is more complicated for those families where it is necessary to



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commute to distant towns in order to study, as they have to meet transportation costs or the cost of accommodation at a boarding school. Secondary school curricula are not readily accessible everywhere.

Some Roma, on completing primary school, move on to secondary school, usually to study in fields where they are given apprenticeships. Again, a considerable number of them drop out due to lack of motivation or support from parents, a lack of positive role models in the area that would stimulate them to study, or due to the poor socio-economic situation of their families, who cannot afford to support their studies. One of the obstacles is the low readiness of secondary school to educate students with special educational needs (secondary schools apply inclusive measures to a lower degree than primary schools). Another obstacle is the migration of families; when they move, the student leaves school and fails to enrol at a school in their new place of residence.

The low number of Roma secondary school graduates is also reflected, understandably, in the very low number of Roma university graduates.

- **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).**

- **National strategies with measures to increase the educational opportunities of the Roma**

Below is a **list of national strategies** with measures targeting improvements in the situation of the Roma in the field of education:

- 1) Concept of Roma Integration 2010–2013;
- 2) Strategy to Combat Social Exclusion 2011–2015;
- 3) National Action Plan for Inclusive Education 2010–2013 (“NAPIE”).

- **Financial support of programmes to support the Roma in the field of education**

Below is a list of grant schemes targeting the support of projects to promote the education of Roma, and the amount of the grant funds distributed for that purpose from the central government budget in 2010–2011.

Table No 4 Grant support from the central government budget for programmes to support the education of the Roma

Program me	Programme name	Target group	2010	2011	2012
Grant scheme	<b>Support for the Integration of the Roma Community</b>	Schools, districts, municipalities, NGOs	<b>CZK 13.5 million</b>	<b>CZK 13.1 million</b>	<b>CZK 15 million</b>
Grant	<b>Support for Secondary</b>	Schools	<b>10.1 million</b>	<b>8.9 million</b>	<b>CZK 12</b>



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scheme	<b>School Roma Students</b>				<b>million</b>
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- **What were the outcomes of the policies and programs that your government implemented in 2011?**

Unfortunately, data are not available in this area. Members of the Council warned the Minister for Education to continually evaluate the impact of inclusive measures and the effectiveness of spending on programmes aimed at increasing the educational opportunities of the Roma. Specifically, asked the Minister for Education to provide information on the impact of projects supported under MoEYS grant schemes to enhance the educational achievement of Roma children, their attendance at school, to switch from primary to secondary school, the occurrence of educational and disciplinary problems, and the number of children reintegrated from special schools into mainstream primary schools. Unfortunately, these data have yet to be submitted. Experience shows that these activities help the Roma in education; without them, their situation would worsen even more. However, they do not result in a significant increase in the educational opportunities of the Roma.

- **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.**

The support of Roma education is financed by the European Structural Funds. The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (the “MoEYS”) is the managing authority of the *Operational Programme Education for Competitiveness* (“OPEC”). In the 2007–2013 programming period, up to the end of 2011, 342 projects to create equal opportunities in education had been supported with a total amount of CZK 1,996 million.

### Project support

- Teacher training in the field of inclusive education for work with socially disadvantaged pupils – **41 projects worth CZK 210 million.**
- Early care – **13 projects worth CZK 74 million.**
- Development of methodologies to prevent racism and discrimination, and the subsequent training of teachers of mainstream schools and school facilities in those methodologies – **36 projects worth CZK 306 million.**
- Creation of programmes to promote the education and development of socially disadvantaged pupils – **86 projects worth 609 million.**



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- 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.

### ➤ Strategy documents:

#### Long-term Plan for Education and the Development of the Educational System

This document was drawn up in 2011 by the MoEYS and was approved by the Government. It formed the basis for the production, by each region, of long-term plans defining the concept of the educational system in their territory. This document contains a commitment to promote equal opportunities in education, and to create conditions which comply with special educational needs. It also builds on the Concept of Roma Integration 2010–2013 and the Action Plan of the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005–2015.

### ➤ Financing

In the Czech Republic, the central government budget provides financial support of inclusive measures for children, pupils and students with special educational needs (they are divided into three categories – pupils with disabilities, and with health and social disadvantages). Roma pupils from socio-culturally disadvantaged environments are usually included in the category of socially disadvantaged pupils. This means they can draw on the scheme of assistant teachers for socially disadvantaged children, pupils and students, and attend preparatory classes within the scope of preschool education. Since 2011, pupils from preparatory classes have been able to attend after-school clubs, enabling them to spend their free time meaningfully in a collective of other Roma and non-Roma pupils. Decree No 74/2005 on special-interest education was amended for this purpose.

A number of NGOs are in a position to implement projects facilitating the timely care of Roma children under 6 years, focusing on their preschool preparations in order to improve their success when they make the transition to primary school; they also run support programmes aimed at increasing the school success of Roma children in primary and secondary schools, at supporting them in their choice of school, and on providing stimulating activities. The central government budget also supports comprehensive projects interlinking educational intervention with social intervention (projects of all-round work with families). Below is a list of grants which, while not intended exclusively for Roma pupils, do result in an overall improvement in the educational conditions of the Roma.

Table No 5 Grants from the central government budget for programmes to promote the education of Roma

Programme	Programme name	Target group	2010	2011	2012
Development	Support for Schools Providing Inclusive Education and the Education of Children from Socio-culturally	Nursery, primary,	40 million CZK	40 million CZK	40 million

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programme	Disadvantaged Backgrounds	secondary schools			CZK
Development programme	Assistant Teacher for Socially Disadvantaged Children and Pupils	Nursery, primary, secondary schools	75 million CZK	74.4 million CZK	75 million CZK
Grant scheme	Support for Education in Minority Languages and Multicultural Education	Schools, districts, municipalities, NGOs	18.2 million CZK	17.8 million CZK	15,029 million CZK
			3.98 million CZK	1.51 million CZK	500,000 CZK

### ➤ Legislative changes

In 2011, there was a change in decrees governing the education of pupils with special educational needs. Decree 147/2011, amending Decree 73/2005, prohibits the education of socially disadvantaged children according to educational programmes for pupils with disabilities. It also defines a set of compensatory measures to offset the disadvantages and to support the education of pupils in mainstream education.

Decree 161/2011, amending Decree 72/2005, regulates the activities of school counselling facilities, obliges them to periodically review the special educational needs of pupils and measures proposed for their fulfilment, regulates the rights and obligations of the legal representatives of pupils and counsellors in the counselling process, and also the issue of informed consent. In the future, the MoEYS is planning the comprehensive revision of the two decrees.

### ➤ Methodological support

With a view to the methodological support of schools in implementing inclusive education, an individual national project entitled “*Inclusive Education Support Centre*” has been implemented with funding from the ESF. This project is implemented by the National Institute of Education, school counselling facilities and facilities for the further training of teachers.

In 2011, the centre had a total of 11 branches in selected sites (Plzeň, Most, Liberec, České Budějovice, Praha, Hradec Králové, Jihlava, Brno, Olomouc, Opava and Karviná), with services covering the needs of schools in every Czech region.

The project focuses on verifying and setting conditions for inclusive education, especially in primary schools. The centres provide the services of psychologists, special educators, social workers, didactic experts, project managers, and cultural anthropologists to selected schools. Project workers assist in the creation of conditions for the provision of education reflecting the possibilities and abilities of the pupils, and set up and monitor rules of equality in access

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to education, particularly for pupils requiring supportive measures and pupils with special educational needs.

**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**

In 2011, no national research was conducted which can be used as a basis for the provision of information.

The situation of the Roma in education is outlined in the results of the international research *“The Situation of Roma in 11 EU Member States”*, jointly implemented by the World Bank, the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights and the UNDP<sup>1</sup>. This research resulted in the following information related to education:

Table No 6 Comparison of the situation in the field of education for Roma and non-Roma respondents

	Male		Female		Total	
	Roma	Non-Roma	Roma	Non-Roma	Roma	Non-Roma
Literacy rate (16+)**	97%	100%	96%	100%	97%	100%
Literacy rate (16-24)**	99%	100%	99%	100%	99%	100%
Pre-school enrolment rate (3-6)**	28%	64%	27%	64%	27%	64%
Gross enrolment rate in compulsory education (7-15)	91%	96%	94%	94%	93%	95%
Gross enrolment rate in upper-secondary education (16-19)	42%	86%	38%	83%	40%	85%
Average years of education (25-64)	9,80	12,49	9,56	12,20	9,68	12,34
Average years of education (16-24)	9,83	11,56	9,98	11,94	9,91	11,75

Table No 7 Comparison of highest completed education among Roma and non-Roma respondents

	No formal education		Primary education - ISCED 1		Lower secondary education - ISCED 2		Upper secondary education - ISCED 3		Post-secondary education - ISCED 4+	
	Roma	Non-Roma	Roma	Non-Roma	Roma	Non-Roma	Roma	Non-Roma	Roma	Non-Roma
1. Highest completed education (25-64)	5%	0%	11%	0%	54%	11%	30%	79%	0%	10%
male	5%	0%	11%	0%	51%	9%	33%	79%	0%	11%
female	5%	0%	12%	0%	57%	13%	27%	79%	0%	8%

<sup>1</sup> The research sample in the regional survey in the Czech Republic comprised 1,100 Roma households and approximately 500 non-Roma households living in areas with a high concentration of the Roma population.

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2. Highest completed education (20-24)	1%	0%	7%	0%	62%	15%	30%	79%	0%	7%
male	2%	0%	7%	0%	64%	13%	27%	77%	0%	10%
female	0%	0%	7%	0%	61%	17%	32%	80%	0%	3%

Under Section 36(1) of Act No 561/2004 on *preschool, primary, secondary, post-secondary vocational and other education*, school attendance is compulsory for nine grades, but up to a maximum of the end of the school year in which the pupil reaches his seventeenth year of age. For this reason, the participation of Roma in primary education is high, although one of the problems that is associated with the education of Roma children from disadvantaged backgrounds is unexcused absence from school.

To tackle this problem, several possible penalty mechanisms have been established in the Czech Republic to encourage parents to send their children to school. First, the school negotiates with the parents. If their position on the school attendance of their children remains unchanged, the school reports such absence to the child protection agency at the municipal authority once the unexcused absence of a child extends beyond 25 lessons. In response to unexcused absence, parents may be struck off the register of beneficiaries of assistance in material need (the due attendance of children at school is one of the conditions of eligibility). They may also be fined up to CZK 3,000 in misdemeanour proceedings or be sentenced to imprisonment for the crime of endangering the morals of youth.

