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BASIC INFORMATION ON THE POSITION OF THE ROMA NATIONAL MINORITY

Please list all data collected in 2012, including data disaggregated by age, gender, etc. (Where possible).

The total estimated number and percentage of the Roma population in the country.

- **In October 2011, a national census was conducted.** The total number of Serbian citizens declaring themselves as Roma amounts to 147 604, i.e. 2.05% of the total population (7 186 862). As, according to the 2002 census, the number of Roma in Serbia in 2002 was 108 193 (1.44% of the total population), there is an absolute increase in Roma population of 39 411, i.e. by 36.43%.
- Table 1 Number of Roma, by region:

Region	The number of Roma as per 2011 Census	The share of Roma in the total population in the region
Belgrade	27325	1.65%
Vojvodina	42391	2.19%
Sumadija and Western Serbia	20649	1.02%
Southern and Eastern Serbia	57239	3.66%

- Urban areas are home to 60% of the Roma, while 40% live in rural areas. Men make up for 51% of the population and women 49%. The Roma are the only population group with the average age under 30, it is 28.3 years. (Serbs, 42.58, Hungarians 44.97, Croats, 51.02 etc.).
- In addition to the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia (SORS) census enumerators, about 150 coordinators and 550 additional enumerators of Roma ethnic background were employed in the so-called Roma settlements. These additional



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enumerators had the task was to make the ‘regular’ enumerators’ work in Roma settlements run smooth and the communication easier.

SORS has established a special collaboration with the national councils of national minorities. The then Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, in cooperation with the National Council of the Roma National Minority, conducted a national-level campaign aimed at members of the Roma community, explaining the purpose of the census and encouraging them to declare their ethnicity in accordance with their own feeling of belonging to an ethnic group.

The number of Roma living below the poverty line, and their share in the total population.

- Data obtained from the Survey on Expenditure per Household in 2010 indicate that 9.2% of the population in the Republic of Serbia lived below the absolute poverty line in the year 2010, while the relative poverty line shows 14.5% of the population in Serbia as being poor. In Serbia, the population living outside the cities is more prone to poverty, and so are multiple member households (especially those composed of several children, unemployed and inactive members), and households where members have completed lower levels of education.
- The launching of the Survey on the Income and Living Conditions (SILC) and the introduction of the European Statistical System of Integrated Social Protection (ESSPROS) into the Serbian statistics system represent important steps in the process of advancing our statistical practices. The Survey on Income and Living Conditions will be conducted in May 2013. One part of the preparations for the SILC, and a pilot study, have already been completed. The first results are expected in November 2013. The development of the ESSPROS means that the relevant institutions with data on social welfare will be included in the process of data submission to the Statistics Office of the Republic of Serbia (SORS), where data will be filled in and presented in



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accordance with the ESSPROS rules. The data are currently being checked by Eurostat in order to improve the statistical base needed to monitor the social inclusion at the local level. This includes an advancement of DevInfo databases, which is administered by the SORS, aimed at creating a reliable set of indicators of social inclusion. In February 2013, the database was improved, now containing 142 indicators at the local and 180 indicators at the national level. The advancement of the DefInfo database is still in progress.

- In February 2013, the total number of social welfare recipients was 253 047. Compared to June 2012, this number has increased by 27 325 persons, and the share of social welfare recipients in the total population has increased from 3.1% to 3.5%. 204268 people were recipients of child assistance.

1. INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT TO ROMA INCLUSION AND INTEGRATION

Please list the most important official documents concerning the policy of inclusion and integration of Roma, including the Action Plan for the Decade of Roma Inclusion and National Roma Integration Strategies. Please provide links to online documents.

- Serbia's presidency over the Decade lasted from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009. On April 9, 2009, Serbian Government adopted The Strategy for Improvement of the Status of Roma in the Republic of Serbia, as part of efforts to alleviate the difficult social and living circumstances of the majority of members of the Roma minority and to improve their position.



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- The Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy for Improvement of the Status of Roma for the period up to January 1, 2015 is in the process of adoption. In November 2011, the former Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, Public Administration and Local Self-Government prepared a draft Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy for Improvement of the Status of Roma for the period 2012-2014. As, due to the parliamentary elections held in 2012, the Serbian government did not adopt the Draft AP, the newly established Office for Human and Minority Rights completed the preparation of the Action Plan 2012-2014, and the Government of the Republic of Serbia is expected to adopt it by mid-June 2013. Representatives of the following bodies participated in the preparation of the Action Plan: the concerned authorities, the National Council of the Roma National Minority, Roma organizations and associations dealing with the fields covered by the Strategy, and international organizations. Among the fundamental documents used for the preparation of the Action Plan were the EU framework for national Roma integration strategies, and the European Commission's guidelines for developing national strategies for Roma integration or an integrated sets of measures.

