



PROGRESS REPORT 2012

BASIC INFORMATION ON THE SITUATION OF THE ROMA MINORITY

Please provide any data, including where possible disaggregated data (by age, sex, etc.) collected in 2012 concerning:

- *Estimated total number and proportion of the Roma population in the country:*

Based on the Central Statistical Office's most recent census (from 2011), the largest ethnic minority in Hungary is the Roma. In 2011 316,000 people declared themselves to be Roma – about one and a half times as many as in 2001. According to reliable estimates, however, the Roma population in Hungary is about 750,000.

The age composition of the Roma population is substantially younger than that of the non-Roma population. Among Roma the proportion of children between the ages of 0 and 14 is 36.8%, while this proportion in the non-Roma population is 15.4%.

The Roma population has an uneven geographical distribution across the country. In several counties the ratio in the entire population remains below 3 per cent, while in Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén and Heves counties it is nearly 15 per cent. Additionally, territorial differences are extreme at the level of smaller territorial units; in a number of districts and groups of districts, the Roma constitute a majority of the population. More than 60% of Roma live in the countryside in a rural environment – mostly in segregated residential zones, in rather poor housing conditions.

- *Number of Roma living below the poverty line, expressed as a proportion of the overall population.*

According to available statistics (from 2011), a total of 3.05 million people in Hungary live in poverty or social exclusion. According to a small sample measured by TÁRKI Social Research Institute's Household Monitor Survey, the poverty rate among the Roma population is estimated at 70-80%.

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.*
 - The National Social Inclusion Strategy and its Action Plan 2012-14., <http://romagov.kormany.hu/hungarian-national-social-inclusion-strategy-deep-poverty-child-poverty-and-the-roma>



PROGRESS REPORT 2012

- Roma Decade Action Plan see at <http://www.szmm.gov.hu/main.php?folderID=1052&articleID=4821&ctag=articlelist&iid=1>
 - Action Plan to implement the Framework Agreement between the National Roma Self Government and the Hungarian Government http://www.kormany.hu/download/b/ad/50000/Korm_el%C5%91terj_2mell_1005_K%C3%81%C3%89_re.pdf
- *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?*

A.

a) The role of the National Alliance of Local Governments in Roma integration

The National Alliance of Local Governments takes part in the Roma Coordination Council, which was set up in 2011 to enable the widest possible cooperation between social actors and stakeholders involved in the inclusion of Roma in Hungary. The National Alliance of Local Governments also assisted the Ministry of Human Resources during the public consultation process within the Hungarian National Social Inclusion Strategy. As a result, the Strategy reached out to more than 1,500 local governments, and in this way local decision-makers were able to deepen their understanding of its goals and objectives. The National Alliance of Local Governments also takes part in the Advisory Board of the “Making Things Better for Our Children” National Strategy (one of the main elements of the Strategy), in which it has monitoring and evaluating responsibilities.

In September 2012 an agreement was made between the State Secretariat for Social Inclusion and the General Secretariat of the National Alliance of Local Governments, according to which one assigned representative from the State Secretariat and one from the National Alliance are supposed to set up a renewed cooperation roadmap. Gaining an overview of the specific areas of cooperation is necessary in order to effectively continue already successful practices (such as governmental participation at the Forum of National Alliances, and direct delivery of key messages to local people).

b) Equal opportunity planning in local municipalities:

When Hungary submitted its Strategy, the role of local authorities was a high-priority consideration. In conformity with the main lines of the Strategy, it is also important that local municipalities approve equal opportunity plans in order to reduce inequalities at local level.



PROGRESS REPORT 2012

As a result, 3,200 Hungarian municipalities will have to devise their own development concepts, including improving the situation of the Roma by the first half of 2013. In the past many localities have not had such concepts at all. Consequently they did not even have approximate figures (indicators) or action plans that would determine the future of the local settlement in the short or medium term.

In line with the Strategy, the State Secretariat for Social Inclusion initiated amendment of the Act on Equal Treatment and the Promotion of Equal Opportunities. The new section of the Act stipulates that every five years all villages and towns must devise and approve local equal opportunity plans.

The Act also stipulates that equal opportunity plans must be based on situation analyses. The municipalities use these assessments to describe the situation of Roma and disadvantaged residents with regard to education, housing, employment and health. After the assessments have been carried out, municipalities must define measures and approve action plans which address the problems identified. These measures are also part of local equal opportunity plans.

According to the Act, no municipality without a local equal opportunity plan can apply for funds from EU or Hungarian state grant schemes.

Municipalities will be assisted by mentors, trained by the background research institute of the Ministry (Türr István Research and Training Institute). Mentors not only assist the activities of municipalities, but also make suggestions on what to amend in the assessments and action plans. Action plans will need to be reviewed every second year. After two years municipalities can devise and approve new equal opportunity plans if necessary. A local equal opportunity action plan cannot be enacted by a municipality without the written opinion of a mentor.

B. Roma communities and civil society

a) Roma Coordination Council

The Roma Coordination Council (ROK-T, established by Government Decree 1102/2011. (IV. 15.)) was designed to follow the dissemination of the inclusion policy and the implementation of the framework agreement between the Government and the National Roma Self Government (ORÖ). It offers a platform for dialogue and cooperation for the benefit of effective Roma inclusion. The co-president of ROK-T is the Chairman of ORÖ; members are representatives of Roma NGOs, churches, local government associations, national and regional Roma minority self-governments, the National Economic and Social Council, the Fundamental Rights Commissioner and experts appointed by the President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Permanent invited members of the Council are the presidents of the Equal Treatment Authority and the Central Statistical Office, and representatives of the parliamentary committees for human rights, minority, civil and religious affairs and employment and labour affairs.



PROGRESS REPORT 2012

The inaugural meeting of ROK-T was held on 26 September 2011. The National Social Inclusion Strategy was discussed at the meeting on 26 October that year. At the meeting on 14 December members were informed about the status of the framework agreement's implementation, while on 3 April 2012, best practices in inclusion were presented. The Council meeting held in November 2012 on the new monitoring system represented a milestone in social inclusion, and the possibilities for church involvement were also examined. At the last meeting, held in May, the Council issued recommendations related to the next EU multiannual financial framework for 2014-20, and discussed once more the implementation of the National Social Inclusion Strategy Action Plan for the above period.

C. "Making Things Better for Our Children" National Strategy Evaluation Committee

The "Making Things Better for Our Children" National Strategy Evaluation Committee established by the Government Decree 1053/2008. (VIII.4.) amended in May 2011) is responsible for the monitoring of the "Making Things Better for Our Children" National Strategy 2007-2032 passed by Parliament at 47/2007. (V.31.).

The new Evaluation Committee established in 2011 comprises 12 government representatives and 12 representatives from civil society organizations, churches and professional organizations, complemented by permanent invitees. The Chairman is the State Secretary for Social Inclusion, and the co-chair is a member elected by the non-governmental members.

At the third meeting of the Evaluation Committee – held on March 29 2012 – members unanimously accepted the joint report for the "Let it Be Better for the Children" National Strategy, and roundtable discussions were held on Sure Start Children's Centres, and essential elements of child welfare policies.

At the Committee's last meeting – on 7 November 2012 – policy proposals were discussed to increase the employment opportunities for those leaving full-time education at the compulsory minimum school-leaving age (16) without marketable skills. In addition there was discussion of the report on measures to combat child poverty included in the National Social Inclusion Strategy.

- *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.*

The involvement of Roma is ensured by the joint decision-making mechanism in the preparation of regulations in the field of social inclusion, and it is called for in tenders for domestic and EU programmes, as well as in the decisions on winners.



PROGRESS REPORT 2012

Participation in the preparation of legislation

On 30 May 2011 partners agreed in cooperating in the preparation, amendment and revision of legal regulations in the strategic partnership agreement between the Minister for Public Administration and Justice and the National Roma Self Government (ORÖ). These are important Acts in the enforcement of basic rights of nationalities, legal regulations on the basic rights of nationalities and legislation on the enforcement of ethnic education, cultural and language rights and their support within the remit of other ministries. According to the agreement the ORÖ can be involved in the preparation of legislation at any time, and the ORÖ can suggest to the ministry if legislation is needed in a given field. The agreement also allows personal dialogue between partners at their individual initiative.