- Number of Roma teaching assistants**

Table No 8 Number of assistant teachers in schools, aggregate amount of their work. Hours and grant aid for 2011

Applicant (region)s	Number of assistant	Total hours	Amount of subsidies from the MoEYS budget	Amount of subsidy support from regional budgets
South Bohemia	22	18.67	3,653,916,	0
South Moravia	39	30.72	5,225,666	0
Hradec Králové	19	15.27	2,470,705,	2.080.000,
Liberec	26	21.42	3,612,326,	3.360.096
Moravia-Silesia	82	72.44	12,908,091,	0
Pardubice	24	23.01	4,169,467,	2.805.000
Plzeň	18	13.67	2,531,019,	0
City of Prague	24	22.63	3,073,713,	0
Central Bohemia	49	39.48	7,067,546,	0
Ústí nad Labem	80	70.64	12,136,549	0
Vysočina	9	9	1,444,316,	0
Karlovy Vary	25	23.58	3,230,763,	0
Zlín	16	13.2	2,036,220,	0

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Olomouc	58	43.27	7,818,427,	18,225
Křesťanská ZŠ Jihlava	1	1	138,931,	0
Církevní ZŠ a MŠ P.Pittra, Ostrava	10	10	1,568,186,	0
DD se školou, ZŠ a šk.jídelna, Sedlec- Prčice	3	3	709,366,	0
Škola J.Ježka, MŠ, ZŠ, PŠ a ZUŠ pro zrakově postižené, Praha 1	3	3	621,700,	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>74,416,907</b>	<b>8,263,321</b>

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

In 2011, there was investigation on the basis of which it would be possible to provide current information. It should also be noted that the Czech Republic has a dual form of segregation. First, an issue is that socially disadvantaged Roma children are often educated in special schools established primarily for students with disabilities. Although, in 2011, decrees were approved governing the education of children, pupils and students with special educational needs, which provide that socially disadvantaged children, pupils and students must not be educated according to educational programmes for pupils with mild mental disabilities. Nevertheless, an investigation by the Ombudsman in 2012 found that 32% of Roma pupils were educated in special schools (a reasonable estimate by the teachers involved in the survey cited as many as 35% of Roma pupils). The Ombudsman’s survey confirmed that Roma children continue to suffer from indirect discrimination in education in the Czech Republic.

The thematic report of the Czech Schools Inspectorate from 2010 entitled “*Summary Findings of a Thematic Inspection of Former Special Schools*” noted that 33% of Roma pupils were educated at former special schools (zvláštní školy), now often called practical primary schools (praktické základní školy). The investigation also indicated that, of the total number of children educated in special schools involved in the research sample (i.e. a total of 15,894 pupils, regardless of ethnicity), only 36 were reintegrated into mainstream schools. This figure is also a testament to the fact that the reintegration of Roma children into mainstream schools is minimal. At the end of June 2012, the results of a survey by the Czech Schools Inspectorate focusing on reintegration into mainstream schools should be published.

Another form of segregation is that Roma pupils are educated in mainstream schools, but at these schools there are high proportions of Roma pupils or students. These schools are characterized by a lower quality of teaching, and the teachers’ inability to provide children with an individual approach consistent with the nature of their educational needs. This form of





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segregation in Czech Republic has not been sufficiently mapped; therefore, it is impossible to provide data on how many pupils are educated in mainstream Roma schools [sic].

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

The *Ombudsman's Research into the Ethnic Composition of Pupils at Former Special Schools* from 2012 set out to determine the numbers of Roma pupils educated in former special schools. The research objective was to obtain a relevant estimate of the ethnic composition of the pupils of former special schools, now often known as a practical primary schools, in response to long-term criticism of the Czech Republic for the segregation of Roma pupils; it followed up on a judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in the case *DH and Others versus the Czech Republic*. The European Court of Human Rights found indirect discrimination in the Czech Republic against Roma children educated in special schools according to a curriculum for pupils with learning disabilities; this kind of education had a negative impact on their future educational opportunities, their job prospects and in other areas of life.

The Ombudsman comments on the situation of Roma children in education from a legal perspective, i.e. from the perspective of the exercise of Roma children's right to education. A guarantee of equal access to education is strictly required by international conventions and by Czech legislation, particularly Act No 561/2004 *on preschool, primary, secondary, post-secondary vocational and other education, as amended*. The prohibition of unequal access to education on grounds of ethnicity, nationality or race can also be found in the Antidiscrimination Act. The research results essentially also show to what extent the requirements of the European Court of Human Rights are implemented in practice.

The researchers proceeded from the assumption that, according to official estimates, 150,000 to 300,000 Roma live in the Czech Republic, i.e. the Roma population as a proportion of the total of population is 1.4% to 2.8%. One might therefore expect that this ratio would be approximately conserved in the subset of children subject to compulsory school attendance (67 schools participated in the survey, educating 3,896 pupils, with 2,801 pupils present at the time of the investigation). The ethnicity of students was determined by two methods of collecting ethnic data, i.e. by observation and by the method of identification based on indirect criteria. The research showed that Roma pupils in the former special schools, now known as practical primary schools, are significantly overrepresented. The Ombudsman's staff, through the method of observation, identified a total of 32% of Roma pupils in the schools monitored. The qualified estimate provided by teachers was higher – 35% of Roma pupils. The teachers noted that Vietnamese, Hungarian and Slovak students also appear in negligible numbers.

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Table No 9 Estimated ethnic composition of pupils on the basis of observations by Ombudsman staff – classified by region

Region	Total pupils	Number of pupils present	Number of Roma pupils	Of which girls	Proportion of Roma pupils
City of Prague	445	301	65	27%	22%
South Bohemia	304	236	83	46%	35%
South Moravia	538	401	96	38%	24%
Karlovy Vary	112	73	27	39%	37%
Vysočina	265	179	53.5	55%	30%
Hradec Králové	186	119	50.5	63%	42%
Liberec	132	97	47.5	31%	49%
Moravia-Silesia	617	345	131	34%	38%
Olomouc	266	212	75	43%	35%
Pardubice	110	83	7.5	47%	9%
Plzeň	133	107	50	43%	47%
Central Bohemia	373	269	76	38%	28%
Ústí nad Labem	389	308	146	38%	47%
Zlín	84	71	0	0%	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,954</b>	<b>2,801</b>	<b>908</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>32%</b>

Note: The decimal numbers in the column “Number of Roma pupils” occur because the figures represent the average of estimates by two members of the Ombudsman’s staff.

As is evident from the table above, the estimated number of Roma pupils in the monitored schools varies considerably between each region. We can assume that this is primarily due to the uneven distribution of the Roma population in the Czech Republic. However, the overall conclusion is that the proportion of Roma children is estimated by teachers in most regions to be more than 30%. The highest estimated proportion was recorded in the regions of Ústí nad Labem (47%), Karlovy Vary (45%) and Moravia-Silesia (41%).

The research results are consistent with results from previous surveys conducted in 2009, when the Institute for Information on Education noted in its survey “*Monitoring of Framework Education Programmes*” that 27% of Roma pupils were educated in “practical” schools according to the general educational programme of primary education for children with mild mental disabilities, whereas the figure for non-Roma pupils was only 2.17%. The Czech Schools Inspectorate’s 2010 survey “*Summary Findings of a Thematic Inspection of Former Special Schools*”, which monitored the effects of changes in the Schools Act, and in particular the effects of the abolition of the category of special (*zvláštní*) schools on pupils of former special schools, noted that 35% of Roma pupils were educated at the monitored

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schools according to the annex for pupils with mild mental disabilities. The results of the Ombudsman's research show that, in practice, there has been no progress in the integration of Roma children into mainstream education. Not even five years after the judgment in the case of DH and Others versus the Czech Republic have the requirements of the European Court of Human Rights been met.

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

Preparatory classes are established in the Czech Republic as one of the forms of preschool education for socially disadvantaged children who are not adequately prepared to start compulsory education at primary school, most likely because they did not participate in long-term preschool preparation in nursery schools, and grew up in a socially disadvantaged environment where their parents were unable to provide adequate conditions to develop their skills. The number of preparatory classes in each region in 2011, also aggregated for the Czech Republic as a whole, and the number of socially disadvantaged pupils attending them, can be found below. Qualified expert estimates indicate that the vast majority of these children are Roma.

Table No 10 Preparatory classes in 2011

Region	Number of schools establishing preparatory classes	Number of preparatory classes	Number of pupils attending them
City of Prague	18	19	214
South Bohemia	2	3	26
South Moravia	10	16	229
Karlovy Vary	20	24	281
Hradec Králové	7	7	89
Liberec	6	8	64
Moravia-Silesia	21	25	350
Olomouc	7	7	91
Pardubice	6	6	73
Plzeň	4	6	89
Central Bohemia	15	15	129
Ústí nad Labem	73	87	1,098
Vysočina	4	4	52
Zlín	1	1	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>2,800</b>



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

Special counselling in education is provided to parents and children through *school advisory facilities* (specifically, pedagogical and psychological counselling centres and special education centres), which should diagnose learning needs and propose measures for their fulfilment, explain the process for parents and children, and secure the informed consent of legal guardians and adults for the recommended education.

The network of these facilities in the Czech Republic is relatively well developed; the problem lies in the way they are operated. Experience shows that many counsellors cannot properly use or interpret the results of diagnostic tools in relation to Roma children. Statistics show that, statistically, in tests of intelligence Roma children are 11 times more likely to appear in the zone of mild mental impairment compared to the overall incidence of mild mental impairment in the general population. There is no adequate justification as to why children associated with one ethnic minority, and, what is more, originating mostly in a single social class, stigmatized for their different looks and physique, constantly fail when it comes to education in mainstream schools.

The creators of the research “*Disease of the Powerless: Mild Mental Retardation*” claim that the problem regarding the diagnosis of mild mental disability goes beyond the workers performing the diagnosis; it is a systemic failure. In the health sector, diagnoses according to the international classification of diseases may be made only by a physician or a health professional (clinical psychologist) with relevant postgraduate education that has culminated in an exam. However, clinical diagnosis is also part of the job description of psychologists working in education counselling facilities. This system is outside the health sector and its employees need not meet the requirement of professional training and certification imposed on health professionals. This results in a dual system of diagnosis in health and in education. The members of staff of education counselling facilities diagnose mild mental retardation **15 times more frequently** than workers at outpatient facilities.<sup>2</sup> According to the authors of the study, this disproportion between the diagnoses is due to the different purpose of the examinations.

Some counselling activities are included in the educational programmes run by NGOs, supported by grants from the MoEYS budget or the regional or municipal budget. Listed below are programmes to support the education of the Roma financed in 2011 from the MoEYS budget under the programme *Support for the Integration of the Roma Community*. Funds under the programme were distributed to support the following areas:

- 1) **timely care** – 14 projects supported with CZK 4,356,000;
- 2) **support for education** – 11 projects supported with CZK 7,995,000;
- 3) **leisure** – 40 projects supported with CZK 10,301,000;
- 4) **development of methodologies** – 5 projects supported with CZK 701,000.
- 5) **presentation of the Roma community** – 1 project supported with CZK 180,000

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<sup>2</sup> Hůle, D.: Role diagnóz LMP a VPCh v systému speciálního školství, Demographic Information Centre, 2010.



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Support and counselling for parents and children in education is also included in social services, especially social prevention services. The service providers are financially supported from the MoEYS budget or the regional or municipal budget. In 2011, social prevention services intended not only for Roma users, but for persons at risk of social exclusion in general, were supported from the MoLSA budget with CZK 48,401,900. Roma at risk of social exclusion often use these services. Social activation services for children and young people are a key social service for the support of parents and children in this respect.

