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BASIC INFORMATION ON THE SITUATION OF THE ROMA MINORITY

According to the Census in 2011 there were 16, 975 Roma in Croatia. While the average age of general population is 41, average age of Roma population in Croatia is 21. 9.

- *Number of Roma living under the poverty line and the proportion to the overall population.*

The last EU-SILC data produced by the Croatian Bureau of Statistics¹ notes 32.7 % at risk of poverty (less than 60 % of median income) in 2011, but without ethnically disaggregated data. UNDP survey suggests that 92.31 % Roma has income less than 60 % of the median, as opposed to 41.96 % non-Roma living in their vicinity. World Bank criteria of absolute poverty rate (income of less than 2.15 USD/day) is met by 1.85 % Roma and 1.26 % non-Roma in their vicinity. World Bank criteria for Europe (4.30 USD/day) are met by 8.9 % Roma and 5.47 % non-Roma in their vicinity.

1. INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT FOR ROMA INCLUSION AND INTEGRATION

- *Please list the main official policy documents governing the inclusion and integration of Roma, including Decade Action Plan and National Roma Integration Strategy; please provide links to online documents.*

During 2012 Government Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities (GOHRRNM) continued activities on the drafting of the new National Strategy for Roma Inclusion up to 2020, in accordance with EU requirements (EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020, Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth). The Strategy builds upon the National Roma Programme, redefining national priorities, implementation methods and specific measures to be taken in view of the evolving social and political environment, the progress achieved and further challenges in the process of including the Roma and enhancing their socio-economic situation. The Strategy has been prepared as a collaborative effort of the GOHRRNM, relevant ministries and other governmental agencies and national institutions, including offices of Ombudsman and Ombudsman for Children, local and regional self-government representatives, the Association of Municipalities and the Association of Cities, Roma community representatives from among the members of Roma national minority councils and Roma non-governmental organisations, and independent experts. Its preparation also involved participation by representatives from the UNDP, UNICEF, UNHCR and REF. Sectoral inputs from seven working groups comprised of representatives of ministries, local/regional self-government units, Roma national minority, international organizations and experts, covering 7 main areas of the Strategy, were delivered by each working group after 2-days workshops held in January 2012 as well as additional consultations that followed. Special support for the Strategy, enabling

¹ See http://www.dzs.hr/Hrv_Eng/publication/2012/14-01-03_01_2012.htm



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such a wide and dedicated consultation process was provided under the Open Society Foundation (OSF) MtM Programme². Consultations with the interested public (among others via internet debate) on the draft of the new National Strategy were organized in the period from June 8th till July 1st. In that period 5 public debates were held in Osijek, Sisak, Čakovec, Rijeka and Zagreb.

GOHRRNM also coordinated the development of the Action Plan for the Implementation of the National Strategy for Roma Inclusion up to 2020 for the period 2013-2015. The Action Plan was developed in close cooperation with relevant state administration bodies, local and regional self-government units and Roma representatives.

National Roma Inclusion Strategy adopted by the Government in November 2012³ and Action plan for Implementation of National Strategy for Roma Inclusion for Period 2013-2015⁴, replaced the National Program for Roma adopted in 2003, and the Action Plan of the Decade for Roma Inclusion 2005-2015 adopted in 2005.

• *Please describe what moves have been made by governments to involve (1) local authorities, (2) regional authorities, and (3) civil society including Roma organizations, in the design, implementation, and monitoring of the Roma inclusion strategy?*

Following elections for councils of Roma national minority (CNMs) and individual representatives (IRs) as advisory bodies to local self-governments on local and regional level in 2011, 17 Roma CNMs and 11 IRs were elected.