Roma Policy evaluation bodies

Interministerial Committee for Social Inclusion and Roma Affairs (TFCTB): The Government set up an Inter-Ministerial Committee for Social Inclusion and Roma Affairs for the coordination of government activities aimed at improvement of the living conditions and social situation and the promotion of the social integration of the Roma and people living in extreme poverty. The Committee monitors the implementation of the integration strategy and action plan. In order to fulfil its follow-up responsibilities, the Committee may set up sector-specific task forces for monitoring and review purposes.

Roma Coordination Council (ROK-T): *see answer B.a*

Roundtable for Roma Affairs (CET): The Roundtable was created with the aim of establishing a top-level coordination forum between the National Roma Self-government and the Hungarian government. The roundtable serves the following aims:

- direct dialogue between the Government and the National Roma Self-government
- facilitation of joint decision mechanisms
- assessment of already implemented measures
- devising further implementations

The chair of the Roundtable is the Prime Minister; the President of National Roma Self-government also acts as co-chair.

The implementation of the National Strategy 2007-2032 against child poverty “Let it be Better for our Children!” is monitored by the “***Let it be Better for our Children!***” ***National Strategy Evaluation Committee***, the remit of which was expanded by the Government in May 2011. *See also answer C.*

The new Evaluation Committee consists of 12 government and 12 civil (church and professional organisation) representatives supplemented by permanent guests. The chair is the



PROGRESS REPORT 2012

Secretary of State responsible for Social Inclusion, and the vice-chair is the person elected by non-governmental members. The Committee is an opinion-making body carrying out evaluation of the National Strategy and helping its transparency with the aim of active involvement in the implementation of the Strategy. The Committee also follows social developments relating to the goals and priorities of the Strategy. Suggestions are made for TFCTB.

In 2008 a separate working group – the Indicator Subgroup – was created within the Evaluation Committee, with the participation of statisticians, researchers and other experts. The Subgroup developed an indicator set detailed according to goals and development areas defined in the Strategy, with the aim of describing the situation of children and evaluating social developments connected to the priorities set. At the Committee's invitation, the Indicator Subgroup set itself the goal of developing the indicators of the National Social Inclusion Strategy, as the action plan of the “Let It Be Better for our Children” National Strategy is named in the National Social Inclusion Strategy's action plan. The indicators have been defined and the insertion of data by the Central Statistics Office into the Social Sectorial Information System is due in the first half of 2013.

- *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?*

In order to track implementation of the National Social Inclusion Strategy, a separate monitoring system has recently been established to follow the implementation of programmes in a unified framework. The practical use of the monitoring mechanism was piloted during preparation of the second annual report on implementation of the Strategy in 2012 just after its adoption by the Government. The report will be made public and has already been circulated to civil and governmental partners. Monitoring is assisted by the social inclusion indicator system (also made public), developed by an independent research institution and with data uploaded by the Central Statistical Office by the end of the first half of 2013. The purpose of this is to monitor the social effects of Strategy actions.

The Interministerial Committee for Social Inclusion and Roma Affairs has also set up a separate Monitoring Working Group with the cooperation of the public administration departments concerned. Each of 61 measures included in the National Social Inclusion Government Resolution have been broken down to so-called “sub-measures” that aim to concretize those programmes which can be monitored by given indicators. Each sub-measure has been supported by measure identification sheets (including brief descriptions of the given measure and the milestones of the implementation phase), filled out by the representatives of each department. The purpose of the identification sheets is to standardize the implementation methods of the action plan.

Reports about the implementation of the NRIS and the Decade Action Plan are regularly asked for by various bodies within the EU. The second report about the annual implementation of NRIS is just before acceptance within the Hungarian Government.



PROGRESS REPORT 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.*

The Equal Treatment Authority (ETA) was established in 2005 and is based in Budapest, but its administrative procedure is extended to municipalities, and therefore incoming complaints are handled at local level. The Social Renewal Operative Programme (SROP) 5.5.5. project of ETA (fighting against discrimination, raising social awareness) was launched in 2009 and provides the possibility for lawyers specialized in equal treatment to receive complainants at local level. Complainants are entitled to get free professional assistance, and their applications are assisted and forwarded to the ETA. The SROP 5.5.5 programme also involves a lecture series designed by law enforcement personnel. The target group of the course is broad: participants can be those exposed to discrimination (mainly from socially vulnerable groups) or those who work to assist people subjected to discrimination.

A part of the project is a 30-hour accredited training course launched in 2010, based on material developed by law enforcement personnel and held over more than 70 training sessions. The broad target groups for training are on the one hand those involved, through their membership of an “at-risk” group (e.g. their Roma origin is linked to the discrimination), those who work with such persons or those who meet them in other situations. The courses are run in an accessible environment in Budapest and several locations in each county by trainers qualified in law, sociology, social-politics and economics; the trainers in law work for the authority. In 2013 the Authority will hold 31 accredited legal literacy and sensitization training sessions across the country, with 15 to 25 participants per course.

The SROP programme also allows for research, the goals of which are perceived to be achieved by ETA through several methods. One focuses on three at-risk groups in the adult population: the Roma, people with disabilities and those above the age of 65. Another prepares a national survey through questionnaires filled out by interviewers. The 2011 survey by Ipsos represents a sample from Roma society. The method used to choose the sample and the impressions of interviewers also allow the ETA to collate experiences from across Roma society with regard to access to public and community services.

The SROP 5.5.5 project also allows officials from the authority and invited experts to provide information about the authority’s law enforcement activity, including the latest results and best practices. Participants at workshops are representatives of civil society and interest organisations and local nationality self-governments, as well as employers, educational institutions, equal opportunity professionals and social workers.



PROGRESS REPORT 2012

Number of complaints related to discrimination against Roma throughout 2012 received by Equal Treatment Authority:

In 2012, number of Roma-related complaints received: 81

- number of violations: 4
- Settlements: 4
- Ex officio procedure: 1
- Rejection by ruling: 11 cases, in other cases informing the client was sufficient as proceedings were not requested or the case belonged to another authority.

- *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?*

In 2012 HUF 188 million domestic and HUF 9,979 billion ESF funds have been spent on Sure Start and Integrated Regional Programmes for the improvement of the opportunities of children and their families for social inclusion.

HUF 2170,1 million has been allocated from the domestic budget on scholarships for socially disadvantaged students. It is ensured by the regulation that up to 50 % of the recipients of these grants identify themselves as Roma. Besides, HUF 16 billion ESF funds and HUF 6.83 billion domestic funds have been allocated this year on programmes fostering social inclusion in public education and HUF 1,4 billion for improving the chances of Roma students in higher education.

The inclusion of Roma people in Hungary is a part of the National Social Inclusion Strategy that is aimed at a wider population: those living in deep poverty, in disadvantaged regions and poor families with children. A large proportion of these people are Roma. A monitoring system is currently prepared to follow the implementation of programmes and deliver up to date information including the use of financial resources based on a sophisticated indicator system. Planned research projects will also provide valuable and up to date information about the situation of Roma people.

A) Educational programmes

On the Road Scholarship-Hungarian Public Foundation for the Roma Programme

The goal of the four-element “On The Road Scholarship – Hungarian Public Foundation for the Roma” equal opportunity scholarship programme is to enable disadvantaged pupils to



PROGRESS REPORT 2012

move into secondary school or higher education, gain a secondary school-leaving certificate or enter a profession. In the 2011/12 school year, 54% of the 12,132 students applying for scholarships identified themselves as being of Roma origin. The scholarship programme is continuing in the 2012/13 academic year.

The programme budget was HUF 2.137 billion for the 2011/12 academic year and HUF 2.17 billion for 2012/13.