Table No 11 Support of social prevention services covered by the MoEYS budget in 2011

Type of service	2011 grant
low-threshold facilities for children and young people (13)	5,134,000
professional social counselling (21)	6,940,000
social activation services for families with children (9)	4,886,000
outreach programmes (48)	31,441,900
<b>Total</b>	<b>48,401,900</b>

The availability of these services was not examined in detail in 2011. Experience shows that the Czech Republic does not yet have a fully connected network of providers of these programmes; in fact, the number of programmes to support parents and their children in education in 2011 decreased due to lower grant aid, particularly for those activities in the field of social services. The Czech Government decided to provide lower grants for some grant schemes as part of its austerity measures.

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

In accordance with Section 1(2) of Decree No 147/2011 *amending Decree No 73/2005 on the education of children, pupils and students with special educational needs and exceptionally gifted children, pupils and students*, countervailing measures, i.e. specifically the following tools, are intended for socially disadvantaged Roma children, pupils and students:

2. application of educational or special educational methods and procedures consistent with the educational needs of pupils;
3. provision of individual support within the scope of education and preparations for education;
4. use of the counselling services of schools and education counselling facilities;
5. use of an individual education plan;
6. use of the services of an assistant teacher

A school provides these measures based on educational assessments of the learning needs of pupils, the progress and results of their education, or in cooperation with an education counselling facility.

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There is no information facilitating an assessment of the degree to which these instruments are used in relation to Roma children, pupils and students. Experience shows that they are needed to a much greater extent in the education of Roma children. Mainstream schools, especially those operating in the vicinity of socially excluded localities, suffer from a lack of assistant teachers, the unavailability of quality counselling services and a lack of teaching staff for the number of disadvantaged children so that individual education plans can be created and implemented for all of them.

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

In 2011, there was no research providing data on how many Roma children, pupils and students drop out of primary, secondary and tertiary education. In 2010, GAC, s.r.o. was commissioned by the MoEYS to conduct the survey “*Sociological Analysis of the Transition of Roma Pupils from Socially Excluded Environments from Primary and Secondary Schools.*” This investigation yielded the following results:

Table No 12 Arrival of Roma children at primary school for compulsory schooling

Enrolment	Roma children		Other children	
	Proportion	N of thousand	Proportion	N of thousand
Mainstream	87%	870	98%	980
Special schools	13%	130	2%	20
<b>Total</b>	100%	1000	100%	1000

Table No 13 Movement from mainstream primary schools to secondary education

Events at mainstream primary school	Roma children		Other children	
	Share	N from thousand	Share	N from thousand
Leaving for special school	21%	183	2%	20
Repeated grade	27%	235	6%	59
No negative event	52%	452	92%	901
<b>Total</b>	100%	870	100%	980

Table No 14 Leaving mainstream primary schools, by grade

Leaving mainstream primary schools	Roma children		Other children	
	Share	N from thousand	Share	N from thousand
Lower than 9 <sup>th</sup> grade	39%	268	6%	58
9 <sup>th</sup> grade	61%	419	94%	902
<b>Total</b>	100%	687	100%	960

Table No 15 Movement from mainstream primary schools to secondary schools

Leaving mainstream primary schools	Roma children		Other children	
	Share	N from thousand		Share

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No enrolment	16%	110	< 1%	1
Secondary education completed with apprentice certificate	68%	467	28%	269
Secondary education completed with school-leaving exam ( <i>maturita</i> )	16%	110	72%	690
Total	100%	687	100%	960

Table No 16 Premature departure of Roma children from secondary education

Departure of Roma from secondary school	Vocational fields	Academic fields
Premature	42%	30%
Due completion of studies	58%	70%
Total	100% (735 students)	100% (113 students)

The success of Roma students in tertiary education has not yet been mapped; it is not possible to provide relevant data on this area. According to qualified estimates by regional coordinators for Roma affairs, the number of Roma students in tertiary education is very low.

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

Regrettably, no data are available on this matter. Experience indicates that the number is very low. Long-term unemployed Roma adults with a lack of qualifications who are registered at employment offices in the Czech Republic tend to undergo retraining courses, which are part of the active employment policy. In the Czech Republic, it is possible to attend programmes for adults designed to complete their primary education. However, the availability of these programmes is low because of a lack of interest. Other educational programmes for adults are more in the domain of NGOs and commercial entities.

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

Socially disadvantaged Roma students are targeted for scholarships under an MoEYS grant scheme entitled “*Support for Socially Disadvantaged Roma Pupils in Secondary Schools*.” Between January and June 2011, this scheme disbursed 810 scholarships to Roma students in a total amount of CZK 4,319,100, followed by 893 scholarships in a total amount of CZK 4,471,900 between September and December 2011. In total for 2011, the MoEYS budget supported 1,703 scholarships for Roma pupils at a total amount of CZK 8,791,000.

Roma university students can receive a scholarship from the central government budget in the form of an MoEYS grant to support socially disadvantaged university students. Grants are



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awarded to private and public universities to enable students from low-income households (including disadvantaged Roma students) to attend university.<sup>3</sup>In this respect, the grant is not specifically provided to support Roma university students, but, generally, to support of university students from low-income households. In 2011, under this scheme private universities received grants of 2.5 million for social scholarships and 11 million to support the accommodation of social disadvantaged students. Public universities received subsidies amounting to 56 million for social scholarships and 960 million to support the accommodation of students from socially disadvantaged backgrounds.

Scholarships for Roma university students are also available from the Roma Education Fund (REF). The main objective of the programme is to increase level of education among the Roma minority and to advance the desegregation on the educational system by awarding scholarships.

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<sup>3</sup>Under the programme, it was possible to apply, for example, for a grant to purchase textbooks, study materials, teaching aids for their library (to be lent primarily to disadvantaged students unable to buy them), for a grant to enhance scholarships awarded by the university in accordance with rules on scholarships in cases of difficult social situations (single or repeated), for a grant for academic, social, psychological and other counselling for these students, and for a grant for protective equipment purchased for the university and lent to these students.



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### 4. EMPLOYMENT

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

#### 1) Assessment of the overall labour market position in the Czech Republic in 2011 (from the Statistical Yearbook of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs)

The average unemployment level in the Czech Republic reached 8.6% In comparison with the preceding year this was 0.4 percentage points lower. The average number of jobseekers last year was 507800, and was 21000 lower than in 2010. The number of vacancies in 2011 grew on average to 36500, which is 3300 more on a year-on-year basis. The average number of jobseekers also receiving unemployment benefit went down from 163500 in 2010 to 132400 in 2011, with the proportion in relation to the total number of jobseekers reducing to 26.1% from 30.9% The average monthly figure for unemployment benefit fell from 5698 CZK in 2010 to 5586 CZK in 2011. At the end of 2011 it was 5595 CZK, whereas in December 2010 it reached 5720 CZK. During 2011 a total of 34835 new jobs were created through active employment policies.

#### 2) Assessment of the position of Roma in the Czech Republic labour market in 2011

Given below are the results of a Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs investigation conducted at 13 out of 14 regional Labour Offices in the Czech Republic, giving an expert estimate of Roma jobseekers recorded by the Czech Republic Labour Office.

Tab N. 17 Estimate of the number of members of Roma communities listed at labour offices

Region	Total	Men	Women
South Bohemia (Jihočeský)	1 420	800	620
Vysočina	619	318	301
Pardubice (Pardubický)	1 509	751	758
Zlín (Zlínský)	636	385	251
Plzeň (Plzeňský)	1 684	889	795
Karlovy Vary (Karlovarský)	4 850	2 658	2192
Hradec Králové (Královehradecký)	1 100	600	500
Ústí nad Labem (Ústecký)	6 000	3 500	2 500
South Moravia (Jihomoravský)	5 100	2 500	2 600

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Prague	-	-	-
Liberec (Liberecký)	2 241	1 238	1 003
Moravia-Silesia (Moravskoslezský)	8 130	3860	4 270
Olomouc (Olomoucký)	2 467	1281	1186
Central Bohemia (Středočeský)	2 700	1 530	1170
<b>Total</b>	<b>38 456</b>	<b>20 310</b>	<b>18 146</b>
<b>Proportion in %</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>52,8</b>	<b>47,2</b>

- **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.**

No study was undertaken at national level in 2011, on the basis of which the requested data might be provided. From the information provided by the regional coordinators for Roma affairs it follows that in comparison with the majority population Roma more often face long-term, repeat unemployment, which is also concentrated within the household (more than one member of a household of economically active age is unemployed). Roma unemployment also has a structural nature, where Roma jobseekers are unable, due to their low educational attainment, inter alia also a result of segregation in education, and their low levels of qualifications, to meet employers' requirements in respect of the vacancies available. A part is played in this by the prejudices of some employers, who ascribe to Roma characteristics such as workshyness, unreliability and other negative stereotypes, without giving them any chance to obtain the job they seek.

Repeated failures in looking for work, but also life in an environment where long-term unemployment is normal, significantly reduce their motivation to look for legal employment. Another demotivating factor is the value of expected wages, which in view of the unskilled work involved is not high, and the value of anticipated costs of being employed, particularly for applicants who must commute to work from outlying excluded localities (transport costs to work).

A further demotivating factor is the high level of indebtedness, where income from legal employment is threatened with deductions (attachments). Roma tend to turn to illegal employment opportunities, which are easily available in socially excluded Roma localities.

The position of the inhabitants of socially excluded Roma localities who live in the outlying areas of towns and villages is truly alarming. In these localities the unemployment rate varies between 70% and 100%. These localities are characterised by a dysfunctional labour market. Here there is a low number of vacancies of a more seasonal type with an unclear employment contract and low wages for the work done. The outcome is then a search for alternative sources of livelihood, which most frequently are illegal work; the use of disadvantageous financial products from non-banking sources, theft of property, metal

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collecting and other more short-term activities. Alternative sources of income and their consequences then become the context for negative views on the part of the majority inhabitants towards the inhabitants of excluded Roma localities.

The position of Roma in the Czech Republic in the area of unemployment is also outlined in the results of the study entitled "*The Situation of Roma in 11 EU Member States*", compiled by the World Bank, the EU Fundamental Rights Agency and UNDP<sup>4</sup>. This study gives the following data for employment:

Tab No. 18 The employment position of Roma in the Czech Republic

	Male		Female		Total	
	Roma	Non-Roma	Roma	Non-Roma	Roma	Non-Roma
Employment rate (15-64)	43%	76%	19%	64%	31%	70%
Employment rate (15-24)	19%	32%	9%	22%	14%	27%
Unemployment rate (15-64)	33%	5%	48%	6%	39%	6%
Unemployment rate (15-24)	59%	20%	64%	24%	61%	21%
Activity rate (15-64)	63%	80%	37%	68%	50%	74%
Last employment experience (15-64)	3,7	2,5	6,6	3,7	5,0	3,1
No employment experience rate (15-64)	32%	21%	41%	20%	37%	21%
No employment experience rate (15-24)	67%	60%	91%	50%	77%	56%
Self-employment rate (15-64)	4%	11%	1%	5%	2%	8%
Self-employment rate (15-24)	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%
Informal employment incidence (15-64)	32%	10%	18%	7%	27%	9%
Informal employment incidence (15-24)	47%	5%	14%	27%	36%	13%
Preferences - employment regularity (16-64)*						
Having secure employment but having to be at work 8 hours a day 5 days a week and not having the freedom to manage your time	59%	83%	63%	78%	61%	80%
Having irregular employment but being free to manage your time	41%	17%	37%	22%	39%	20%
Preferences - employment regularity (16-24)*						
Having secure employment but having to be at work 8 hours a day 5 days a week and not having the freedom to manage your time	53%	80%	57%	63%	55%	70%
Having irregular employment but being free to manage your time	47%	20%	43%	37%	45%	30%
Preferences - employment security (16-64)*						
Having secure employment but low paid	67%	82%	75%	89%	71%	86%
Having higher income but insecure and irregular	33%	18%	25%	11%	29%	14%

<sup>4</sup> The study sample in the regional investigation in the Czech Republic was made up overall of 1100 Roma households and approximately 500 non-Roma households living in areas with a high concentration of Roma.