One of the main issues of persons belonging to national minorities is their participation in the decision making process. According to annual reports on the implementation of CARNM which the Government submits to the Croatian Parliament (according to the article 37. of the CARNM) councils and representatives of national minorities, depending on the area of RoC in which they are active, do not receive the same financial support and their work is mostly dependent on the development of the self-government units in which they were elected. Councils and representatives in underdeveloped self-government units face the most significant issues with ensuring financing. In order to tackle this issue, the Government of RoC adopted on Oct 25, 2012 the Decision of financing the work of councils and representatives of national minorities in economically underdeveloped local/regional self-government units. GOHRRNM allocated 400 000 HRK (€ 53, 400) in its budget for the implementation of the Government Decision.

² MtM also organized in January 2012, in Zagreb additional Roma civil society consultations with approximately 40 CNMs and NGOs from all over Croatia. Recommendations were fully taken into account by Working Groups.

³

<http://www.uljppnm.vlada.hr/images/nacionalna%20strategija%20za%20ukljucivanje%20roma%20za%20razdoblje%20od%202013-2020.pdf>

⁴ The Action Plan has been adopted by the Government in March 2013:

<http://www.uljppnm.vlada.hr/images/akcijski%20plan%20za%20provedbu%20nsur%20za%20razdoblje%202013-2015.pdf>



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Roma were also targeted through other activities addressing all national minorities in Croatia: GOHRRNM, within the implementation of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities (CARNM), organised, with the support of the National Council for National Minorities, two seminars on the role and enhancement of the work of councils and representatives of national minorities, on Oct 29, 2012 in Bjelovar and on Nov 21, 2012 in Požega. The seminars covered topics such as present role and work of councils and representatives of national minorities, problems encountered by councils and best practice examples in the work of councils. Special focus was put on strengthening the role of councils and representatives and fostering better coordination with representatives of local/regional self-government units.

According to the Croatian legislation on protection of minority rights (Constitutional Act on Right of National Minorities and Law on Registry of CNMs, Coordination of CNMs and IRs of National Minorities) 6 councils of Roma national minority formed the National Coordination of Roma Minority Councils on April 30, 2012. Coordination has been very active in discussion on legalization and position and financing of CNMs.

On July 27, 2012, Roma National Council (RNC) has been established by a number of Roma associations. President of the RNC is the Roma MP in the Croatian Parliament, Mr. Veljko Kajtazi. The Council has been quite active on a number of issues.

On 22 March 2012, the Government of the Republic of Croatia adopted the Decision on establishing the Commission for Monitoring of the Implementation of the National Program for Roma. Two changes to the Decision were adopted by the Government at sessions held on July 12th and 26th. Deputy Prime Minister for Home, Foreign and European Affairs, Mr. Neven Mimica has been appointed new President of the Monitoring Commission, and Mr. Veljko Kajtazi, a representative of the Roma national minority in Croatian Parliament has been appointed the Vice-president of the Monitoring Commission. The Commission consists of 27 members, including 9 Roma members, as well as representatives of regional and local authorities and relevant state authorities.

The tasks of the Monitoring Commission include systematic monitoring and coordination of the implementation of the National Programme for Roma, proposing measures for the advancement of the Programme and preparing recommendations, opinions, and reports related to the Programme implementation. The Commission has also established 6 working groups on different topics, in order to provide a wider platform for the monitoring and evaluation of the national documents in relevant fields.

With the adoption of the National Roma Inclusion Strategy 2013-2020, it will be necessary to establish a new monitoring body envisaged by the NRIS. However, due to the fact that local elections are scheduled for May-June 2013, the body is not likely to be established before that.



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- *Please describe any changes in 2012 in the participation of Roma in decision-making processes/arrangements and public administration structures; please include quantitative and descriptive information to the extent possible.*
- *Please describe what has been done since the submission of the Decade Action Plan to put in place robust mechanisms to monitor and evaluate policy implementation? Did the government report internally, to the European Commission or any other body on implementation of its National Roma Integration Strategy or Decade Action Plan?*

Several reports adopted by the Government contain data on monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of national strategic documents related to Roma or national minorities in general. The Government Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities (GOHRRNM) coordinated the drafting of the Report on the Implementation of the National Program for Roma for the period 2010-2011. The Report was submitted to the Monitoring Commission for the Implementation of the National Program for Roma for approval, prior to its adoption by the Government⁵.