Grants promoting educational equality (Integrated Education System - IES)

The programme is designed to promote measures of equal opportunities in education for disadvantaged children / students in kindergarten and school, and to help teachers working in the integration system's member institutions.

In the 2011/12 school year 74,295 disadvantaged students took part in developmental and integration programmes, and 20,864 disadvantaged children were included in pre-school development programmes. The figures for the year 2012/2013 are 78,626 students and 25,269 pre-school children. Budgets for 2011 and 2012 were HUF 7.17 billion and HUF 6.83 billion respectively.

The Network of Christian Roma Boarding School System

The Framework Agreement aims at operating the Network of Christian Roma Boarding School System (NCRBS) established by the Jesuit Order (representing the Roman Catholic Church), the Greek Catholic Church, and the Calvinist and Lutheran churches in March 2011, in order to promote inclusion of Hungarian Roma and train young Roma intellectuals for the future.

The establishment of the NCRBS was supported by the Secretariat for Social Inclusion with HUF 119 million in 2012. In 2012, 100 talented students were involved in the operation of the network.

According to the current law – Act CCIV of 2011 on the higher education of ethnic minorities – an institution of higher education operates an inclusion system or programmes independently or together with other institutions. Such programmes are especially scientific study circles and extra-curricular activities. Churches can also establish such colleges in cooperation with institutions of higher education, and cooperation with disadvantaged regions is encouraged.

The continuation and expansion of the Roma Boarding School programme was planned together with the State Secretariat for Education in the EU-funded programme SROP 4.1.1/D, with a budget of HUF 1.150 billion. Calls for tenders were published in March 2012. Successful applications have already been chosen, and support contracts with winners are in progress.



PROGRESS REPORT 2012

Quality pre-school education services for disadvantaged children (Social Renewal Operative Programme - SROP 3.3.8)

The programme is designed to ensure access to quality education for multiply disadvantaged children, and particularly for Roma students; furthermore it supports enhancing the kindergarten enrolment rate of children and realising activities supporting the transition from kindergarten to elementary school. The main aims of the programme are to renew the pedagogical culture of educational institutions so that they can ensure academic success for socially disadvantaged students, to enhance the prospects of school integration and inclusion, and to support the roll-out and further development of model programmes aiding social inclusion of multiply disadvantaged students. Emphasis will be put on promoting the active involvement of parents and out-of-school partnerships. Adaptation and further development of methodological programmes is also possible within the programme. The budget is HUF 4 billion for the two-year implementation period, and the project involves approximately 140 institutes.

Supporting measures preventing school drop-out of multiply disadvantaged students (SROP 3.3.9)

The programme facilitates the after-school educational development and next-day preparation of disadvantaged and poor students by after-school (“study hall”) programmes, as such a service is of utmost importance for success at school. The scheme also facilitates second-chance programmes for disadvantaged youngsters above the compulsory minimum school-leaving age to return to school, and for those who have dropped out or left school – including young Roma people – to pass the school-leaving exam or gain marketable employment skills. Budget: HUF 7,500 million.

Supporting the enrolment of disadvantaged secondary school students at higher education institutions (SROP 3.3.10)

The programme was designed to assist in the school success and mobility of disadvantaged students from secondary school to higher education. The development of grades on important courses is envisaged, and it is also important to raise the proportion and number of disadvantaged students gaining a secondary school leaving exam and entering higher education. Budget: HUF 4 billion. Expected number of students involved: 6,000

Infrastructure developments to support quality education and lifelong learning through culture, in order to promote equal opportunities in the most disadvantaged micro-regions (Social Infrastructure Operational Programme - SIOP 1.2.5)

The aim of the project is to develop facilities necessary for ensuring equal chances through employment, education, culture and social measures in the most disadvantaged micro-regions. It also aims to provide educational institutions with the IT infrastructure necessary for introduction of the Integrative Pedagogical System (HUF 341.38 million).

B) Programme against child poverty



PROGRESS REPORT 2012

Sure Start Child Centres

Sure Start Child Centres represent a key starting point in the inclusion process that provides help to disadvantaged children and families. The goal is to help those living in extreme poverty, mostly Roma, and socially disadvantaged children with early development services essential for future integration into pre-school and school. Sure Start Child Centres received about HUF 2.7 billion between 2007 and 2010 through the SROP 5.2.2 programme. As of 2012, the child homes are financed by the state budget by a sum of HUF 293 million operational funds. There were altogether 5257 children taking part in the child centres by December, 2012.

Integrated regional programmes for the improvement of the opportunities of children and their families for social inclusion (Social Renewal Operational Programme - SROP 5.2.3.)

The programme aims at ensuring the well-being of children and breaks the deprivation cycle of disadvantaged families; to establish the successful social and labour market integration of children living in disadvantaged families, within the framework of integrated micro-regional programmes. (Among these the strengthening of preventive health care, launch of Sure Start Children Centres for families with small children living in the most disadvantaged regions, community, recreation and sport activities of young people, programmes for supporting social inclusion in the school, operating information points in the small villages, supporting vocational guidance etc. As a result of the programmes a 10-year children and youth strategy and related action plan will be elaborated. (2012: HUF 6,987 billion)

C) Programmes for disadvantaged groups and regions

Social land programme

The social land programme is an active social policy tool to help social inclusion. Its overall objective is to help those disadvantaged families living in an environment suitable for agricultural production, but without the necessary material conditions. The budget was HUF 300 million in 2011 and HUF 170.5 million in 2012. In 2011 168 applications received funding of HUF 0.5-4 million each. The support for public employment amounted to a further HUF 382 million in 2011. In 2012 there are 101 programmes running helping the lives of about 2,657 families, as well as allowing the employment of 1401 people.

"Trust and Work" pilot programme for those living in segregated residential areas

The programme supports the life of those living in extreme poverty - primarily Roma families – whose inclusion is prevented mainly by their poor housing conditions. A programme combining housing elements with training and labour market activities was carried out to help this group. In 2011, the number of people in the programme was nearly 6000, of which 5200



PROGRESS REPORT 2012

were Roma. About 600 people were included in training, mentoring, or received health screenings, while 100 homes in poor condition were renovated.

Continuation of the programme is ensured by the SROP 5.3.6 project for complex site development.

Training Roma women social professions (SROP 5.3.1/B-1)

This two-tier programme (with B-1 and B-2 component) was designed primarily for Roma women and their training in social and child care professionals with a budget of HUF 1.52 billion. The programme shall result in 1000 people trained out of which 750 are expected to successfully complete the programme and shall appear on the labour market.

The contract of the flagship project was signed on 6 August, 2012, and short term trainings of 3 months have already been started at three sites. The first nanny training with 20 participants started in December, 2012 in Békéscsaba. More than 660 signed a cooperation agreement with ORÖ until now, 100 of them took part in the application process (competence measurement, medical examination) and filled a directive sheet. The mentors and coordinators of ORÖ have been doing fieldwork since July 2012, their tasks include hiring, mentoring and continuous support of the target group during implementation. Altogether 4000 people applied for the programme.

Supporting the employment of Roma in social institutions (SROP 5.3.1/B-2)

The project with a budget of HUF 1.4 billion shall support the employment of Roma women receiving training in the SROP 5.3.1/B-1 programme and unemployed Roma in social and child welfare institutions (12 months of supported employment + 3 months compulsory continued employment). As a result, the project is expected to employ 700 Roma people (especially women) in supported employment in the social and child welfare and child protection system. According to preliminary data 60 potential employers were interested in employing more than 300 people.

Complex settlement programme (SROP 5.3.6-11/1)

The aim is to help the integration of extremely poor people living in segregated surroundings through complex social services. Budget is HUF 4.68 billion. The programme is composed of social, community development, educational, health, employment and training elements, and improves the housing conditions of those living in slum housing conditions. In 2012 8 pilot projects were carried out at 8 settlement sites. The total number of persons involved: 500



PROGRESS REPORT 2012

D) Further programmes aimed at disadvantaged groups

Motivation and support for labour market integration (SROP 5.3.8/B)

The project with a budget of HUF 7.31 billion offers motivation training and support services for the most disadvantaged groups to help their labour market chances.