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Preferences - employment security (16-24)*						
Having secure employment but low paid	57%	73%	75%	72%	67%	72%
Having higher income but insecure and irregular	43%	27%	25%	28%	33%	28%

- 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).

➤ **Strategic government documents in this area:**

- 1) Roma Integration Concept for 2010 - 2013;
- 2) Strategy for the Fight against social exclusion in 2011 - 2015.

➤ **Funding of advisory activities provided by NGOs**

On programmes aimed at improving Roma employment, it is important to mention **employment counselling and employment mediation**, which is targeted at Roma by several NGOs. These activities have their field component in the localities, and through an in-field form of counselling, also offers support in direct contacts with employers.

A number of NGOs offer further support activities, e.g. free access to a PC and the internet, and phone use for contacting employers. As part of these programmes, staff offer counselling and help in writing structured CVs and accompanying application letters, interview practice, as well as **employment legal counselling and an anti-discrimination service**. Some providers also offer **job clubs**, where group counselling is available, and also provide **career training**, arrange for or provide **requalification programmes**. In this area support from ESF is essential. These are drawn down not just by non-governmental non-profit organisations, but also by public institutions such as labour offices. But in part these activities, if they operate under social services agenda, such as specialist social counselling, are also financed from the state budget, from the budget resources of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. Similarly the Office of the Czech Government provides grant support for services improving Roma access to the labour market, through its grant headings Support for Fieldwork, Prevention of Social Exclusion and community work.

Tab. No. 19 Grant support from the state budget for social services, which may be directed towards support for Roma employment

Type of Service	Grant 2011
Specialist social counselling (21)	6 940 000,-
Field programmes (48)	31 441 900,-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>38 381 900,-</b>



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

At present there are no data available for this. Specialists state that these programmes have a positive impact, nevertheless there is a greater need for them.

The concluding assessment of the efficiency of those projects targeted at supporting Roma employment and paid for in particular from European Structural Funds will be available at the end of the 2007 - 2013 period. On the basis of a comprehensive assessment of the final reports, information will be obtained on the effectiveness of the programmes, and examples of best practice suitable for further distribution will be identified.

- **Please identify the most important mainstream and targeted EU funded scheme 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 achieved, and the indicative number and share of Roma beneficiaries.**

Not all the required information is available, below we give at least those which are available.

<b>Use of European Social Fund finances to support Roma employment</b>
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### **I. Human Resources and Employment Operational Programme (managed by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs)**

- a) Support area 3.2 Support for the social integration of members of Roma localities**  
(Individual projects, grant-aided projects)

#### **Support for social entrepreneurship**

9 target groups are defined within **Call No. 30** Social Economics in the Human Resources and Employment Operational Programme. The target group in question can possibly be primarily included in target No. 8, with those who are long-term unemployed and recorded for more than 1 year in the jobseeker records for the Czech Republic Labour Office; as well as in target group No. 9, who are otherwise those who are socially excluded or those threatened with social exclusion, who have been (immediately, i.e. max. 3 months before starting employment) or are users of a registered social service in accordance with Act No. 108/2006 Coll., on Social Services, as amended. As part of Call No. 30 of the Human Resources and Employment Operational Programme 6 projects, working exclusively or in part with the stated target group, were supported. As examples of best practice we can mention two companies from Odry, Svazem s.r.o. and AC AERO s.r.o. The business activity of AC AERO s.r.o. is mainly providing gardening services, from implementing and maintaining family gardens and private grounds to gardening work

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in towns, parks, around larger companies and working with the green space in the countryside. STAVZEM s.r.o. offers small-scale building work (including demolitions), maintenance of greenspace, painting, winter maintenance of local paths and tracks, and other services (removals, cleaning work, etc.) It fulfils its function of being a social company by, inter alia, employing people from the target groups, with a focus on the Roma ethnic group.

### II. Support Area 3.3 - Integration of socially excluded groups into the labour market

Support for Roma in the area of employment also occurred as part of grant-aided projects implemented and focused on the target group entitled "ethnic minorities and people from another sociocultural background" from calls within support area 3.3 of the Human Resources and Employment Operational Programme **Call No. 31**. A list is given below of supported projects

Tab. No. 20

Title:	Reg. No.	Applicant	Grant value (CZK)
Overcoming barriers	CZ.1.04/3.3.05/31.00045	JOB ASISTENT, s.r.o., partners: Town of Dubí, Local Chamber of Commerce in Teplice, The Roma civic association in Bílina	4.682.640,-
SUPPORT	CZ.1.04/3.3.05/31.00189	Rekvalifikační a informační centrum s.r.o., partner: OMNI TEMPORE, o.p.s.	4.585.645,20
Comprehensive counselling programme for integrating disadvantaged groups in the labour market	CZ.1.04/3.3.05/31.00234	HMA, s.r.o.	5.755.398,-
Field working counselling in socially excluded localities in the metropolitan area of the Olomouc region	CZ.1.04/3.3.05/31.00243	Charita Olomouc	5.840.776,-
"Work Gang"	CZ.1.04/3.3.05/31.00271	Diakonie ČCE, Vsetín centre	2.004.388,80
Path to greater employability	CZ.1.04/3.3.05/31.00274	Bílý nosorožec, o.p.s.	4.629.612,-



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Support for Roma in the labour market - CENTROM	CZ.1.04/3.3.05/31.00275	Centrom, civic association	4.590.202,36
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### II. Global grant: Support for the social integration of members of Roma localities

In 2008 **Call No. 15** was issued for individual projects for regions; in this 6 projects have been supported up to now, to the value of 120 566 790,- CZK. The aim of the call is in particular to provide direct support for members of socially excluded Roma communities which meet limitations in access to services and in the labour market. Also, support to secure access and quality of social services aimed at integrating members of socially excluded Roma communities, including support for their access to investment support, support in the area of preventing social exclusion and in the area of preventing crime, support for systemic activities from the social services system for members of socially excluded Roma communities, especially in relation to the Act on Social Services, the associated legal norms and to the transformation of social services, including support for evaluation of the effectiveness of services.

In 2008, as part of the global grant a single round **Call No.19** Support for social integration of members of Roma localities was announced, focused on support for the providers and contractors of social services operating in the social integration of members of Roma localities, also supporting social services and other tools benefiting the social integration of members of socially excluded Roma communities/localities and not least supporting processes which provide social services, including support for partnerships at local and regional level. In total 13 evaluation rounds of submitted projects took place. This Call was closed as at 31.11.2011. The reason for this was the depletion of the set allocation determined for the global grant. Of a total number of 324 applications submitted, 76 projects were approved for implementation. The total amount allocated to projects implemented under Call No. 19 is 458 146 434.41 CZK. As at 31.01.2012 11 projects had been successfully concluded. At present an evaluation questionnaire is being prepared; this will be addressed to the recipients of financial support. Its aim is, inter alia, to map the way in which an implemented project has had an influence on socially excluded localities.

### III. Implementation of individual projects under Support for the social integration of members of Roma localities

Call No. 55 was announced in 2009. Here communities are the relevant applicants. Support is directed mainly to localities in which the Agency for Social Integration in Roma Localities operates. The Call relates to intervention area 3.1 of the Integrated Operational Programme (IOP) - Services in Social Integration. The total allocation for the Call is 200 000 000,- CZK. As of 31.12.2011 a total of 7 project applications to an overall value of 120 484 718.70 CZK have been supported.



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The supported activities in **Call No. 55** are in particular directed at supporting the provision of selected social services in accordance with Act No. 108/2006 Coll., on Social Services, as amended, with a focus on returning people into society, to the labour market or to maintaining them in the labour market or in services allowing them to return to the labour market. And in addition support for further activity permitting prevention of social exclusion or direct help for members of socially excluded Roma communities/localities. The projects supported are at present in the first stages of implementation, and for the moment one cannot evaluate whether they have an impact on minimising social exclusion. In view of the interest from applications and rapid drawdown of funds we plan to increase the allocation to this call.

### Use of European Fund for Regional Development finances

#### **I. The Integrated Operational Programme (IOP), priority axis No. 3 Improving the Quality and Accessibility of Public Services**

##### **a) intervention area 3.1 Services in Social Integration, support area 3.1 b) investment support to secure access to such services, as enable the return of members of the most at-risk socially excluded Roma localities to return to the labour market and into society.**

The focus of the activity consists of creating a background for new, expanding and innovating selected social services and optional activities based on them, the purpose of which is to return users of these services to the labour market and into society.

For the receipt of projects, **Call No. 3** OI 3.1 IOP with continuous receipt of projects was opened on 30.9.2009, and ran until the call was closed on 28. 2.2011. A total of 29 projects were submitted to Call No. 3 OI 3.1, of which 13 projects were approved, these projects laying claim to funds to the value of 114 768 698.60 CZK. As at 31.12.2011 one of the approved projects had been completed, implementation of the remaining projects is ongoing.

As part of the aforementioned activity a new continuous Call No. 6 OI 3.1 was announced on 31.5.2011, projects can be submitted at any time from the announcement until 6 June 2013, its planned termination date.

The allocated volume of funds for the call is 260 433 287.00 CZK

By the end of 2011 three projects calling for support to the value of 29 252 039.00 CZK had been submitted to the call.

In addition to this the IOP support the social economy through **Call No. 1.**, open from 10 April 2009 to 1 April 2011 and focused on financing investment expenditure incurred in instigation social entrepreneurship and securing employment for people from disadvantaged social groups. Ethnic and national minorities, persons from another sociocultural background





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and foreigners were some of the target groups for Call No.1. 6 supported projects requiring grants to an overall value of 10227895 CZK are focused on the integration and employment of these specific target groups. In the new **Call No.8**, open from 29.7.2011 to 29.6.2012 there are target groups defined in the same way as for Call No.30 of the Human Resources and Employment OP, intervention area 3.1. The total allocation for this call is 220 283 651,- CZK

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

### ➤ **New organisational arrangements for employment services and the establishment of a national Labour Office for the Czech Republic**

The system and organisational arrangements for public employment services is undergoing fundamental changes at the present time through the establishment of a Labour Office for the Czech Republic; these will change not only their structure, but will also expand its activities into other areas of implementation, in particular:

- Work with Labour Office clients, and in particular with clients in material need, using of social work secured by the new sections of non-insured social benefits
- For execution of social work, working effectively with accredited local government offices and offices with extended competence.
- A shared Unified Information System of Labour and Social Affairs.
- Introduction of new tools and measures of active employment policy and within the creation and implementation of regional strategies for the development of local labour markets, their evaluation and publication.
- Public service
- Selected requalification for a job applicant
- Shared mediation

Regional individual employment programmes, which are guaranteed by the regional branches of the Czech Republic Labour Office are aimed in particular at specific groups of disadvantaged and difficult to place jobseekers in the labour market, who after "profiling" (counselling services) are directed at specific job opportunities.