Relevant data regarding Roma national minority can be also obtained in a report on the implementation of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities and on the use of the funds from the State Budget of the Republic of Croatia for 2011 and the Report on the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities 2011-2013 for year 2011, adopted by the Government in 2012..

- *How does the national equal treatment/anti-discrimination body support the implementation of the Decade Action Plan/National Roma Integration Strategy? Please provide information on the number of complaints related to discrimination against Roma throughout 2012 and on measures undertaken by the national equal treatment/anti-discrimination body concerning these complaints.*

Draft of Ombudsman report for 2012 has been submitted to the Parliament while the special annual report on antidiscrimination will be submitted later in the course of 2013, therefore precise size data is not yet available. Draft Annual Report notes status issues and Ombudsman-s Office contribution to the development of the relevant chapter of the national Roma Inclusion Strategy 2020. Development of an antidiscrimination database in the framework of the IPA 2009 project, being implemented by the Ludwig Boltzman Institute (Vienna), Office of the Ombudsman and GOHRRNM, is expected to have a significant impact on antidiscrimination reporting.

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http://www.vlada.hr/hr/naslovnica/sjednice_i_odluke_vlade_rh/2013/83_sjednica_vlade_republike_hrvatske



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In a landmarking case, the municipal court in Varaždin brought in April 2012 a judgment for discrimination of Roma in Croatia in favor of two high school girls. Their application for students practice was rejected by a shop owner on account of their ethnic background, and with assistance of prominent Roma and a non-Roma NGO, as well as the Office of the Ombudsman, they filed a suit at the Varazdin Municipal Court. This was the first verdict brought under the new Anti-discrimination law.

Widely reported were also two serious incidents of Roma discrimination. In May 2012, local villagers in Škabrnja (Zadar hinterland) headed by the mayor forced a Roma family to leave the property the family recently bought. Reaction of institutions was immediate and unison in condemnation: President of the State, government and ministries, Office of the Ombudsman, Parliamentary debate, they all condemned the incident, while the Zadar State Attorney Office filed charges for racial discrimination against the mayor.

In Gornji Hrašćan (Međimurje County), a village close to the largest Roma settlement in Croatia (Municipality of Nedelišće), approximately 50 local non-Roma parents prevented 44 Roma children from attending the first day of pre-school in local school in September 2012. Following meetings organized by the Municipality of Nedelišće and Međimurje County with all stakeholders, the situation has been resolved, and year children have started to attend the school already the second day of the school.

Implementation of anti-discrimination campaign ‘Dosta!’ has continued in cooperation with CoE. A round table on antidiscrimination, an exhibition, and numerous additional activities during Human Rights Film Festival (supported by the GOHRRNM), with a special focus on Roma, took place in December 2012.

Reports of the Ministry of Interior note a total of 26 hate crimes, while 18 have been resolved. Two of these hate crimes were directed towards Roma.

• *Please provide information on what has been done to allocate sufficient budgetary resources and concrete amounts for the implementation of the Decade Action Plan/National Roma Integration Strategy from national budgets. What is the total amount and percentage of the 2012 national budget dedicated to the implementation of the Decade Action Plan or National Roma Integration Strategy in your country? What kinds of sources (local, national and international) are considered for the implementation of the Decade National Action Plans/National Roma Integration Strategy in 2013?*

The Government of Croatia at its session on October 25, 2012 adopted the Report on the Implementation of the National Roma Programme for 2010 and 2011. According to the general assessment, since the adoption of the National Roma Programme (NRP) in 2003, significant progress has been made in implementing measures in all areas covered by the Programme. For the implementation of the NRP in 2010 and 2011 a total of 21 359 800 HRK (2.84 MEUR) has been allocated.