The aim is to help the income generation of the family as a social unit, the economic mobilization of socially disadvantaged, inactive or long-term underpaid people and eradicate inter-generational inactivity, through socialization activities. The programme carried out in accordance with the public employment aims of government. Expected number of persons involved: 4000

Development of everyday living competences of most disadvantaged groups (SROP 5.3.10)

In accordance with the aspirations of the SROP 5.3.8/B programme the aim of this project facility is to improve the situation of people living in disadvantaged communities through the development of self-care skills, self-knowledge, reduce the impact of ethnic segregation and social restraint, and promote the labour market integration of disadvantaged groups. Budget: HUF 3.3 billion. Number of persons involved: approximately 2000

As a result approximately people will also be able to take part in traditional training and employment programmes (e.g. social land programme).

Public employment programmes

The medium term (2012-2014) concept of public employment specifies the target groups whose inclusion into public employment shall be preferred. This group, among others, also includes Roma job seekers whose inclusion into public employment is enhanced by several measures by the Ministry of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as BM).

According to the official employment centres an estimated 300000 people were included in public employment in 2011, out of them nearly 80000 Roma at an average of 31.3% nationally but over 50% or even 80% in some regions.

The Government volunteered to include at least 30000 Roma into public employment in 2012, similarly to the numbers in the framework agreement with the National Roma Self Government. According to estimates – the National Employment Service does not keep a record of the nationality – derived from data from local and city employment offices 27% (47,629) of all (179,006) people involved in public work in the first half of 2012 are of Roma ethnicity.



PROGRESS REPORT 2012

The Government shall continue this programme in 2013 and increase the number of employees and the funds set aside along with specific tasks carried out exclusively in this form.

Budgets from domestic resources:

2011: HUF 64 billion

2012: HUF 132 billion

2013: further HUF 153.7 billion

Improving the employability of disadvantaged groups (SROP 1.1.2)

The programme is aimed at disadvantaged job seekers entering the labour market with complex, personalized services and grants corresponding to local labour market opportunities and demands. Target groups belong to the registered job seekers who have no more than a primary school degree, or job seekers below 25 or above 50. Other target groups are those after or still receiving child-care allowance, maternity allowance, currently receiving the employment substitution support, long-term unemployed, or at risk of the long-term unemployment. The Ministry of National Economy agreed that at least 13,500 employees included in the HUF 86-billion project will be of Roma origin.

E) Programmes supporting the development of inclusion policy

Territorial cooperation programmes of local governments (State Reform Operative Programme 1.A.3)

The programme is aimed at helping local governments develop the social and institutional conditions of monitoring systems of the development and implementation of equality programmes. Social inclusion should appear as an opportunity and a goal within local communities and regional cooperation. In order to ensure effective implementation a modification of the programme is necessary.

Equality-based policy development (State Reform Operative Programme 1.1.16.)

The project aims to train officials of local governments required to make their own equal opportunity programmes in order to be able to prepare, carry out and update programmes. The project is being implemented. Number of persons involved: 1091.

Development of community centres (SIOP 3.2.3)

The aim is to establish and equip community centres that are able to support the first steps towards social and labour market integration through their services: to conduct ability surveys, the development of core competences and skills. Budget: HUF 8.9 billion.



PROGRESS REPORT 2012

2. EDUCATION

- *Please list policies and programmes that were designed and implemented at national or local level to support Roma education in 2012 with a special focus on the goals and implementation of the Decade National Action Plan/National Roma Integration Strategy (if applicable).*

Please refer also to report section dealing with the programme budget of 2012

- Scholarship programmes
- Integrated education programmes
- Network of Roma Special Colleges

- *What were the outcomes of the policies and programmes that your government implemented in 2012?*

Integrated Educational Programme:

In the 2011/2012 school year almost 75,000 students and 25,000 disadvantaged children in kindergartens were included, and the numbers for 2012/2013 are 78,626 and 25,269 respectively.

In the sub-programme Road to Higher Education, 399 students received support in 2012, including 57 Roma.

The Network of Christian Roma Boarding School System: members of the network support 100 Roma students in higher education, with a few other colleges about to open in 2013, with the help of the grant SROP 4.1.1/D (budget: HUF 1,15 billion). Operation of existing special colleges received Hungarian funds worth HUF 120 million in 2013.

Scholarship programmes

Four scholarship programmes are operating to enhance the integration of disadvantaged students, with the main focus being on the Roma. The total number of supported students in the 2012/2013 school year was 17,285, with 9,365 already in the system and 7,920 new applicants; 5,039 were Roma (63%).

Supported students in the 2012/2013 school year (2012 tender)

Sub-programme	Total participants	Old	New applicants	New Roma



PROGRESS REPORT 2012

Road to Secondary School	7,322	3,476	3,846	2,571
Road to Graduation	6,511	4,163	2,348	1,442
Road to Profession	3,452	1,726	1,726	1,026
Total	17,285	9,365	7,920	5,039

In the sub-programme Road to Higher Education, 399 students received support in 2012 – including 57 Roma.

- *Please describe how these policies and programmes impact the cross-cutting issues of the decade. In particular, how did they promote gender equality, combat discrimination and reduce poverty?*

Roma scholarship programmes enhance the participation of Roma students in higher education. The general education rate of Roma students has increased over the years, but effects are not yet shown by graduation indicators. More than 60% of those taking part in scholarship programmes for the disadvantaged are Roma. Programmes aimed at inclusive education contribute to the reduction of poverty, as they improve young people's chances in the labour market. Nevertheless, inclusive education is difficult to organise and achieve in particular regions and settlements where most (or all) of the students are Roma.

- *Please identify the most important mainstream and targeted national, EU and other funded schemes launched in the last year that will contribute to Roma inclusion/integration in education. Please specify the activity, the funding source (national budget, international donors, ESF, ERDF, etc.), the operational programme, the amount allocated, the goals to be reached, and the indicative number and proportion of Roma beneficiaries.*

Please provide information on the list achievements in the following fields in 2012:

- *Number of Roma children attending pre-school, elementary, secondary, and tertiary education; number of Roma children not in school*
- *Number of Roma teaching assistants in pre-school, elementary, secondary and tertiary education*
- *Number of Roma children moving from segregated "Roma" pre-schools, primary and secondary schools, to mainstream schools*
- *Number and proportion of Roma children in special schools/classes*



PROGRESS REPORT 2012

- *Number of Roma children attending preparatory class before elementary, secondary, and tertiary education*
- *Access to counselling services for Roma families with children.*
- *Inclusion means in elementary and secondary education (teaching assistants, individualized education plans, tutoring, extracurricular activities, other inclusion measures),*
- *Dropout rates of Roma in primary, secondary, and tertiary education*
- *Number of Roma in primary, secondary and adult education*
- *Number of Roma students receiving scholarships and other support in primary, secondary and tertiary education.*

Gathering data on the ethnic origins of students is not allowed by law: e.g. there is no registry or records on ethnic data.

The progress of Roma students is examined only by surveys and research studies.

Only 19% of Roma students apply for admission to secondary and vocational schools after completing 8th grade, with only 6% successfully passing their final exam; only 1% of all Roma students will be involved in higher education.

The lives of 10,000 students have been tracked by the Career Survey, in which disadvantaged students were over-represented. It found that 3½ years after finishing class, 80- 90% of the students are still in regular school education, with 75% of them in class 12. These rates for Roma students are 60% and 40%.



PROGRESS REPORT 2012

3. EMPLOYMENT

- *Please list the policies or programmes that were designed and implemented to support Roma employment in 2012 with a special focus on the goals and implementation of the Decade National Action Plan or the National Roma Integration Strategy (if applicable).*

Vocational school scholarships

Vocational school scholarships were introduced in 2010 with the aim of enhancing the prestige of vocational training, developing interest in the professions demanded by the economy and reducing the numbers of those leaving school early. In 2012 there were about 20,600 students receiving such scholarships, totalling HUF 2.9 billion.