### ➤ **More severe combating of illegal employment**

In order to minimise illegal working a tightening of the definition of it in the Act on Employment (§ 5e) has been undertaken, with a link of this definition to paid work in the Labour Code. As part of social reform No. 1, there concurrently occurred a tightening up of sanction for permitting illegal working:

- A fine for employers from 250 000,- to 10 000 000,- CZK, instead of 5 000 000,- CZK
- A fine for those working illegally of up to 100 000,- CZK



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In the fourth quarter of 2010 coordinated checks of employers took place under the management of the State Office of the Labour Inspectorate (SÚIP) in conjunction with the Labour Office of the Czech Republic and the Czech Social Security Bureau with the support of the Czech Police, the Foreign Police and the Customs Administration, with some 170 000 checks taking place. On the basis of partial and overall outputs, checks on illegal working were transferred to the authority of SUIP with the reinforcement and technical outfitting of its regional offices to secure the rapidity and efficiency of checks conducted.

The DONEZ project was implemented in 2011. The aim of the project is render the conditions of illegal employment more difficult, both for the unemployed and for employers, who are threatened with fines for illegal employment. Selected jobseekers to an authorised contact point of the CZECH POINT public administration at an appointed time during normal working hours, where they can receive an offer of vacancies. If the unemployed person does not come at the appointed time to Czech Point, the reason for not keeping to this statutory requirement in respect of the Labour Office is determined. In the event of the jobseeker's unjustified absence, the Labour Office starts proceedings which can lead to the jobseeker being excluded from the Labour Office's files and to suspension of benefit payments..

### **➤ Public service**

Public service helps to develop the work abilities and skills of those who have been in material need for a long time, supporting their social integration. It is focused on help to communities in activities which serve their interests (e.g. maintenance of streets and urban greenspace, improvements to the environment, help in the area of cultural development and social care and so on). Public services are organised by communities and towns at their own initiative. They are not however obliged to organise public services, this is only one option for involving unemployed people and those who have been in long-term material need in a working environment and also so that they can continue to an entitlement to at least subsistence benefit i.e. the minimum of 3126 CZK (per person). Public service is now linked to records at the Labour Office. If a jobseeker who is registered as a job seeker continuously for more than 2 months refuses without good reason an offer of public service up to a maximum of 20 hours a week, he will be excluded from the jobseekers register. Then, if the person excluded is also a person in material need, he would cease to be entitled to subsistence benefit payments. He would also lose having his insurance paid for by the state. Such a person can be included on the jobseekers register again only when 6 months have passed since his original exclusion.

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

- **Successful measure Stacjing discrimination of Roma in the labor market**

Czech legislation has stipulated the basic framework for the fight against discrimination against on the basis of different gender, racial or ethnic origin, faith or world view, health



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status, age or sexual orientation, both from a general point of view, and where employment, the exercise of work including specialist training and working conditions and invoking the right to employment are concerned. The most important Acts whose provisions forbid unequal treatment or discrimination are:

- *Act No. 1/1993 Coll., the Constitution of the Czech Republic, as amended, including Act No.23/1991 Coll., the Charter of Basic Rights and Freedoms*
- *Act No. 262/2006 Coll., the Labour Code, as amended*
- *Act No. 435/2004 Coll., on Employment, as amended*
- *Act No 198/2009 Coll., on equal treatment and the legal means for protection against discrimination and changes to certain laws (the Anti-discrimination Act, as amended).*
- *Act No. 251/2005 Coll., on Work Inspection, as amended*

In practice those who have faced discrimination in the labour market can turn to the *State Office of Work Inspection*. This has area branches throughout the Czech Republic - Area Work Inspectorates, and conducts control activities in this area. Another resolution route is *through the courts*. Victims of discrimination may also make use of free legal assistance, arranged by the *Czech Bar Association* or *the legal counselling and antidiscrimination service* provided by some NGOs. The truth is that the accessibility for excluded Roma of these forms of help is not good. A further problem is their lack of willingness to report and resolve discrimination.

One of the examples of best practice in the Czech Republic is the project from the IQ Roma service organisation, entitled *Ethnic Friendly Employer*. Since 2007 Roma Servis has awarded the title Ethnic Friendly Employer to employers who espouse the principle of equal treatment and do not discriminate in their work against job applicants and employees because of their ethnic origin and nationality. The organisation's clients and others (not only) of Roma origin thus obtain a clear signal that they should not give up on looking for work because of refusals due to their origins, because here there are employers who will give them the same opportunity as everyone else<sup>5</sup>. The project continues in 2007 - 2013 and is co-financed from the ESF.

- **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),**

The strategy for employment policy in the Czech Republic is defined mainly by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and more recently also by the Labour Office of the Czech Republic. The instruments of employment policy are ethnically neutral, are intended

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<sup>5</sup> For more information, see [www.ethnic-friendly.eu](http://www.ethnic-friendly.eu)



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for jobseekers regardless of their nationality, in this regard Roma have the same conditions as any other citizen of the Czech Republic. In the Czech Republic there is no employment policy instrument which is exclusively aimed at unemployed Roma.

Employment policy can be divided into **passive policy**, where the main instrument is **support in unemployment**, drawn by jobseekers in accordance with Act No. 435/2004 Coll., *on Employment*, with the aim of compensating loss of income during unemployment. Support is paid out during the support period, which varies according to the age of the jobseeker. People up to 50 years old may receive support for up to 5 months, people from 50 to 55 year old for 8 months, and those over 55 years old for 11 months. For the first two months the unemployed receive 65% of their average net monthly earnings from their previous employment. Per month they may receive a maximum of 0,58 times the average salary in the Czech Republic, that is 13280 crowns. For the next two months support fall to 50% of their previous earnings and for the remainder of the support period the jobseeker receives only 45%. On requalification support increases to 60% of the previous earnings, with the maximum at 14883 CZK per month. At the end of the support period the unemployed person, in line with their income and financial circumstances obtains only social benefits from the system of subsistence benefits to the value of minimum subsistence, that just under 3200 crowns. If he does show the required activity, he receives only the existential minimum (2020 CZK).

The Labour Office of the Czech Republic implements **programmes of active employment policy** for disadvantaged groups of jobseekers who have been unable to find work quickly, regardless of their ethnic origin. Disadvantaged groups of Roma are viewed in the area of active employment policy through the filter of provision § 33 of Act No.435/2004 Coll., *on Employment*. This includes people with health problems, those aged up to 20, pregnant women, nursing mothers and mothers with children up to nine months old, those looking after children older than 15 years, people over the age of 50, people who have been continuously on the jobseekers register for longer than 5 months, those who require special help (this covers in particular those who temporarily find themselves in exceptionally difficult circumstances or have been released from incarceration or from protective custody and those from a socioculturally disadvantaged background). Roma jobseekers are represented in these groups and they receive increased attention from Labour Office staff.

Roma jobseekers registered at the Labour Office of the Czech Republic in 2011 most often took part in the following active employment policy instruments:

- Publicly beneficial work
- Socially targeted job placements
- Counselling programmes
- Requalification programmes

Below we give informed estimates about the number of Roma jobseekers included in active employment policy instruments in 2011, based again on the questionnaire investigation by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, conducted in 13 out of 14 regions (not including Prague).

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Tab. No. 21 Informed estimate of the number of registered Roma jobseekers included in a programme of publicly beneficial work.

Publicly beneficial work				
Region	Total	Men	Women	Diff in %
South Bohemia (Jihočeský)	120	70	50	-2
Vysočina	37	24	13	-10
Pardubice (Pardubický)	75	53	22	+39
Zlín (Zlínský)	19	16	3	-60
Plzeň (Plzeňský)	224	157	67	+207
Karlovy Vary (Karlovarský)	124	99	25	- 4
Hradec Králové (Královehradecký)	100	70	30	+10
Ústí nad Labem (Ústecký)	400	300	100	+5
South Moravia (Jihomoravský)	200	90	110	+10
Prague				
Liberec (Liberecký)	180	142	38	+4
Moravian Silesia	433	261	172	+47
Olomouc (Olomoucký)	100	53	47	-7
Central Bohemia (Středočeský)	360	225	135	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 372</b>	<b>1 560</b>	<b>812</b>	
<b>Proportion of men/women in %</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>65,8</b>	<b>34,2</b>	

Tab. No. 22 Informed estimate of the number of registered Roma jobseekers included in a programme of socially targeted job placements

Socially targeted job placements				
Region	Total	Men	Women	Diff in %
South Bohemia (Jihočeský)	15	8	7	-12
Vysočina	1	0	1	0
Pardubice (Pardubický)	21	9	12	+5
Zlín (Zlínský)	3	3	0	- 78
Plzeň (Plzeňský)	52	35	17	+330
Karlovy Vary	33	25	8	-8

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(Karlovarský)				
Hradec Králové (Královehradecký)	0	0	0	0
Ústí nad Labem (Ústecký)	200	150	50	+5
South Moravia (Jihomoravský)	35	20	15	+7
Prague	-	-	-	-
Liberec (Liberecký)	16	9	7	+7
Moravian Silesia	25	13	12	+14
Olomouc (Olomoucký)	24	15	9	+33
Central Bohemia (Středočeský)	18	0	18	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>156</b>	
<b>in %</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>64,8</b>	<b>35,2</b>	

Tab. No. 23 Informed estimate of the number of registered Roma jobseekers included in a programme of requalification.

Requalification				
Region	Total	Men	Women	Diff in %
South Bohemia (Jihočeský)	50	20	30	-3
Vysočina	28	9	19	-7
Pardubice (Pardubický)	76	36	40	+100
Zlín (Zlínský)	17	11	6	-53
Plzeň (Plzeňský)	101	58	43	-33
Karlovy Vary (Karlovarský)	75	43	32	+2
Hradec Králové (Královehradecký)	30	20	10	-40
Ústí nad Labem (Ústecký)	500	250	250	+5
South Moravia (Jihomoravský)	62	40	22	+15
Prague	-	-	-	-
Liberec (Liberecký)	78	45	33	+6
Moravian Silesia	475	256	219	+29
Olomouc (Olomoucký)	140	85	55	+44
Central Bohemia	99	63	36	0

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(Středočeský)				
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 731</b>	<b>936</b>	<b>795</b>	
<b>in %</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>46</b>	

Tab. No. č.24 Informed estimate of the number of registered Roma jobseekers included in counselling programmes.