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International organisations in Croatia have continued implementation of several programs targeting Roma or mandated target groups within mandated topics (children, status issues, including refugees, IDPs, social inclusion, poverty etc). Several other donors, such as MtM, REF, and several embassies to Croatia have also contributed to implementation of activities benefitting Roma national minority.

In the State Budget of the Republic of Croatia for the Action Plan for the Implementation of the National Roma Inclusion Strategy for the period 2013-2015 relevant authorities have planned funds⁶ for the three-year period, amounting to 45,942,870.00 HRK (6,125,876 EUR), broken down as follows: 14,999,530.00 HRK for 2013 (2 MEUR), 15,330,829.00 HRK for 2014 (2,044,110 EUR), and 15,612,511.00 HRK (2,081,668 EUR) for 2015. These amounts are referring almost exclusively to central state authorities, and limited to activities which are exclusively targeting Roma national minority. Therefore total expected allocated funds are expected to be significantly larger, once mainstream measures and regional and local self-government funds are taken into account.

As regards other funds, it is difficult to predict to which extent EU funds will be used in 2013, due to programming still going on, and to which extent local funds will be used, due to local elections scheduled for spring 2013.

2. EDUCATION

Preschool

For children, members of the Roma national minority, inclusion in the programmes of preschool education is ensured in order to bridge the gap between the socio-economic situation in which Roma children live and possibilities for their successful integration in the mandatory primary school education. If in a certain environment there is no possibility of inclusion in integrated preschool education conditions in a regular preschool institution, a preschool programme, that is, a programme of preparation for entry to primary education is ensured, is often provided in primary schools, and partly in preschool institutions.

In 2012 there were 182 children (82 m, 100 f) with assured co-financing, 24 institutions that had assured co-financing, and 45 institutions with accomplished programs. At the end of 2011/2012 school year, there were 740 children in preschool education, of which 420 (205 boys and 215 girls) in regular preschool education and care programmes and 320 (137 boys and 147 girls) in the preschool programmes. At the beginning of 2012/2013 school year, a total of 811 children were included, of which 455 (233 boys and 222 girls) in preschool education and care, and 356 (186 boys and 170 girls) in the preschool programme.

In 2011, a total of 1.929.108,06 HRK (257,214 EUR) was spent on preschool education and care/preschool programme from the state budget. The reason of increase of funds is the fact

⁶ In order to regain budgetary balance, the Government has adopted the Guidelines for the Economic and Fiscal Policy, restricting growth of and/or reducing budget spending.



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that all Roma children in Međimurje County are included in preschool programme in year before starting the primary school. The MoSES covers that from 15th September of 2011 until the 30th June of the 2012, with 5,5 hours in a day with warm meal and transport, and MoSES also monitors the implementation of the programme in cooperation with state administration offices in counties regarding the duration of the preschool programme

Primary school

The number of pupils in primary school is increasing over the years. At the beginning of 2011 / 2012 there were total 4,915 pupils (2,509 m, 2,406 f) in primary school, and at the end of 2011/ 2012 there were 4,882 pupils (2,509 m, 2,406 f). At the beginning of current year there is total 5,173 pupils (2,612 m, 2,561 f) in primary school.

The number of classes with only Roma pupils in 2012 is lower. In 2011/ 2012 there were 52 classes and in 2012/ 2013 50 classes.

In Croatia there are total 2, 028 classes with Roma pupils at the beginning of 2012 / 2013, from which 1,978 were mixed classes and 50 classes were with only Roma pupils.

At the same time, data on the number of primary school leavers shows that the number of pupils who finished primary education are low. There were 189 (102m, 87f) pupil that left primary school in 2012 / 2013. In total number of pupils that left school are also included the pupils that are 15 year old and did not finish primary school.