The government regulation on vocational school scholarships was amended in 2012. The most important change regarded the conditions for application, which state that scholarships can only support students gaining their first degree in vocations for which there is a clear demand in the economy.

Student agreements

In 2012 the regulations on student agreements were modified. As a result of the new Act on vocational training adopted in the summer 2012, all students in vocational schools may make such agreements without any restriction, regardless of their school year. Restrictive conditions regarding school type, school year and previous professional qualifications to be included in practical training have been removed to strengthen the notion of student agreements and the dual essence of vocational training.

Legislative changes concerning vocational scholarships and student agreements did not directly target the Roma, but tried to promote the employment opportunities of disadvantaged students generally. The vocational school is the main means of further studies for disadvantaged students, and about two-thirds of Roma continue their studies in such a school.¹

Investment grants to develop the employment capacity of SMEs

The grants of the Ministry for National Economy aiming to create workplaces for SMEs were made available to 29 Roma employees in 2010 and 95 in 2011.

In 2012 we put special focus on enhancing investments in disadvantaged small regions and settlements, and on ensuring that the maximum possible number of unemployed people should be in employment after completion. Beyond the basic funding of HUF 1.4 million per job, applicants could also apply for additional support (HUF 300,000) if they were willing to hire Roma. A total of 585 businesses received HUF 7.3 billion in grants. Projects for the unemployed have been carried out mainly in disadvantaged regions and counties (4 disadvantaged regions account for 87% of grants), and account for many new jobs. Businesses have received funds to create 4,012 new jobs and employ 3,292 previously unemployed people (including 401 Roma) for at least 2 years. Funds have also helped to preserve 6,234 jobs.

¹ Liskó Ilona (2008): Szakképzés és lemorzsolódás, ECOSTAT, Budapest, 95-121.



PROGRESS REPORT 2012

Initiatives and results using EU funds

The SROP 1.1.2 programme **“Development of employment of disadvantaged people (Decentralised programmes in converging regions)”** aids the employment of several disadvantaged groups – the low skilled, those under 25 and graduates, those over 50, those returning after maternity leave, and those temporarily and permanently unemployed – with personal support, training and services. This priority project was launched by county labour offices on 1 May 2011 in converging regions, with a budget of HUF 106 billion. Labour offices arranged the involvement of 110,000 disadvantaged unemployed people, 16,500 of them Roma. In order to reach Roma target groups, 2 Roma vocational rapporteurs had the task of finding, involving and mentoring Roma unemployed to avoid early departure from the programme. The first 20 months of the 4-year project saw the involvement of more than 53% of the 16,500 Roma, and it seems that over time county labour offices are able to gain 15% Roma participation (by the end of 2012, 8,764 of the 60,317 involved were Roma).

The SROP 1.1.4 **“Labour market programme for the employment of disadvantaged people in the Central Hungary Region”** programme aids the employment of several disadvantaged groups – the low skilled, those under 25 and graduates, those over 50, those returning after maternity leave, and those temporarily and permanently unemployed – with personal support, training and services. This priority project – with a budget of HUF 7 billion – was launched by labour offices in the Central Hungary Region on 1 May 2011, and it ends on 30 April 2014. The project does not have an indicator for involving Roma, but labour offices pay special attention to Roma unemployed and monitor the number involved. During the first 20 months of the project 354 unemployed Roma were included.

The aim of the SROP 1.4.1 **“Supporting community labour market programmes”** programme is to support local initiatives involving NGOs in which the training, adaptation and temporary employment of disadvantaged unemployed people is achieved with the aim of offering permanent employment, possibly in the open labour market. The number of Roma is a horizontal indicator.

The aim of the SROP programme 1.4.3 **“Supporting innovative experimental employment programmes”** is to support such initiatives with a total budget of HUF 4.7 billion. The goal is to try out employment or organisational schemes previously unheard of for the target groups, and help create an adaptable model by closely administering activities and results. The programme helps the employment of working-age unemployed (either looking for work or inactive) through the innovative employment programmes. The support of adaptable open labour market pilot programmes is essential for the development of employment of such social groups, the young unemployed and people with disabilities. “Green jobs” and the development of digital tools and competences are important features of the EU2020 Strategy, and are thus supported. The number of Roma is a horizontal indicator, and project proposals are under evaluation.

The call for the SROP 1.4.6/12 programme **“Transit employment in the construction industry”** was issued in June 2012. The goal is to use transit employment programmes also offering training to aid in the employment of the disadvantaged – the low skilled, unskilled, and those with outdated skills. Transit employment means the construction and renovation of buildings and other activities concerning the targeted professions of the programme. Another goal of the programme is to aid the qualification, work and income generation of unemployed



PROGRESS REPORT 2012

people, promoting the improvement of their personal environment and thereby their capacity to become permanent and active players in the open labour market. Applicants must cooperate with the local Roma self-government as a consortium partner. Applications are currently under evaluation.

The goal of the priority project SROP 2.1.6 “**I study once again**” is to enable the training of adults with low levels of education or lack of skills, and thereby to improve their labour market situation. Another goal is to train employees who have outdated vocational qualifications or who can be further trained to meet the real demands of the labour market. The programme especially aids training courses related to public employment schemes. The National Labour Office undertook this project in consortium with local government offices, and is willing to involve 3,000 Roma out of a total of 37,000 targeted people. The budget is HUF 20 billion.

According to data from 31 December 2012, **14,562 people** started training courses (79 courses have already ended), **835 of them Roma**.

Social Land Programme

The Social Land Programme is unique in Europe among active social policy measures, and it has been used widely in Hungary since 1992 in an acceptable and organised manner. It is a useful measure that is widely accepted and supported. Programmes are carried out in partnership between local actors including municipalities and their voluntary associations, municipality-owned public businesses, public NGOs, church organisations, Roma self-governments and other charity organisations. Between 2008 and 2010 programmes changed little as calls for tenders to reduce regional inequalities and improve the activity and employment situation of target groups were quite popular. Budgets for the years 2008, 2009 and 2010 were HUF 283 million, HUF 134 million and HUF 136.59 million respectively.

Social Land Programme, 2011 (SZOC-FP-11)

- Goal: to help disadvantaged people improve their quality of life and independence. Budget: HUF 300 million (domestic funds).
- Responsible organisation for the project: Ministry of Public Administration and Justice together with the Wekerle Sándor Fund
- Programme duration: June 2011 – 30 June 2012.
- Accepted projects: 168 (mostly municipalities and their voluntary associations)
- Those in public employment: 1,388.
- Number included: 2,913.

Social Land Programme, 2012 (SZOC-FP-12)



PROGRESS REPORT 2012

- Goal: to help disadvantaged people, improve their quality of life and independence. Budget: HUF 170.5 million (domestic)
- Responsible organisation for the project: Ministry of Human Resources together with the Wekerle Sándor Fund
- Programme duration: June 2012 – 30 June 2013.
- Calls for tender were published on 28 June 2012.
- Accepted projects: 101

New elements from 2011 include the introduction of 3 sub-projects (A, B and C), and in the latter two cases social cooperatives are also able to apply. In the new “B” sub-project it is possible to apply for tools helping entry on the open market of organisations also working in agriculture. Local Roma self-governments have a special role, as they must be included as consortium partners.

Applicants contracted to cultivate around 259 hectares of land, 213,074 seedlings planted and almost 110,000 packs of seeds being used. Families have received almost 17,000 small domestic animals as part of the programme. With this we would like to improve the living conditions of 2,657 families. Furthermore, the programme provides 1,401 people with employment. Half of targeted families are Roma, and one tenth are working-age people with disabilities. Major target groups are: the long-term unemployed, those on low incomes, those with a large number of children, the elderly, those with disabilities and Roma.

The Social Land Programme for 2013 is under development.