<b>Counselling programmes</b>				
<b>Region</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Women</b>	
South Bohemia (Jihočeský)	120	65	55	
Vysočina	74	34	40	
Pardubice (Pardubický)	282	152	130	
Zlín (Zlínský)	47	25	22	
Plzeň (Plzeňský)	60	38	22	
Karlovy Vary (Karlovarský)	212	118	94	
Hradec Králové (Královehradecký)	120	70	50	
Ústí nad Labem (Ústecký)	200	100	100	
South Moravia (Jihomoravský)	180	95	85	
Prague				
Liberec (Liberecký)	89	43	46	
Moravia-Silesia (Moravskoslezský)	421	188	233	
Olomouc (Olomoucký)	155	94	61	
Central Bohemia (Středočeský)	99	63	36	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 059</b>	<b>1 085</b>	<b>974</b>	
<b>in %</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>52,7</b>	<b>47,3</b>	

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Tab. No. 25 Informed estimate of the number of registered Roma jobseekers with whom an individual action plan had been agreed.

<b>Individual Action Plans</b>			
Region	Total	Men	Women
South Bohemia (Jihočeský)	195	115	80
Vysočina	557	290	267
Pardubice (Pardubický)	874	450	424
Zlín (Zlínský)	470	278	192
Plzeň (Plzeňský)	1240	656	584
Karlovy Vary (Karlovarský)	3 958	2 095	1863
Hradec Králové (Královehradecký)	600	350	250
Ústí nad Labem (Ústecký)	800	500	300
South Moravia (Jihomoravský)	1 216	754	462
Prague			
Liberec (Liberecký)	1 408	725	683
Moravia-Silesia (Moravskoslezský)	6 202	2 710	3 492
Olomouc (Olomoucký)	1 608	858	750
Central Bohemia (Středočeský)	540	270	270
<b>Total</b>	<b>19 668</b>	<b>10 051</b>	<b>9 617</b>
<b>in %</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>51,1</b>	<b>48,9</b>

The questionnaire investigation by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs showed that of a total of 38 456 Roma jobseekers in 13 regions of the Czech Republic, 6 517 jobseekers were placed in the labour market (i.e. 17% of them), where 2 921 Roma jobseekers were successful in the primary labour market (i.e. 45% of those successfully placed), which is characterised by more lucrative and stable job opportunities and options for career growth, better working conditions and better protection for employees against dismissal. A total of 3 596 Roma jobseekers (i.e. 55% of those successfully placed) were placed on the secondary labour market, which puts this target group into less prestigious jobs. This tends to be low-qualification work for less pay in worse working conditions. On this labour market there is also a greater risk of loss of employment and greater employee turnover.

- **Improved labor market skills of long-term unemployed Roma**

No study was undertaken at national level in 2011, on the basis of which the requested data might be provided. In general one can say that the active employment policy programmes and specific projects to support Roma employment all increase their employability. But they unfortunately, even with a certificate from a requalification course or other programmes, do





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not succeed in finding work. A basic problem is rather the lack of suitable job opportunities for this target group, training work places, where they can try out work in a normal working environment. Also at work here is a lack of willingness on the part of employers to accept Roma because of the prejudice and stereotypes that associate with them.

- **Improved employment rates of long-term unemployed Roma**

No study was undertaken at national level in 2011, on the basis of which the requested data might be provided. From the data provided by regional coordinators for Roma affairs one state rather than no reduction has occurred in the level of long-term Roma unemployment. The most alarming position is indeed that of those Roma who live in excluded localities in the countryside.



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### 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).

➤ **Strategic documents:**

- Roma Integration Concept for 2010 - 2013;
- Strategy for the Fight against social exclusion in 2011 - 2015.

➤ **Financing from other sources**

**Grant programme of the Czech Ministry for Regional Development Support for Renewal of the Countryside grant heading No.5 Support for the Involvement of the Roma Community in the Life of their Town/Village and Society.**

Within this programme since 2009 events have been supported with outcomes that also serve the Roma community (socially excluded people), in the selection and preparation (and implementation) of which the Roma community has demonstrably shared or will share. The grant recipient may be any community up to **3000 inhabitants** (not for example any community set up by a legal entity), which has within its cadastral boundary at least 4% of inhabitants of Roma ethnicity. The proportion of the Roma minority to the population of the community must be documented by a binding declaration of the mayor with reference to relevant documents or studies, or an informed estimate by the regional coordinator for national minorities. The grant is provided up to the value of 70% of the actual incurred eligible costs of the event. The lower limit for a grant for a single event is 50 thousand CZK. The upper limit for a grant for a single event is 500 thousand CZK.

A grant may be provided for:

- Renewal and maintenance of civic facilities (schools, pre-school facilities, cultural facilities)
- Reconstruction or building of facilities for leisure activities (club houses, playgrounds, etc.)
- Building or reconstruction of community infrastructure in buildings serving the Roma community in particular

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Tab. No. 23 Number of projects supported and grants allocated from the Czech Ministry for Regional Development budget for grant heading No. 5 in 2009, 2010 and 2011

Year	No. of Projects	Value of finances provided:
2009	5	1 704 000,- CZK
2010	7	2 894 642,- CZK
2011	4	1 403 405,- CZK

### **Czech Ministry for Regional Development grant programme Support for the construction of supported housing**

Each year the Czech Ministry for Regional Development announces a *Support for the Construction of Supported Housing* project, which stipulates the conditions for providing grants for the construction of supported housing intended to house people with special housing needs. To house Roma at risk from social exclusion or already socially excluded, use may be made of the grant heading "**Entry-level Housing**". Entry-level flats are intended as social housing for those with low incomes in an unfavourable social situation caused by the social circumstances in their lives and who do not have access to housing, even when using all the current tools of social and housing policy.

Tab. No. 24 Number of flats for whose construction a grant was provided from the subprogramme in 2011.

Grant heading	No. of flats started in 2011	Total funding for flats started in million CZK
Entry-level flats	104	50,265

The Czech Ministry for Regional Development does not record information about the use of entry-level flats by Roma households. Because rented accommodation is a private legal relationship, decisions on renting entry-level flats is made mainly by communities and the owners of entry-level flats, as grant recipients.

### **Grant support for social services and other activities enabling Roma access to housing**

#### **From the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs budget**

Social services are a key activity in preventing housing loss in excluded Roma households. Each year the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs supports the implementation of registered social services in accordance with Act No. 108/2006 Coll., on Social Services, from the state budget of the Czech Republic. We give below an overview of the total allocation for these social services which also contribute to improving the housing position of Roma. From the total allocation it is not possible to say exactly what finances were targeted in favour of Roma, since social services are not distributed according to the ethnicity of grant applicants or the target groups for which services are intended.



DECADE OF  
ROMA  
INCLUSION  
2005 - 2015

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Tab. No. 25

Type of Service	Grant 2011
Houses of refuge	400 000
Specialist social counselling (21)	6 940 000
Field programmes (48)	31 441 900
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>38.781.900</b>

### **From the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic budget**

Part of the projects supported from the budget of the Office of the Czech Government are activities to support Roma in the housing area (resolving debt arrears, evictions, looking for new accommodation, improving the quality of housing).

### **Grant programme Support for Fieldwork**

This programme has been under implementation since 2000 and is intended for communities in which excluded Roma communities or localities are to be found, or where it is necessary to strengthen prevention of social exclusion. The purpose of the programme is to increase the social skills of clients and their ability to manage their lives, thereby eliminating the problem of social exclusion - the growth of these localities.

### **Grant programme Prevention of social exclusion and community work**

The programme is intended for NGOs to implement non-investment projects to support and help the inhabitants of excluded Roma localities, with the aim of preventing social exclusion and eliminating its consequences. These are mainly projects and activities which enable and support the efforts of clients to live normal lives, supporting the client in being involved in the local community and thus preventing his exclusion from social life. At the present time projects are being supported aimed at linking up services provided on the basis of cooperation between the relevant bodies (e.g. cooperation with a healthcare facility, the Police, et al.).

Tab. No. 26 Overview of grants allocated as part of the grant programmes of the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic

<b>Total value of financial support within grant programmes</b>			
<b>Support for field social work</b>			
Supported	47 projects	Allocated:	9.771.587,-
<b>Prevention of social exclusion and community work</b>			
Supported:	35 projects	Allocated:	19.669.000,-
<b>Total</b>			<b>29.440.587,-</b>

- **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**



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### **a concept for social housing on the local level for disadvantaged families) and identification of obstacles that prevent access to acceptable housing conditions.**

One of the continuing problems in the Czech Republic is the absence of data on the basis of which the housing position of Roma can be assessed. Although the position of Roma can be deduced from locally targeted studies, their results cannot however be generalised to the whole of the Roma population in the Czech Republic. Roma belong to one of the groups under threat with a marginalised position on the housing market, where to a large extent they are subject to inequalities and structural barriers. The exclusion of Roma in housing is reflected in the spatial segregation of Roma and their concentration in a particular segment of uncertain lower quality housing, also spilling over into other areas of their life (e.g. it complicates their access to jobs, better education and to public services). The segregation of Roma in housing in certain city and community districts is the result of the mutual interaction of a whole series of mechanisms and actors. The main reasons for Roma segregation consist mainly of economic and social conditions. Segregation can occur voluntarily as a spontaneous moving together of extended Roma families as part of maintaining their mutual bonds and family solidarity, which may be perceived as a certain culturally condition determinant of the rise of Roma spatial segregation, but also involuntarily as the result of individually and structurally conditioned inequalities. Involuntary segregation often results from the deterioration in the socioeconomic position of low-income Roma households, who for reasons of poverty and an unfavourable housing situation become dependent on the market for cheap flats, which are available in certain locations with a neglected housing stock. The low cost criterion takes precedence in poor Roma households over the criterion of quality housing. These locations are distinguished by varying degrees of Roma segregation and concentration. In recent years a flow of excluded Roma families can be noted from urban locations to the countryside, where they are more successful in finding property to own. Here however there is an increase in the level of their spatial segregation and often further social decline.

Because of their poverty, it is difficult for low-income Roma families not only to find appropriate housing, but also to maintain it, in view of their financial position and rising housing costs (e.g. rising energy costs and because of the gradual deregulation of rents). In these households the financial demands of housing increase the likelihood of incurring debts associated with housing, and as a consequence of the loss of housing as well. Debts need not arise only because of low incomes, a part is also played in this by associated problems such as debts to other creditors, to whom families must pay what they owe under pressure, the low level of financial literacy of household members and a certain tendency to rely on the fact that loss of housing is not an immediate risk for the household.

The cause of loss of housing can also be the poor legal awareness of Roma tenants, who in practice come up against practices from landlords which take advantage of their lack of knowledge of the housing market, their low level of functional literacy and also often, the critical housing position of the family, renting them accommodation under unfavourable conditions. Families without a roof over their heads are willing to submit to these disadvantages in order to avert a crisis, although their agreement with the landlord does not give them adequate guarantees and housing security. The tactic most often used by landlords



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is charging exorbitantly high rents which do not correspond to the quality of the accommodation, or inappropriate interventions in the private lives of Roma families. A number of commercial lodging houses operate on a similar principle, these do well in excluded localities. For accommodation their tenants pay a high rental, for which they could under other circumstances secure normal accommodation on the open housing market. A large part of this disproportionately high rent is paid for through housing benefits, which also means an economic loss for public budgets as well.