There are also pupils that re-attended the class. Numbers are showing that girls are more successful than boys. In the beginning of 2011/ 2012 (from 1 to 8 grade) there were 604 re-attended (331m, 273 f), and at the end of 2012/ 2013 (from 1 to 8 grade) there were 431(258 m, 173 f) re-attended pupils.

There were also 23 teaching assistants (12 m, 11 f), and two teaching assistants financed by lsg., provided in primary schools.

In 2012 a Croatian Center for Drama Education carried out an international project named "Drama Education and Theater Means to Encourage an Inclusion of Roma" co-financed by Open Society in Budapest, supported by MoSES and ETTA. The program was intended for teachers, educators, assistants in education and teaching in schools with larger number of Roma children and pupils. For that purpose there were held 18 seminars for 161 participants in Međimurje County, Zagreb, Sisak and Slavonski Brod.

From school year 2010/2011, data are collected on the number of Roma pupils who were offered special assistance in Croatian language learning, pursuant to Article 43 of the Primary and Secondary Education Act. In 2011/ 2012, assistance was offered to 700 pupils (from 1 to 8 grade).

In 2012 for educational programs, graduation trips, education in nature, extra curriculum and other activities, extended stay etc. was spent 265.785,09 HRK (35,438 EUR) from state budget. For salaries for Roma teaching assistants 1.463.191,23 HRK (195, 092 EUR) in which is included the gift for children have been used. In total 1,728,976.32 HRK (230,530 EUR) was spent for primary education.



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Secondary school

The number of Roma pupils enrolled in the secondary school education is increasing. In secondary schools at the beginning of 2011/2012, there were 425 pupils (214 boys, 211 girls) and at the end of 2011/2012, there were 378 pupils (212 boys, 166 girls). At the beginning of 2012/2013, 480 pupils (286 boys, 194 girls) were included in the secondary education. In 2012/2013 53 (38 boys, 15 girls) re-attended the same grade, and in 2011/ 2012 67 pupils (30 boys, 37 girls) abandoned education.

In three-years secondary education programs at the beginning of the school year 2011/2012 there were 125 pupils (70 m, 55 f) and at the end of that school year there were 122 pupils (74 m, 48 f). At the beginning of the current school year 2012/2013 there is 157 pupils (109 m, 48 f).

The number of Roma pupils enrolled in the first grades of four year lasting secondary schools at the beginning of the school year 2011/2012 there were 33 pupils (20 m, 11 f) and at the end of that school year there were 28 pupils (9 m, 19 f).

At the beginning of the current school year 2012/2013 there were 23 pupils (10 m, 13 f).

The MoSES provides scholarships to all regular pupils in the secondary education who are members of the Roma national minority in the amount of EUR 670 annually per pupil, or EUR 67 per month during the school year. Condition for obtaining the scholarship is the statement on Roma national minority origin, which is not usually mandatory. The number of pupil with assured scholarship is 425. For scholarships in 2012 total of 2.125.000, 00 HRK (283,333 EUR) from the state budget was spent For placement in dormitory, additional activities, graduate travels, work of school superintendent, scholarship etc. in 2012 a total of 2.249.343,33 HRK (299,912 EUR) was spent.

Post-secondary education

For post-secondary education, the MoSES provides scholarships to all Roma students who request them, under the condition that they declare themselves as members of the Roma national minority. The amount of the scholarship is EUR 133.50 per month during ten months, or EUR 1.335.00 per year. In 2011/ 2012 it was spent 290.000 HRK (38,670 EUR) for scholarships for 29 students.

The number of adult Roma people involved in literacy program in 2012 is 311 (156 m, 155 f) and for those programs is spent 700.000 HRK (93,330 EUR) from the state budget.