What actions did the Government take so as to include the (1) local authorities, (2) regional government, and (3) civil society, including Roma organizations, in the design, implementation and monitoring of the Strategy for Roma Inclusion?

- At the level of the Autonomous Province (AP) of Vojvodina, an AP Vojvodina Office for the Roma Inclusion was opened. At the level of local self-government units, 50 Roma coordinators were engaged, whose task is to support the development and implementation of local plans to improve the situation of Roma, including the participation of the representatives of the Roma community.



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- The Republic of Serbia's 2012 budget allocated funds for the implementation of the Strategy. On this occasion, the Office of Human and Minority Rights announced a public competition with the aim to grant financial assistance to associations, alliances of associations, foundations and heritage foundations registered in the territory of the Republic of Serbia. The funds were awarded to organizations that submitted proposals for projects aiming to achieve the objectives of the Decade of Roma Inclusion to the Office for Human and Minority Rights.
- Total funds awarded for the selected projects amounted to **22 500 000.00 dinars**, i.e. up to **2 000 000.00 dinars** per selected project. 59 associations applied and funds were awarded to 14 citizens' associations for their projects.

Please describe any changes occurred in 2012 reflecting both the participation of Roma in the process of decision-making, or in the public administration structure. Please include quantitative and descriptive information, where possible.

- On August 2, 2012, the Government of the Republic of Serbia established the Office of Human and Minority Rights that took over the competences concerned with the implementation of policies and projects on the social inclusion of Roma. The Office coordinates the line ministries' work on the implementation of their respective measures as envisaged in the Strategy for the Improvement of Roma Status. The Group for the Advancement of Roma Position and Assistance to Immigrants was defined within the Office of Human and Minority Rights, in the Department for the Protection of National Minority Rights, employing four persons.



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- The Government of the Republic of Serbia is in the process of forming a Council for the Improvement of the Status of Roma and the Implementation of Decade of Roma Inclusion.
- The pre-schools and primary schools in Serbia currently employ 178 Roma Pedagogical Assistants. As per Law on Primary Education, assistants are hired as part of the regular preschool / elementary school staff and paid from the budget of the Republic of Serbia.
- At the level of the Autonomous Province (AP) of Vojvodina, Roma Inclusion Office of Vojvodina was established for the implementation of the Strategy.
- At the level of local government, 50 Coordinators for Roma Issues have been engaged.
- In local health centers across Serbia, 75 health mediators were employed, all 75 women from the Roma community.

Please describe what has been done since the adoption of the Action Plan for the Decade to set system mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the policy. Has the Government submitted internal reports, or reports to the European Commission, or any other agency, on the implementation of the National Strategy for the Integration of Roma and the Action Plan for the Decade?

- One of the mechanisms to monitor and implement the Strategies for the Improvement of the Position of Roma consists in applying the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review of the United Nations Human Rights Council, which the Republic of Serbia carried out in years 2008 and 2013. Recommendations obtained in the first cycle have been met.

As part of its contractual obligations, the Republic of Serbia periodically reports under the Framework Convention on the Protection of Ethnic Minorities and the European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages.



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- The Government of the Republic of Serbia is in the process of creating the Council for the Improvement of the Status of Roma and the Decade of Roma Inclusion. The Council's duties include drafting measures to implement the adopted policies and giving opinions on the allocation of budget funds with a view to the government policy on the improvement of the Roma position.

How does the National Anti-Discrimination Agency support the implementation of the Action Plan for the Decade of Roma and the National Strategy for the Integration of Roma?

Please provide data on the number of complaints in 2012 concerning cases of discrimination against Roma and the measures taken by the national equality / anti-discrimination body following these complaints.

- According to the 2012 Report of the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality, 68 complaints (17.2%) were filed concerning cases of discrimination based on ethnicity or ethnic origin. Most of the complaints were about discrimination based on belonging to the Roma ethnic minority (31).
- Of the total number of complaints about ethnic-based discrimination cases, 10 were related to the relations at workplace and to employment. Complainants allege that they were treated differently than other employees because of their ethnic origin. There were also complaints in which the plaintiffs claimed to have been discriminated against in the recruitment process already, i.e., that they were not employed because they are members of an ethnic minority. Nine complaints were received concerning cases of discrimination based on ethnic origin in the field of education and vocational training, and eight in the field of public information and media.