Families who are homeless get into a position of extreme segregation in housing, when they are dependent on accommodation in "stripped down flats", in commercial lodging houses and in other forms of temporary accommodation, using informal sources of support from their extended families. As a consequence of the family moving in with their relations, overcrowding and more rapid wear and tear occurs, the whole household is moreover threatened with eviction for not meeting the landlord's registration requirement for other people living in the flat. Among homeless families there is very often migration between relatives or other forms of temporary accommodation within the town or region, which brings about a series of other negative impacts, and renders all the more difficult the efforts of institutions that try to achieve social integration of the family. Research by the GAC company has mentioned that migration because of loss of housing is a barrier which impinges on the education of Roma school students, who either neglect their compulsory elementary school attendance or quit school at secondary school level.

A very important part is played in the involuntary segregation of Roma in housing by institutional procedures and practices, which reflect the attitudes of the majority population towards excluded Roma and the willingness of the inhabitants of a community to live with them. These institutionalised procedures are very often a part of the housing policy of towns and communities. But local government has at its disposal instruments which can significantly influence the availability and quality of Roma housing. Communities can use local development to begin a policy of desegregation of marginalised groups and the revitalisation of excluded areas, they have at their disposal a common housing stock and can use this to secure an allocation of a certain share of flats for social purposes, in addition they coordinate the work of organisations operating in housing policy, through instruments of in-time prevention they can prevent loss of housing through rent arrears. Some towns and communities have over time developed a functioning system of mechanisms to "edge people out", which allow them to get rid of "uncomfortable" and "non-compliant" people. The consequence of the use of these mechanisms tends to be the segregation of disadvantaged Roma outside the reach of the usual support instruments and a deepening of their social and spatial segregation.

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

The results of these policies and programmes are not measured and assessed in a targeted manner, it is not therefore possible to provide the requested information for 2011. Practice



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indicates that soft measures in the form of social services, through which Roma obtain support in seeking and retaining housing, have positive impacts, but these are not unfortunately available in all necessary locations. Moreover the local availability of social services deteriorated in 2011 because of lower grant support for this area, which the government agreed to because of spending savings.

What is missing in the Czech Republic is adequate investment support for projects through which it would be possible secure social housing for Roma. Some forms of social housing are subsidised from the state budget (e.g. refuges as one form of social service, or entry-level flats, which are one of the instruments of housing policy), in practice however, these forms of support are not so much used in relation to the target group of homeless or low-income Roma households. For communities it is also difficult to meet the condition for joint financing, they do not have sufficient funds in their budgets for such projects. A further problem is the conceptual setup of these instruments. Refuges are often intended for single parents with children in a crisis housing situation, and not for complete families with several children, which is the category into which a large proportion of Roma families falls. The area of social housing is still not conceptually or legislatively established in the Czech Republic.

Positive results can however be expected in connection with the achievement of the government's *Housing Strategy to 2020*, whose measures could bring about a breakthrough in social housing. One of the measures is a draft comprehensive solution for social housing using the institution of "housing need". This will be a definition of the social situation, or events, in which eligible people find themselves in, in connection with their unsatisfied housing needs. Part of this institution will be draft legislative amendment for "persons in housing need" and instruments for prevention and solution of housing for eligible people.

Overall the problems that Roma have with housing are so serious, that they deserve more attention from the government and from local authorities. The instruments described in these strategies have proved themselves, but the availability of them is very limited. Highly regarded, for example is the programme for gradual housing, linked to the provision of social programmes, where tenants gradually learn how to find and maintain housing on the standard housing market. Unfortunately these programmes are implemented in the Czech Republic only in a few isolated cases.

- **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?**



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### Use of European Fund for Regional Development finances (managing body the Czech Ministry for Regional Development)

#### **I. Integrated Operational Programme, intervention area 5.2 Improving the Environment in Problem Estates**

The Integrated Operational Programme is aimed at solving common regional problems. This programme contains many intervention areas, **intervention area 5.2** is aimed at problem zones in towns with more than 20 thousand inhabitants, with the aim of helping to ward off the threat of social exclusion for its inhabitants. By a problem estate is meant a self-contained part of a community containing blocks of flats, with such an estate having at least 500 flats. For a problem estate the applicant for funds must have prepared an Integrate Plan for Urban Development (IPUD), which contains a set of time-lined actions (projects, or integrated projects), being implemented in the chosen zone of the town. The minimum financial value for the IPUD for towns over 50 000 inhabitants is set at 3 mil. EUR. The minimum financial value for the IPUD for towns over 20 000 inhabitants is set at 50 000 mil. EUR.

For this area support is provided for three types of activities:

5.2a) Revitalisation of public spaces

5.2b) Regeneration of blocks of flats

**5.2c) Pilot projects aimed at resolving Roma communities threatened by social exclusion.**

From the standpoint of social housing it is the third activity in particular which is important, **intervention area 5.2c** In the pilot projects in Roma localities the primary problem is not the condition of blocks of flats, but mainly unemployment, crime, drug dependency and the low level of educational achievement. For this reason intervention in housing, focused on the regeneration of public spaces as well as on the renovation of blocks of flats, or the conversion of non-residential buildings into social housing will have the nature of complementary activities following on from activities in the area of social and community care, intervention in human resources, employment and so on.

The projects must therefore be drawn up so as to connect the activities of building regeneration with the activities of social integration (**intervention area 3.1b Services in social integration as part of the IOP, or with activities handles under the Human Resources and Employment Operational Programme - intervention area 3.2 focused on non-investment support for Roma localities**).

A total of 6 towns have applied for pilot projects: Kladno, Most, Brno, Přerov, Orlová and Ostrava. In addition to these towns included in activity 5.2c, further towns are focused on solutions to the problems of the Roma community in activities 5.2a and 5.2b. Havířov, Karviná, Bohumín, Cheb, Vsetín, Olomouc, Ústí nad Labem, Chomutov, Litvínov, Most, Jirkov, Příbram, Písek and České Budějovice.





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

- **Housing Strategy for the Czech Republic to 2020**

The new *Housing Strategy for the Czech Republic to 2020*, approved by the government on 13 July 2011 in resolution No. 524 is focused in part on increasing access to housing for groups threatened by social and spatial exclusion. The Strategy sets out several tasks which have a direct link to increasing access to housing for persons at risk of social exclusion. Responsibility for fulfilling these tasks is allocated jointly to the Ministry for Regional Development and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.

- **Social housing benefits**

In the Czech Republic there are two housing benefit payments for low-income families within support for demand for housing regardless of the ethnicity of the applicant, here the income and financial position of the benefit applicant are taken into account. The first payment is made from the system of benefits for state social support in the form of a contribution to housing costs. The documents required for this are proof of income and housing costs. For rented flats it is necessary to have either a declaration on a unilateral increase in rent, or a rental contract, from which the size of the flat and the value of the rent are clear. A supplementary system of support, offered within the system of benefits for material support to the poorest households, is the top-up payment for housing.

- **State Fund for Housing Development**

One of the instruments for implementing state housing policy, which was set up by Act No. 211/2000 Coll., dated 21 June 2000. The task of the Fund is to develop, accumulate and expand the financial resources aimed at supporting investments in housing and to use them in accordance with the Act to provide support in the following three areas in particular:

1. To support construction of flats, in particular flats for rent
2. To support repairs to the housing stock, and in particular to support repairs to buildings built using panel techniques
3. To support the construction of technical infrastructure in communities, that is to invest in land suitable for future housing construction.

On the basis of a government regulation No. 284 dated 8. September 2011, setting the conditions of housing loans, the State Fund for Housing Development provides financial resources for low-interest loans to construct flats for rent, which increase the availability of housing for low-income households.

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Please provide information about the following fields in 2011:

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

At national level no research has been conducted on the basis of which we would be able to supply the data required. The housing position of Roma was again the focus of the study entitled "*The situation of Roma in 11 EU Member States*", implemented in the Czech Republic by the World Bank, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights and the United Nations Development Programme. We give below the results of this regional investigation for the Czech Republic.

Tab. No. 2 Comparison of the housing position of Roma and non-Roma households

	Roma	Non-Roma
Neighborhood change**	17%	20%
Regularity of waste collection		
At least every week	69%	84%
At least every 2 weeks	11%	9%
Not regularly	17%	6%
Never	2%	0%
Square meters per household member	13,9	25,6
Share of the population not having access to secure housing**	17%	5%
Share of the population not having access to improved water source	15%	15%
Share of the population not having access to improved sanitation**	13%	8%
Access to electricity**	95%	99%
Access to various HH amenities**		
1. Radio receiver	33%	60%

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2. Color TV	90%	98%
3. Bicycle or motorbike	35%	61%
4. Car/van for private use	28%	64%
5. Horse	1%	1%
6. Computer	24%	72%
7. Internet connection	20%	67%
8. Mobilephone or landline	74%	93%
9. Washing machine	81%	96%
10. Bed for each HH member including infants	82%	98%
11. 30 and more books	24%	77%
12. Power generator	2%	6%
EU material deprivation index		
Material deprivation	82%	35%
Severe material deprivation	70%	22%
Dwelling ownership**		
Own household or family	13%	39%
Private ownership (not family)	21%	21%
Municipality	58%	32%
Unknown ownership	2%	0%
Other	6%	8%
Preference of living in mixed areas*	70%	
Preferences - source of income (16-64)*		
Live on social assistance with problems making both ends meet but with no particular effort	34%	6%
Have higher standards of living but working hard to earn your living	66%	94%
Preferences - source of income (16-24)*		
Live on social assistance with problems making both ends meet but with no particular effort	31%	9%
Have higher standards of living but working hard to earn your living	69%	91%

Tab. No. 28 Comparison of the use of energy sources between Roma and non-Roma households<0

Source of energy	For heating						For cooking	
	households			people			households	people
	Roma	Non-Roma	Roma	Non-Roma	Roma	Non-Roma	Roma	Non-Roma
Gas in bottles	1%	0%	0%	0%	14%	8%	15%	8%



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Piped gas supply	23%	27%	23%	27%	51%	56%	50%	53%
Electricity	11%	13%	11%	15%	33%	35%	32%	37%
Coal	9%	6%	9%	7%	1%	0%	1%	0%
Wood	9%	4%	11%	3%	2%	0%	2%	0%
Petrol	1%	0%	2%	0%				
Central Heating Supply	42%	49%	41%	46%				
Other	3%	1%	3%	1%	0%	2%	0%	2%



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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 duality health care services.**

Access to healthcare is worse in smaller country localities, where in comparison with the towns there is a smaller supply of primary health care. Inhabitants of these localities must therefore travel tens of kilometres to reach another doctor. According to information from health social assistants many doctors are also not able to accept new patients for lack of capacity. The staff on the programme also mentioned that the reason for refusal to register was not only that the doctors' registers were full. Health social assistants have also recorded in practice discriminatory practices by doctors, of whom it has been shown that their statements on lack of capacity were not true.