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3. EMPLOYMENT

As part of the implementation of the National Employment Promotion Plan 2011-2012, Croatian Employment Service (CES) implemented measures for employment and education related to the Roma national minority. CES also implements measures of co-financing and financing of adult Roma education and in order to increase employability of Roma, CES has adopted the measures that create opportunities for training/educating in all economy fields and employing Roma, especially young persons and women. These measures include preparatory workshops, vocational education, influencing and promoting positive climate among the employers, and support in labor market inclusion. In addition to that, in line with the Decade Action Plan, Croatian Employment Service subsidizes employment of Roma through so called public works. In 2011, 493 persons were employed through the measures of *National Program for Roma* and *Decade Action Plan*, while in the 8 months of 2012 this number was increased to 552 persons.

In 2012 the 170 persons (94 m, 76 f) of the Roma national minority were employed on the open market, 633 persons (422 m, 211 f) of the Roma national minority were employed through public works and 10 persons (6 m, 4 f) were employed through the measure for co-financing of employment for 1 year.

For the purpose of creating conditions for increased Roma employment, all recorded unemployed persons of the Roma national minority were included in regular activities of the CES and activities directed exclusively at the Roma national minority. The purpose was to try to influence their accelerated inclusion in the labour market.

In 2012 the activities of group informing included 1 469 persons (805 m, 664 f) of the Roma national minority. Persons of the Roma national minority participated in 6 292 (3454 m, 2 838 f) individual counselling sessions. Group informing on self-employment was organized for persons of the Roma national minority who expressed their interest in self-employment and in registering of companies and trades. In 2011, the total of 40 informing and counselling sessions on self-employment was held. The total of 43 (7 f) persons was included in informing and counselling sessions on self-employment.

In 2012, 8 687 Roma (4862 m, 3 825f) were involved in activities of preparation for employment and measures of active politics –for employment :262 persons (155 m, 107 f) were involved in workshop for acquisition of skills for searching jobs, 664 persons (448 m, 216 f) persons were involved in active politics for employment, 21 persons (20 m, 1 f) were educated trough measures for co financing/ financing education of Roma national minorities, 240 persons (185 m, 55f) were involved in activities of preparation for employment and estimating of residual ability, 175 (137 m, 38f) and 36 person over 45 years (24 m, 12f) were involved in activity of professional informing and advising and 10 persons that are over 45 years of age (1 f) was involved in activities of estimating of remaining working capacity in purpose of defining the jobs the person can do.

In 2012, 123 meetings were held with employers' associations, trade unions, and NGOs on local level. The total cost from state budget for 2012 is 7 500.000,00 HRK (1 MEUR) of which CES spent 7 489.387, 40 HRK (approximately 1MEUR).



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There are also examples of EU funded projects relevant for employment. Thus, project *New Tomorrow for Roma Community Djurdjevac*, implemented by Social Welfare Centre Djurdjevac, in Koprivnicko- Krizevacka County, as a grant within the program IPA IV 2007-09 *Establishing Support in Social Integration and Employment of Disadvantaged and Marginalized Groups*, targeted Roma community in Djurdjevac – long-term unemployed persons, social welfare allowance beneficiaries. Direct target group included approximately 80 persons, and final beneficiaries were 87 Roma families/cca.450 persons. With the amount of 117.289,00 E, the project purpose was to raise the capacities of the long-term unemployed members of the Roma community in Djurdjevac for easier inclusion into the labor market.

Regional projects targeting Roma were also implemented: project *Together against discrimination of Roma*, implemented in Hungary, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Serbia, involving various partners, including Croatian Association of Roma Friendship Luna, Beli Manastir, brought internationally organized activities related to discrimination of the Roma in the labour market, and education of the Roma. Croatian share of EU contribution within this project is €49.000,00 (18,83%).