Institutional employment of Roma women

The goal of the SROP 5.3.1.-B-2 programme issued on 28 June 2012 is to support the employment of Roma women and unemployed Roma people in social care and child welfare institutions. The project is currently being implemented, and offers 12 months of employment financed by the programme and 3 months of compulsory further employment. It is expected that the employment of 750 Roma people (primarily Roma women) will be financed from project resources in social care and child welfare and child protection institutions. As a result of the construction, the services provided by these care systems will become more inclusive and the relationship between institutions and Roma communities and also between institutions and people living in enclaves will strengthen. Employment of Roma people is also expected to erode anti-Roma stereotypes.

Applications to employ Roma workers will be open to 350 organisations, thus improving their employment rates and the situation of families. The budget is HUF 1.4 billion.

Employment is preceded by training through which one thousand Roma women will receive knowledge and skills with long-term market relevance (750 of them are expected to successfully finish the courses). The beneficiaries of the priority project are the National Roma Self-government and the Türr István Training and Research Institute as consortium partner running the training and sensitization of potential employers, as well as maintaining relations between future employers and employees.



PROGRESS REPORT 2012

Public employment

Unemployed Roma have received more attention in those settlements where more Roma live. Cooperation initiatives with ethnic minority governments have been created to enhance employment. 360 Roma programme officers are employed in several counties to give information on employment programmes. Roma public employees have taken part in cleaning trains, clearing fields of ragweed and in work at waterside resorts and forests. Short-term public employment has usually meant work in community initiatives. Most Roma have been employed as unskilled workers, but sometimes they have also held positions requiring a vocational qualification. Public employment has been mostly welcomed, especially with regards to the development of sanitation. Such schemes have helped many to return to work.

In the 2012 the estimated number of Roma people involved in public employment is 54 769.

- *What are the outcomes of the policies and programmes that your government implemented in 2012?*
 - In September 2012 a new equal opportunity sub-programme of “On the Road Scholarship Programme” has been launched under the name “Road to Higher Education”. The sub programme supports disadvantaged especially Roma students in beginning their university studies. The programme either covers 90 % of the tuition fee or provides students with a monthly stipend. (Previously three equal chances sub programmes operated supporting students from grades 7 to 13.)
- *Please describe how these policies and programmes impact the Decade cross-cutting issues. In particular, how did they promote gender equality, combating discrimination and reducing poverty?*
- *Please identify the most important mainstream and targeted national, EU and other funded schemes launched in last year that will contribute to Roma inclusion in the area of employment. Please, specify the activity, the funding source (national budget, international donor, ESF, ERDF, etc.), the operational programme, the amount allocated, the goals to be reached, and the indicative number and share of Roma beneficiaries.*

Please provide information about the list of achievements in the following fields in 2012:

- *Successful measures tackling discrimination of Roma in the labour market*



PROGRESS REPORT 2012

Training to employees and the successful public media campaign of the Equal Treatment Authority served this cause. Employment programmes including Roma also have a purpose of decreasing discrimination among other employees and employers themselves.

- *Use of active employment measures for improving the situation of the Roma in the labour market and evaluation of the effectiveness of these programmes (participation in re-qualification courses, public work programmes, etc.).*
See the descriptions about the SROP 1.1.2, 1.1.4, 1.4.1, 1.4.3, 1.4.6, and 2.1.6 programmes.
- *Improved labour market skills of long-term unemployed Roma*
See the descriptions about the SROP 1.1.2, 1.1.4, 1.4.1, 1.4.3, 1.4.6, and 2.1.6 programmes.
- *Improved employment rates of long-term unemployed Roma*
As the gathering of data about the ethnicity of unemployed people is not allowed by law it is not possible to answer this question.



PROGRESS REPORT 2012

4. HOUSING

- *Please list the policies or programmes that were designed and implemented to support housing for Roma (or the housing of marginalized people, including Roma) in 2012 with a special focus on the goals and implementation of the Decade National Action Plan and the National Roma Integration Strategy (if applicable).*
See the report below about the renovation of segregated settlements.
- *What are the outcomes of the policies or programmes that your government implemented in 2012?*
- *Please describe how these policies and programmes impact the Decade cross-cutting issues. In particular, how did they promote gender equality, combating discrimination and reducing poverty?*
- *Please identify the most important mainstream and targeted national, EU and other funded schemes launched in last year that will contribute to Roma inclusion in the area of housing? Please, specify the activity, the funding source (national budget, international donors, ESF, ERDF, etc.), the operational programme, the amount allocated, the goals to be reached, and the indicative number and share of Roma beneficiaries.*
See the reports below about housing programmes financed by domestic and EU funds.

Please indicate any projects/programmes focused on housing for Roma, including those making use of EU funds, such as European Regional Development Fund. Please state the title(s) of the programme(s) and the implementing agency or agencies.

At the beginning of 2013 there were a total of 1,663 segregated living quarters for the poor and the Roma embedded in 823 settlements and ten Budapest districts, many of them in small villages or outside their administrative boundaries. Between 280,000 and 315,000 people – about 3 % of the population – live in segregated residential conditions. The abolition of segregated settlements requires local methods based on the type, size, geographical location, etc. of settlements.

Housing programmes financed from domestic resources

First government actions for the integration of those living in segregated settlements and ghettos were introduced in 2005. The Strategy Plan of the Decade of Roma Integration Programme from 2005 to 2015 also enhanced the abolition of housing segregation. Every year several new settlements are able to participate in the programme.



PROGRESS REPORT 2012

Pilot programme “Trust and work”: The pilot programme to support those in segregated housing conditions was introduced in 2011 to support 8 local programmes with a total of HUF 410 million. The programme was carried out in partnership with local municipalities by the Türr István Training and Research Institute (TKKI), a background institution of the Secretariat for Social Inclusion of EMMI. The programme contained simultaneous training, employment, housing and community development elements. The programme lasted from November 2011 to 30 June 2012.

Results:

- 400 people involved
- 200 people in funded training
- 300 people in funded employment
- 24 institutions offering community services
- 100 renovated housing units and community buildings

Housing programmes financed from EU funds

The goal of the ***Complex Settlement Programme (SROP 5.3.6-11/1, budget HUF 4.68 billion, raised by the Cabinet by HUF 1 billion)*** is to support the social inclusion and integration of disadvantaged people living in extreme poverty in segregated housing environments by ensuring access to a complex variety of social services. The programme components cover social aspects, community building, education, health, training and employment, and they promote enhancement of living conditions of people living in segregated housing estates and similar areas.

In the first round of the call 33 applications were evaluated, of which 21 applications received funding of HUF 2.967 billion. In the second round of the construction **62 tenders were submitted, of which 56 applications were evaluated.** The number of applicants receiving funding: 30-50. Settlement programmes contribute to the social inclusion of those living in conditions such as permanent inactivity and low income, which contribute to isolation. Through employment, training and related services the labour market integration of the community will be initiated, their horizons extended, new personal relationships can be created and their inadequate social protection net can be supplemented. Compared with the previous situation, the opportunity exists for truly multi-dimensional interventions for improving housing conditions.

Please provide information about the following fields in 2012:

- *Number of Roma benefited by infrastructural development. How is desegregation, a priority issue in the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies, dealt with in infrastructure development?*
- *Number of Roma affected by urban social restoration programmes*



PROGRESS REPORT 2012

- *Number of Roma affected by colony / settlement elimination / development programmes*
- *Number of Roma affected by the regulation of property ownership regimes*
- *Number of Roma affected by evictions*
- *Number of Roma included in social housing programmes*

Gathering data about the ethnic affiliation of clients affected by the above programmes is not allowed by law, e.g. there is no registry or records of ethnic data.