In view of the fact that health insurance is compulsory in the Czech Republic, the vast majority of the Czech population have their insurance covered. In poor Roma households the problem is rather debts for health insurance, which over time come to the point of execution. Debts often arise because of the deletion of a jobseeker from the Labour Office register (the state pays health insurance for the unemployed) and because of illegal working, when the employer does not make the necessary insurance deductions for the employee. The payment of debts is complicated in those households where there is no income from employment. A further problem linked to health insurance is the ill-considered re-registration of Roma users to another health insurer, who does not however have a contract to pay for health care at local healthcare facilities. These re-registrations are the result of target campaigns on the part of insurance company agents. These intentionally approach the inhabitants of excluded localities with an offer to change their insurance company, because they anticipate a lower level of functional literacy and a lack of ability to think through the consequences of an ill-considered re-registration, consciously manipulating them in order to gain insurance clients where it is probable that their claims will be minimal.

Now more on the health position of excluded Roma. The first category of factors influencing the quality of health of inhabitants of excluded localities are their *living conditions*. The environment of these localities does not offer adequate comfort and corresponding hygiene conditions. The housing stock here is worn-out, often in a poor technical state, with a widespread incidence of damp, mould and various pests as disease carriers. The transmission of infectious diseases is compounded by shared social facilities, a lack of bathrooms, poor access to water, overcrowding in flats, where small spaces are shared by families with several members.

The second group of factors is associated with *behaviour related to health*. In this area a role is also played by sociocultural factors and the perception of one's own health as having value. Roma perceive the value of health rather as a passive and instrumental tool, which is shown in their lack of appreciation for prevention and failure to give any weight to a healthy life style. In excluded Roma communities the most frequent facet of an unhealthy life style is



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linked to poor eating habits, non-active use of leisure time, neglect of preventative measures and a failure to follow treatment, and with smoking (56% of women and 65% of men are daily smokers<sup>6</sup>). A neglect of prevention for children can result in interventions in a family's situation on the part of bodies for the social and legal protection of children, where children can be removed and placed in institutional care.

In the matter of working conditions, Roma from excluded localities are dependent on the dysfunctional local labour market, which is characterised by easy availability of illegal work opportunities, which are unstable, have uncertain pay for the work done, with no legal protection for those working illegally, often doing physically demanding unskilled manual work in unhealthy working conditions in industries such as construction. A result of this can be work injuries and illnesses, but when this happens, those working illegally are not entitled to benefits payments to compensate for loss of income, as is the case with those working legally.

The life of socially excluded Roma is also affected by the problem of the use of addictive substances such as alcohol, the use of soft and hard drugs, which is widespread in some localities as an adaptive strategy for life in social exclusion. However, the use of addictive substances is a significant barrier which prevents Roma users from leaving the circumstances of social exclusion. Unfortunately the use of addictive substances affects more and more of the younger age groups of Roma. A solution to this problem is complicated by the easy availability of addictive substances directly in the localities, where drug dealers and makers operate, by the very unwillingness of Roma users to undergo treatment and lack of support from families during treatment.

Overall members of Roma communities are more exposed to stress, which arises from their difficult life conditions, complicated by a whole series of mutual related problems (unemployment, poverty, overindebtedness, loss of housing, etc.). Stress also acts in a negative manner on the health of the excluded Roma population.

- **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).**

- **Strategic documents:**

- Roma Integration Concept for 2010 - 2013;
- Strategy for the Fight against social exclusion in 2011 - 2015.

- **Programmes to support health in excluded Roma communities**

- **Health and Social Help programme**

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<sup>6</sup> Sastipen: The Roma population and health - Czech Republic - National Report 2009.



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A traditional programme implemented in the Czech Republic in the area of health prevention and improvement for Roma is the Health and Social Help programme. The work of health social assistants was started up in January 2006 as part of the pilot "SASTIPEN Czech Republic - health social assistants in excluded localities" project.

In 2011 a total of 9 health social assistants were active in the Czech Republic, but only in 4 out of the 14 regions in the country, which in view of the need for the programme is not a sufficient number, and it would be good to increase the number of them.

Tab. No. 28 Programme **Health Social Support in 2011**

<b>Localities covered by the support</b>	
<b>Region</b>	<b>No. of ZSP</b>
Olomouc region	3
South Moravia (Jihomoravský)	2
Moravia-Silesia (Moravskoslezský)	3
South Bohemia (Jihočeský )	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>

- **Solving the health social issue as part of social services in excluded Roma localities**

The health social issue is also resolved as part of widely targeted social services, most often field programmes or specialist social counselling, which are focused comprehensively on solving problems arising from social exclusion, including health problems. Education and preventive programmes also targeted, for example, at the use of drugs are part of the easy access facilities for children and young people. These services are financed from the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs budget, if they are registered in accordance with Act No. 108/2006 Coll., on Social Services.

Tab. No. 29

<b>Type of Service</b>	<b>Grant 2011</b>
Easy access facilities for children and young people (13)	5 134 000
Specialist social counselling (21)	6 940 000
Social activation services for families with children (9)	4 886 000
Field programmes (48)	31 441 900
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>48 401 900</b>

In addition these are financed also from the Office of the Czech Government budget as part of the grant headings Prevention of Social Exclusion and Community Work and Support for Fieldwork.



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- **Free inoculation of staff working directly with inhabitants of socially excluded Roma localities against Type A and B hepatitis.**

As a reaction to the high incidence of infection hepatitis, the Council office in conjunction with the Ministry of Health and the Avenier company has arranged for free inoculation for staff providing services in the territory of socially excluded Roma localities. For this purpose the Ministry of Health has set aside several hundred inoculation vaccines, the inoculation itself is provided free by the Avenier company. In cooperation with the regional coordinators for Roma affairs, staff from the Council office have arranged to recruit those interested in this free inoculation. The vaccines were distributed through the Avenier distribution network from 1 February 2011. Doses for 166 Type A+B (triple dose) inoculations and 250 Type A inoculations were available. Inoculation took place in 23 towns in their inoculation centres, these being the regional capitals and some former district capitals.

Free inoculation against Type B hepatitis can be arranged for staff offering field and walk-in services on the basis of provision § 9 of regulation No. 537/2006 Coll. in cooperation with the staff's own general practitioner. Some grant programmes also take account of this and allow the inclusion of inoculation costs in legitimate project expenditure.

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

The implementer of the Drom supra-regional health social assistance organisation, which employs 8 out of the 9 health assistants, had the following results for 2011. Each of these assistants provided services to an average of 60 users, with 485 users in total, of whom 71% were women. With these users the Health Social Programme worked on a total 811 long-term assignments. The greatest proportion of assignments, as part of the service as a whole (29%) are represented by those we designate assignment of the "inclusion in the social care system" type, consisting of securing benefits for the health disadvantaged, for example such as compensation and prosthetic aids, disability benefit payments, as well as invalid retirement benefit. During their handling of all these assignments the assistants undertook a total of 6789 interventions. Long-term assignments were **successfully completed in 80% of cases**. In addition to long-term assignments assistants provided help and one-off interventions in a further 1279 cases. The results of the study, undertaken in December 2011, bear witness to the fact that the provision of this service had a **positive impact on 70% of users**.

- **Please specify if there are health mediators employed. If so, please specify what type of contract the healthmediators have, how often do they have to renewit. Are there any trainings for health care providers in addressing the needs of Roma.**

Health social assistants are generally employed on fixed-term employment contracts. The grant programmes from which funds for the programme can be drawn are allocated from the



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state budget for a year, in line with the budget rules in the Czech Republic. For this reason it is not possible to secure multi-year financing for programmes funded from national sources and to take on health social assistants for a longer period than one year. One possible way out of this situation is to use financial resources from European Structural Funds. Health social training programmes accredited with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs are available not only to these assistants, but to social workers as well.

- **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.**

Financial resources from the ESF are important, particularly from the Human Resources and Employment Operational Programme, priority axis 3 Improving the quality and availability of public services, intervention area 3.1 Services in social integration and 3.2 Support for the social integration of members of Roma localities. Unfortunately we do not have further data available for this area.

- **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.**

- **Strategy**

- **Health 21 - Health for everyone in the 21<sup>st</sup> century** - puts a requirement on healthcare policy in the Czech Republic to reduce social inequalities in health as part of preventing premature death and excessive illness rates in socially disadvantaged groups of the population.

- **Grant programmes from the Ministry of Health**

The Ministry of Health has set up the following grant programmes to support projects leading to prevention of sickness and the rise of risk forms of behaviour; resources for the benefit of Roma are also allocated from these programmes.

- a) **National health programme - health support projects**, the priority of which is to support healthy eating, physical activity and the limitation of smoking and drinking alcohol.
- b) **National HIV/AIDS programme**, the priority is to secure free anonymous testing for HIV and targeted education, especially in minorities and groups indulging in risk behaviour.
- c) **Programme for care of children and young people**, the priority of which is to improve the health of children and young people.

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**d) Crime prevention** - the priority of which is to support the social aspects of health, including the prevention of violence towards children.

➤ **Exemption from payment of regulatory fees in healthcare for recipients of subsistence benefit**

Recipients of subsistence benefit, regardless of their ethnic affinity, have been exempted from paying regulatory fees for medicines when these are paid for in full or in part by public health insurance, in accordance with Act No.48/1997 Coll., *on Public Health Insurance*. In provision § 16a letter d) this Act states that the regulatory fee is not payable in the case of an insured party who can show through a decision, announcement or confirmation - no older than 30 days - issued by a body providing help in material need, of a benefit provided to him in accordance with a special legal regulation. This measure facilitates access to health care for Roma insured on subsistence benefit.

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

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

At national level no research has been conducted in 2011 on the basis of which we would be able to supply the data required. The housing position of Roma was again the focus of a study entitled "The situation of Roma in 11 EU Member States", implemented in the Czech Republic by the World Bank, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights and the United Nations Development Programme. We give below the results of this regional investigation for the Czech Republic.

Tab. No. 28 Comparison of the health position of Roma and non-Roma households

	Male		Female		Total	
	Roma	Non-Roma	Roma	Non-Roma	Roma	Non-Roma
Health assessment						
1. Share of people with a bad health assessment	11%	7%	10%	8%	11%	7%
2. Share of people with a good health assessment	75%	80%	74%	79%	75%	79%



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Access to medical insurance**	91%	98%	94%	97%	93%	98%
Incidence of specific medical checks*						
1. Dental check-up	29%	77%	36%	81%	33%	79%
2. X-ray, ultrasound, or other scan	20%	27%	27%	35%	24%	32%
3. Cholesterol test	15%	32%	22%	40%	19%	37%
4. Heart check-up	19%	27%	25%	30%	22%	29%
No access to essential drugs	44%	10%	45%	11%	44%	11%
Access to health services	86%	98%	88%	99%	87%	99%
Perceived vaccination rate (0-6)	93%	99%	96%	98%	95%	98%
Perceived vaccination rate (6)	95%	100%	100%	100%	97%	100%