An example of a local project involving Roma along other national minorities was implemented in Darda. Project *Computer Education against Marginalization* was implemented in cooperation between Croatian Employment Service Regional Office Osijek, Croatian Information Technology Association, and Municipality of Darda. This grant within the program *IPA 2007-09 Component IV, Human Resources Development, Local partnerships for Employment - Phase III* targeted disadvantaged/deprived communities, minorities and migrants, people with no or poor digital literacy, and unemployed people. All together activities involved 120 persons, including 10 Roma. It is particularly praiseworthy to note cooperation of local CNMS (Hungarian, Roma and Serb) in development and implementation of this project, setting an example of cooperation involving the local self-government and regional stakeholders, such as Croatian Employment Service. This has been also pointed out as an efficient tool to overcome frequent problems related to EU projects in relation to Roma national minority: poor financial and administrative capacity of Roma organisations.

4. HOUSING

Probably the biggest challenge in 2012 and following years is posed by the new law on legalization of illegal building requiring applications for legalization to be submitted by June 30, 2013. Roma MP, Roma National Council, Coordination of Roma CNMs, and local authorities are all involved in this process through various activities: information campaign, mapping of settlements and houses, providing free or discounted services for obtaining necessary technical documentation etc.

Commission for the Monitoring of the National Roma Program provided 292.904,82 HRK (39,064 EUR) for reconstruction of 5 houses in the municipality of Sveti Đurđ, Varaždin county, and Orehovica (Međimurje County) for preparation of project documentation and



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access roads. The Commission also agreed with proposition to award financial aid to the amount of 450.000,00 HRK (60,000 EUR) for building supply network in Roma settlements Donje Vratno, plots for houses and for resolving issues for settlements Capraške poljane and Palanjak (near Sisak), assistance in co-financing for legalization of object in Bistrinci settlement (Belišće, Osijek-Baranja County), and assistance for supplying and installing water manholes for Orehovica.

EU funds are continuing to provide essential assistance in this, financially especially demanding area. Roma Support Project- Phase III: Infrastructure improvements for two Roma settlements: Orehovica and Sitnice (Municipality of Mursko Sredisce), Medjimurje County, has been implemented in 2012, within the IPA 2008 Program. Total contracted amount of € 1,957,233.77 has improved the environment and living conditions in the settlements by building communal infrastructure: road (with drainage), water supply and power.

On the local level data is much more difficult to obtain, but e.g. within the social program of city of Slavonski Brod, the right to assistance in housing costs for 34 Roma families (177 members) and 3 persons. During the 2012 in the area of Rujevica (Rijeka) the preparation of DPU has started. Local authorities have provided support in Brod Moravice. City of Zagreb, in cooperation with local Roma NGOs has made urgent interventions on damaged objects, waste removal, providing potable water, in settlement Savica-Šanci, cleaning the duct area in Plinarsko settlement. Also roads were improved in Peščenica-Žitnjak settlement and Sesvete.



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6. HEALTH

In Accordance with the Decade Action Plan for the inclusion of the Roma 2005-2015, the Ministry of Health (MoH) implements the following measures: 1. Improvement of health of Roma babies and children by equalling the rate of vaccination among Roma children and the rest of the population; 2. Improvement of health of Roma babies and children by implementing measures of educating parents as well as preventive and curative measures in healthcare; 3. Education regarding family planning and preservation of reproductive health, as well as of measures of safe motherhood, especially among pregnant women and post-partum women; 4. Improvement of hygienic-sanitary conditions in residences and villages by implementing deratisation measures in order to create the hygienic prerequisites for prevention of infectious diseases; 5. Education and training of members of the Roma community for medical professions.

Pursuant to sections of National program for Roma and provisions of Law on protection of the Population from Infectious Diseases measures are being made in Međimurje County for prevention and control of infection diseases. For the purpose of early detection of the source of the infection and ways of transmission as well as supervision of carriers in 2012 there were 45 epidemical visits in Roma settlements and schools. Just like in previous years, there were health education for families that were visited. Children and parents of Roma national minority were included in the project of prevention of uterine cancer that Institute of Public Health did in cooperation with cities and municipalities of Međimurje County. There were 3.118 visits to Roma settlements in Međimurje county in 2012. In addition to those actions there is visible improvement of vaccinations of preschool children that live in Roma settlements. Children that were not vaccinated regularly before they had reached the school age were also vaccinated according to the actual program of compulsory vaccination. There were educations for parents about prevention of injuries of children and distributions of booklet about prevention injuries. The most cause of infection of Roma infant is respiratory and gastrointestinal infections. It was also observed that Roma pregnant woman are coming on gynaecological examination in advanced stages of pregnancy, while another problem of monitoring health of Roma families are frequent changes of doctors. In ambulance of Orehovica there were 100 % of vaccinated children of Roma national minority according to the month reports.