PROGRESS REPORT 2012

6. HEALTH

- *Please list the policies and programmes that were designed and implemented to support the improvement of health care services for the Roma population in 2012 with a special focus on the goals and implementation of the Decade National Action Plan/National Roma Integration Strategy (if applicable)*
- *What are the outcomes of the initiatives (policy, programme, activity) that your government implemented in 2012?*
- *Please describe how these policies and programmes impact the Decade cross-cutting issues. In particular, how did they promote gender equality, combating discrimination and reducing poverty?*
- *Please specify if there are health mediators employed. If so, please specify what type of contract the health mediators have, how often do they have to renew it. Are there any trainings for health care providers in addressing the needs of Roma.*
- *Please identify the most important mainstream and targeted national, EU and other funded schemes launched in last year that will contribute to Roma inclusion in the area of health. Please, specify the activity, the funding source (national budget, international donors, ESF, ERDF, etc.), the operational programme, the amount allocated, the goals to be reached, and the indicative number and share of Roma beneficiaries.*

Main projects

Semmelweis Plan for the Relief of Health Care

As stated in the Semmelweis Plan, the improvement of the population's state of health and health itself are social priorities. It is every Hungarian citizen's fundamental right to attain their optimal state of health. It is the responsibility of the individual and society to maintain and improve the health of the population. In Hungary the regional and socio-economic inequalities in health status and its determinants are considerable. Disadvantaged groups (Roma communities, villagers, poor and persons with disabilities) are significantly overrepresented among people with unfavourable health status. This is partly a result of certain behaviours, inequalities in health care provision and access to the health care system, and partly a result of other socio-economic and social considerations. To reduce inequalities in health, efficient cross-sector cooperation is required, from strategy building to execution, with the active involvement of the communities concerned.

Related measures:

- To strengthen the preventive and health educational role of those who work in primary health care. Reshaping family doctor care and employment-related health care



PROGRESS REPORT 2012

provision to a system with a preventive emphasis and making a complex incentive system with the involvement of public health, psychology and mental health experts and to expand the preventive activities of district nurses (“Health Goes Home”, Praxis Programmes, Swiss-Hungarian Cooperation Programme, SROP 6.1.2. Health Development Offices, SROP 6.1.4.);

- Improvement of public health screening programmes’ efficiency (organization of public health screening programmes, cervical screening programmes by district nurses, colorectal screening programme, Mobile Specialist Service);
- Coordinated development and use of social, educational, employment and health care provisions in disadvantaged areas, particularly for the Roma population, people preparing to have children and provisions supporting children (SROP 6.1.4) to reduce glaring inequalities.

“The Child as our Common Treasure” National Infant and Child Health Programme

According to this programme – announced in 2005 – the period of life determining later physical and mental performance and the chance to preserve health and prevent disease is between conception and the age of 18.

Implementation of tasks

Benefit developments

Practice Programmes I and II of the National Institute of Primary Care (NIPC) aim to ensure medical care in districts where adult and mixed family doctor care is permanently absent. These districts are mainly in disadvantaged areas. Since Practice Programme I started in January 2006, 80 physicians have joined the system, 30 of them working in districts which are in the most disadvantaged micro-regions. Practice Programme II started in June 2009, and since then 105 physicians have joined the system, 23 of them work in the most disadvantaged micro-regions, with 8 of these taking posts where medical care was previously permanently absent.

Within the Practice Change Programme – which is part of the Semmelweis Plan’s structural transformation – the Minister of State has the right to make an individual decision on single non-repayable grants for young medical career starters and for elderly colleagues to retire. This is one good example in the health care system of promoting cooperation between generations.

In 2012 the NIPC issued calls with a total value of HUF 300 million, for the purchase of practice rights and upgrading of equipment in family doctors’ surgeries. The expiry date was 30 September 2012 and, the evaluation committee has already made its decision. According to the applications submitted, the NIPC signed grant agreements worth a total of HUF 236,92 million for the purchase of practice rights. A total of 78 applications arrived, of which 67 met the requirements. The evaluation committee supported them completely. Twenty-five per cent of successful applications are practices in disadvantaged micro-regions.

With the contribution of the NIPC, the “Health Goes Home” Programme has been realised within the Practice Programme. This programme provided a local screening package in areas where the Practice Programme was introduced between 2008 and 2010. The package



PROGRESS REPORT 2012

contained cardiovascular risk identification, a medical examination of respiratory functions among smokers, early detection of carbohydrate metabolism disorders and consultation for cancer screening. In 2008, 2009 and 2010 the programme benefited 8, 8 and 5 NIPC staff family doctors respectively, and in each location screening could be carried out on 50 invited people.

The Swiss-Hungarian Cooperation Programme started in 2012 and since then four group practices have been established, consisting of 24 primary health care practices in Northern Hungary and in the Northern Great Plain region (centres are Berettyóújfalu, Jászberény, Borsodnádásd and Heves). The programme's aim is to establish and testing a primary health care system that concentrates on patients suffering from chronic diseases; it aims to have a community orientation and involve local communities – especially the Roma population. The establishment should be in cooperation with local governments and local minority governments and local health care and social service providers. Based on the experience gained, they should also make recommendations for national health policy. The programme is on course for realization by 30 June 2016.

Health Development Offices (HDOs) will be established in the micro-regions to support the health care systems prevention capacity. Their task will be to provide health care development services and to organise the activity of health actors in their areas. More than HUF 7 billion will be available to these offices for screening for circulatory diseases (including carbohydrate and lipid metabolism disorder) and risk assessment, and consultation related to them. More than 100 applications have been evaluated and decision making will follow.

Through developing children's primary health care, the EU-funded **SROP 6.1.4 early childhood programme** supports children's optimal biopsychosocial development from birth to the age of 7. Central to the construction are the targeted groups in primary health care (district nurse service, family child doctor and family doctors who benefit children as well) and parents. The project seeks to improve the standards for children's primary health care, so that optimal health status for children can be achieved in a more unified, up-to-date, effective objective and measurable way that also answers professional demands – especially for disadvantaged children and parents with special needs. The programme started on 1 October 2012 and ends in 2015.

International epidemiological studies indicate that on average 15.8 % of children aged 4-17 suffer from a psychiatric disorder, meaning that this is a common problem. A legislative amendment (on minimum conditions) was enacted in order to roll out services for treatment of mental health problems of children and adolescents across the whole country. In 2011 the State Secretariat for Health revised the children's psychiatric service system and its development possibilities. After this amendment, since 2012 child psychiatry has become an area officially recognised as having a skills shortage.

Health development programmes

The **National Institute for Health Development (IHD)** started a desegregation health development programme for Roma children between the ages of 5 and 9. Within the



PROGRESS REPORT 2012

programme sensomotoric maturity surveys were made for disadvantaged children, and a development programme for the screened children and training for their teachers started in Budapest's District VIII. EMMI's predecessor – the Ministry of National Resources – supported the programme in 2010-2011, and in that school year 172 mainly disadvantaged children received regular sensomotoric therapy in 17 groups at 11 institutions. Children's task awareness and task performance strengthens during these training programmes, and by linking verbal and movement tasks body awareness and communication skills improve. Looking at the results of the developed and the control group, in the developed group twice as many children reached school maturity than in the control group.

The “**National Child and Youth Safety Action Plan**” was developed within the “Child as our Common Treasure” National Infant and Child Health Programme in 2009. The document has been produced to prevent accidents among young people under the age of 24. The programme tries to more efficiently prevent the most serious accidents, so that the physical, psychological and social progress of children is not hindered.

The “**Never Shake Your Baby**” educational programme started in 2010 to raise awareness of the serious health consequences shaking can cause for babies and small children. The programme has an auxiliary instructional video for physicians, district nurses, social workers, child carers and parents. The homepage www.gyermekbantalmazas.hu has been available since 6 July 2011.

Public Health Oncological Screenings

According to the Hungarian Central Statistical Office, in Hungary In 2010 a total of 36,460 people (18,032 men and 14,428 women) died of cancer. The number of detected and registered cancers was 67,398 (34,514 men and 32,884 women). The overall mortality rate in 2010 was 130,456 people: 65,137 men and 65,319 women.