The situation of the Roma minority remains of particular concern, as they are discriminated against in all spheres of social life. The largest number of complaints concerning ethnic-based discrimination remain precisely those about discrimination for belonging to the Roma ethnic minority.



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Please provide information on what has been done to allocate sufficient budget funds from the national budget. Please state the actual amounts allocated for the implementation of the Action Plan for the Decade of Roma and the National Strategy for Roma Integration. What is the total amount and the share of the national budget for year 2012 that has been allocated for the implementation of the Action Plan for the Decade and the National Strategy for Integration in your country? What type of sources (local, national and international) are being used to implement the National Action Plan for the Decade / National Strategy for Integration of Roma in 2013?

- Since 2009, funds have been allocated for the implementation of the Strategy from the Budget of the Republic of Serbia. Moreover, line ministries receive an important support for the implementation of their planned measures from donors, in particular from the EU funds.
- Support to secure permanent housing solutions to Roma families evicted from the Belleville informal settlement in Belgrade has been planned from the 2009 IPA funds, in the amount of 3.6 million EUR
- Information on budgeting has been obtained from the Action Plan for the Improvement of the Position of Roma. In 2012, 365 094 000 RSD were allocated from the budget of the Republic of Serbia, and 6 443 838 EUR from donations
- As part of the 'Social Development' Project, planned to be implemented from the IPA 2012 funds, a component has been created to support the implementation of the Strategy in the area of education (scholarships for high school students with mentorship), housing (mapping of Roma settlements on the territory of Serbia, developing models to improve housing conditions), employment, development of an IT system at the level of local self-government units in the departments of social welfare, health and education, to support capacity building in the Roma civil society and to support later registration of births. In the process, representatives of the Network of Roma Associations of the League for the



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Decade, and of the Roma Women's Network were consulted, especially the representatives of several associations experienced in implementing programs to improve housing conditions. The planned value of this support is 5 million euro.

2. EDUCATION

Advancing the strategic and legislative framework:

In 2009, the Ministry of Education adopted the Law on Primary Education that creates opportunities for an inclusive education, through hiring pedagogical assistants and the elimination of categorization, among other.

The development of an inclusive education abolishes the obstacles that the Roma used to face in education. However, a continued support is needed, especially at the local level, in order to continue and maintain the initiated process.

The 2012 saw the implementation of the following activities:

The Strategy for Education up to year 2020 has been developed and adopted. The development of action plans for all levels of education is in progress. The main task of the Strategy is to define important strategic guidelines and goals so as to improve the educational system in the Republic of Serbia. As part of the Strategy for the Improvement of the Roma Status, the National Action Plan for Education for the period up to January 1, 2015 has been revised, and is in the process of adoption. The government is preparing to adopt laws that apply to Roma inclusion: the Law on Primary Education, Law on Secondary Education, Law on Adult Education.

A Book of Regulations has been prepared with detailed criteria for identifying forms of discrimination by employees, students, or third parties in educational institutions (it is expected to be published by June 2013)



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The achieved changes:

- The improvement of the strategic and legislative framework
- Measures to increase enrollment in pre-school and primary education
- Anti-discriminatory admissions policy
- Support to Education program
- Measures to prevent school dropout
- Affirmative action for the enrollment of Roma students in high schools and colleges
- Second Chance – the establishment of a system of adult education
- Local strategies to improve Roma education and local action plans (LAP) for their implementation were designed and integrated into the municipality system of planning and budgeting: Program activities of the Ministry of Education are tied to those of the local self-government through the mediation of local Roma representatives – as part of the Delivery of improved local services (DILS) program.
- Free 9 months preparatory pre-school program, and a priority in enrollment for children from vulnerable social groups have been introduced. Projects are implemented dealing with early childhood and child development programs, projects that develop various support mechanisms that focus on children from vulnerable groups and aim to meet the educational needs for additional development. It is important to monitor the effects of the program and include the successful ones in the educational policy as a system solution. Organizations involved in these programs are UNICEF, the Fund for an Open Society, Center for Interactive Pedagogy and civil society organizations.
- Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development is implementing the following projects:
 - IMPRES (supported by the EU) on the standardization of various segments of pre-school education, developing secondary legislation, building the local self-government's capacity to develop pre-school services.
 - In cooperation with the UNICEF, a project is underway to extend the possibilities for free preschool education for children 4 to 5.5 years old in order to prepare Roma children for pre-school.
 - IMPRES and UNICEF are working together to expand capacity at the local level and define a variety of preschool programs that can increase the coverage of the most vulnerable groups.
- Ministry of Education, Science and Technology Development provides free textbooks from grades I to IV for all elementary school students.
- All Roma children enrolled in schools for children with special needs without a decision by an Inter-departmental commission are included in regular classes of primary school; programs of additional educational support for children who need the support have been developed, with regular monitoring of progress. Under the Minister's order, schools for children with special needs are required to prepare special support programs with additional contents for