School medical services also provided a number of advisory services for children with chronic diseases, learning or emotional difficulties, but again, ethnically disaggregated is not available.

The Ministry of Health has spent 90.000,00 HRK (12,000 EUR) from the state budget for activities targeting Roma in 2012.

7. OTHER ACTIVITIES



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The Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities organized, with the support of the National Council for National Minorities a two-day seminar “Training and education of young persons belonging to national minorities” in Marija Bistrica on July 13-14, 2012. The participants of the seminar were young members of Albanian, Bosniak, Czech, Hungarian, Macedonian, Roma, Slovakian and Serb national minority, and a number of topics were discussed, i.a. the role of relevant institutions in promoting and protecting national minority rights, education of persons belonging to national minorities, national policies and strategies for gender equality and youth, accession into the European union, Antidiscrimination Act as well as cooperation and active participation of young persons belonging to national minorities.

Roma minority was involved in several projects targeting national minorities in general. Thus, for example, capacity building of CNMs in Vukovar-Sirmium County, involving County authorities, Croatian Institute for Local Self-government, Ministry of Public Administration and GOHRRNM took place,

In the area of culture, Ministry of Culture continuously encourages furnishing of libraries, newspaper and literary-publishing activities, musical-scenery performances and cultural-artistic amateurism, artistic, new media and film activities, international cultural cooperation, archive and museum-gallery activities as well as protection of cultural heritage of national minorities. Ministry of Culture also publishes annual public Call for proposals on programmes for public needs in culture, which is applicable for independent artists, artistic organization, institutions in culture, legal and physical persons involved in culture, citizens, associations and units of local and regional self-government. Ministry of Culture supported publishing of two valuable books „Grammar and spelling of Roma language“and „Symposium about Roma language“ published by the Association for Promotion of Education of Roma u RH – Kali Sara. For the first time support was approved to Media and Informational Center for first Internet portal about Roma, romalen.com.

Government of the Republic of Croatia for the year 2012 has provided 825.000,00 HRK (EUR 110,000) for programmes of Roma NGO's and national minorities institutions through National Council for National Minorities. Assistance is provided to organizations of Roman national minority from State budget for creating the conditions to achieve cultural autonomy for Roma national minority 470.000,00 HRK (EUR 62 700,00), including publication of “Grammar of Roma Language” in Croatian language by the group of authors; 77.000,00 HRK (EUR 10,270) was allocated for induction of elective courses “Introduction in Roma Language I. and II.” and “Introduction in Roma Literature and Culture I. and II.” in academic year 2012/2013 at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Zagreb. This is the first university course in Croatia dedicated to Roma language and culture. Another important topic deserving attention is “International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of the Roma People in the Second World War”, whereby 48.000,00 HRK (EUR 6,400) was allocated to Center for Implementation of Integration into the EU in Zagreb. 150.000 HRK (EUR 20,000) was allocated for co-financing of construction of Baranja Cultural Centre for Roma in Darda.



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Mr. Veljko Kajtazi, Roma MP, organised in November 2012, traditional World Day of Roma Language and symposium. Croatian Parliament is the first national parliament that has officially supported marking the World Day of the Roma language. The symposium ended with the first lecture on Roma literature and culture at the University of Zagreb, and on November 16th, 2012 the Faculty of Philosophy began teaching courses on Roma language and literature and culture.