Mortality of the most common cancers between 1975 and 2010

Year	Total number of cancer-related deaths	Trachea, bronchial tube, lung		Colon-rectum		Lip and mouth cavity		Breast	Cervix
		men	women	men	women	men	women	women	women
1975	25 476	3 414	755	1 477	1 548	383	79	1 650	536
1980	27 550	4 167	992	1 718	1 820	585	114	1 800	669
1990	30 871	5 416	1 492	2 146	2 090	945	175	2 097	602

PROGRESS REPORT 2012

2000	33,280	5 727	2 097	2 514	2 372	1 413	275	2 316	481
2003	33 530	5 849	2 352	2 784	2 311	1 456	304	2 309	465
2008	32 111	5 597	2 733	2 563	2 190	1 364	287	2 108	418
2010	32 460	5 741	2 907	2 704	2 261	1 232	292	2 011	379

Most common cancers between 2001 and 2010

Year	Number of illnesses	Lung		Colon-rectum		Lip and mouth cavity		Breast	Cervix
		men	women	men	women	men	women	women	women
2001	62 931	7 759	3 638	4 606	4 311	3 028	842	6 196	1 355
2003	70 197	7 840	3 886	5 006	4 519	3 265	991	8 032	1 332
2008	72 136	7 581	4 301	5 423	4 582	2 982	967	6 938	1 074
2010	66 666	6 633	3 927	5 167	4 374	2 706	898	6 599	930

The most promising strategy for reducing short- and mid-term mortality rates for cancers is early detection and treatment. The means of early detection is random screening of people in the vulnerable age who report as asymptomatic.

Proven screening methods to reduce the mortality in the population are available for breast cancer, cervical cancer and colon cancer:

- women aged 45-65 are screened for breast cancer every two years (mammography)
- for women aged 25-65, after one negative screening result, every three years a cytological screening accompanies the normal screening
- women aged 50-70 are given a faecal occult blood laboratory (immunochemical) test every two years

In Hungary the breast and cervical screening is organised nationwide, while colon screening is organised as a pilot programme.

Public health screening

Public health screening is a public health activity that is offered to targeted populations in defined age groups, at intervals judged necessary by specialists, integrated into the health care system and funded from the central budget. The public health screening programme operates by personal invitation. All this is in accordance with the recognised international professional organizations' recommendations. Recommendation 2003/878/EC contained information on it.

Breast screening



PROGRESS REPORT 2012

As part of the targeted organized screenings, breast screening was launched nationwide on 1 January 2002. Target groups are sent 460-600,000 invitations annually.

Cervical screening

The organized cervical screening started in Hungary in October 2003. Target groups are sent 450-550,000 invitations annually.

To increase participation in screening a pilot programme started in 2009 – cervical screening by district nurses – that follows best practice from those countries where cervical screening has been a success.

Screening is carried out in district nurses' advice offices by district nurses, who are trained in screening, so travelling time and expenses can be minimized, as can waiting. The process builds on the trust in the district nurse and the nurse's empathy. If possible nurses contact women to inform them about the importance of screening, then they agree on a time and the nurse carries out the screening in the advice office. If the result is positive, the nurse sends the woman to a gynaecologist for further examinations. **District nurses can successfully promote screening to women who have not visited a gynaecologist for 10 years or more.**

Results of cervical screening by district nurses

Year	Number of district nurses	Number of settlements where screening organised	Number of persons reached by district nurses	Number of persons screened by district nurses	Filtered with suspected tumour	Filtered with suspected inflammation
2009	108	168	13 825	4 873	23	417
2010	212	349	24 349	6 781	34	468
2011	181	300	13 227	3 771	15	98
2012	174	280	14 802	5 502	9	

Cervical screening by district nurses will be rolled out nationwide in the second half of 2013 with the aid of EU funding. Within this programme more than 1,000 district nurses will obtain thorough theoretical, communicational and practical training competence.



PROGRESS REPORT 2012

With the support of the former Ministry of Health, the colon screening model programme's new phase started in 2009. A total of 175 family doctors took part in the programme and about 20 000 people in vulnerable age were screened. Extension of colon screening starts with EU funding in 2013 and will end in 2015.

In 2009 the Ministry of Health advertised an application for "Promoting complex public health screening for people in small settlements" that aimed to improve the rate of screening and access to the health care system in these small settlements. HUF 67.02 million has been distributed as non-repayable grants among the 107 successful applicants.

Occasional screening programmes

In 2008 the *National* Public Health and Medical Officer's Service organized occasional mouth cavity screenings, in which 206 family doctors participated in the screening of 46 000 people. Suspected malignancies were found in 108 people, who were sent to specialists.

In 2007-2009 the "Screening for Life" Programme was a free of charge nationwide screening and lifestyle advice programme. The programme attempted to teach about the individual's responsibility for health and the fact that with a little attention most of the leading causes of death can be prevented if we take part in the screening programmes within the publicly funded health care system. The first two years concentrated on the major cities, where about 100,000 people participated and about a quarter of a million screenings were carried out. In 2009 the programme reached the most disadvantaged regions as well, with 76,992 screenings of 22,080 people taking place. Participants were aged 35-64.

With the contribution of the **National Institute of Primary Care (NIPC)**, the "**Health Goes Home**" Programme has been realised within the Practice Programme. This programme provided a local screening package in areas where the Practice Programme was introduced between 2008 and 2010. The package contained cardiovascular risk identification, a medical examination of respiratory functions among smokers, early detection of carbohydrate metabolism disorders and consultation for cancer screening. In 2008, 2009 and 2010 the programme benefited 8, 8 and 5 NIPC staff family doctors respectively, and in each location screening could be carried out on 50 invited people.

The target group for the "Mobile Specialist Service" is the female population of the Northern Great Plain's six disadvantaged villages (around 30,000 women). Here, in addition to cervical screening and the traditional physical, bimanual, instrumental measurements and cytological smears abdominal, vaginal and breast ultrasound is also carried out. The initiatives in local gynaecology clinics have resulted in a noticeable change in attitude towards hormone disorders, conditions of climacterical treatment, cancer screening and awareness-raising in the region. For cancer screening and consultation, every year 1,500 women take part in the screening process. There are settlements where 95% of participants are Roma or women who have not visited a gynaecologist for more than 20 years. Thanks to the programme, the number of premature births has fallen below the national average, as has the number of



PROGRESS REPORT 2012

unwanted births. The Ministry of Health supports the programme with HUF 3 million per year.

Training programmes

The Chamber of Hungarian Health Care Professionals holds free 40-hour professional training courses for health professionals on “**Transcultural nursing in care practice**”. Transcultural nursing in practice is a compulsory module or a credit in health profession schools and colleges. In 2011 transcultural nursing in practice was part of the annual mandatory training in all groups. Nurses have to be able to identify special cultural customs and behaviours. After finishing this training a nurse will be able to reduce cultural tension wherever it occurs in the health care system.

Please provide information about the following fields in 2012:

- *Number of Roma covered by the national health insurance system*
Gathering data about the ethnic affiliation of clients is not allowed by law, e.g. there is no registry or records of ethnic data.
- *Number of fully immunized Roma children*
Gathering data about the ethnic affiliation of clients is not allowed by law, e.g. there is no registry or records of ethnic data. There is an ongoing project at the National Health Development Institute to provide better estimation methods about the ethnic background of clients at screenings. The Framework Agreement between the Hungarian Government and the National Roma Self Government set the goal of 150000 Roma being screened.
- *Rate of infant and maternal mortality among the Roma population compared to the population as a whole*
- *Number of Roma women receiving pre and post natal health care; number who should receive such care but do not*
Gathering data about the ethnic affiliation of clients is not allowed by law, e.g. there is no registry or records of ethnic data.
- *Roma life expectancy*
Reliable estimates put Roma life expectancy to be worse than the Hungarian average by 8-10 years. The latest census in 2011 showed that only 4% of the Roma population was above the age of 60 compared to the 18% of the total population of Hungary.



PROGRESS REPORT 2012

Please list any other activities, initiatives and/or policies implemented in 2012 that were not part of the Decade of Roma Inclusion priority areas, but you consider relevant to Roma Inclusion (educational and institutional support for Roma culture and language, affirmative measures undertaken for Roma Youth; ensuring the right to freedom of movement within the EU; non-discrimination in the visa-free travel regime, etc.).

In 2012 the culture of national minorities became part of the National Core Curriculum.