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students in higher grades designed to help them enroll in regular secondary schools and to prepare students for the final exam;

School grants for inclusive education:

- About 94% of Serbian municipalities are currently implementing at least one project for an inclusive education of Roma (through DILS project)
- Training for staff employed at educational institutions (national level, DILS);
- The subject-matter Roma Language with Elements of Roma Ethnic Culture has been introduced into primary schools, and is currently being implemented for 723 students in 27 primary schools in 14 local self-governments in the autonomous province of Vojvodina. 'Mihajlo Pavlov' Vocational college in Vrsac provides training to teachers in Roma and Serbian language since 2010;
- 170 Pedagogical Assistants are employed in primary schools and pre-schools across Serbia
- PA training program has been accredited in January 2012 at the Centre for Lifelong Learning (Tempus program) at the University of Kragujevac, based on the Regulations for the Training Program for Pedagogical Assistants. A new round of modular training was completed in December 2012. (4 pedagogical assistants have undergone compulsory modules conducted by the Teachers College in Jagodina, CIP, and the Education Forum). These activities have been supported by the OSCE and UNICEF. The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology Development plans to introduce new pedagogical assistants in the following two years and to continue to train those pedagogical assistants already in the education system, with the financial support from the EU funds.
- A survey of the status and needs of adults was conducted through the Second Chance program: the largest number of the participants were adults with only four years of primary school completed: 49.2% of program participants were Roma.
- Affirmative Action measures: In 2012/2013 academic year, 369 students were enrolled in secondary schools to learn the desired vocation, and about 120 students were enrolled at



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universities (The drafting of the Regulations on the Implementation of Affirmative Action are in progress, designed to precisely define conditions, criteria and procedures);

- The Career Orientation project at the transition from elementary to high school prepares the adolescents for a direct meeting with the world of employment and with individual jobs. The program is conducted in 11 cities in Serbia, and includes 112 elementary schools (another 110 new schools are planned to be covered by the project), whereby several deployment models are used, depending on the school's needs (special attention is given to children from vulnerable groups). Local networks of support have been established, and collaboration with local youth offices, local self-governments, Roma coordinators and pedagogical assistants, and professional institutions (GIZ development organization of the Government of Germany is implementing the project together with the Ministry of Education);
- All educational institutions have received recommendations from the Ministry to introduce intercultural activities in their development plans, school curricula and annual work plans, and to introduce different activities aiming the elimination of prejudice in their direct work with the students. The monitoring of work and the review of documents are conducted through expert pedagogical supervision;
- All relevant documentation on the Romani language of the Council of Europe has been translated from English to Serbian through an international project, QUALIROM, Quality Education in Romani in Europe, that was coordinated by the University of Belgrade's Department of Languages and Literatures, and the other Serbian partner was the University of Novi Sad. Since the beginning of the project, three training sessions have been conducted for teachers of Romani language and teaching materials have been prepared for elementary school, for the A1 and A2 levels (the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages and the Curricular Framework for Learning and Teaching Romani Language of the Council of Europe) of two Romani dialects in Serbia: gurbeti and arlian. The next step in the project involves testing of the prepared teaching materials in two primary schools in



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Serbia, in line with the European Language Portfolio for the Romani Language and with the Curricular Framework for the Romani Language in School.

- Implementation of the General and Special Protocol for the Protection of Children and Students from Violence, Abuse and Neglect, are concerned with prevention activities and they define procedures to protect children from violence;
- In 2012, the implementation of the 'School without Violence' program continued, through a system implementation of the action plan for the prevention of violence in educational institutions and a creation of a safe and supportive environment for children;
- Indicators of discrimination in educational institutions have been established, as part of the implementation of measures to solve and follow cases of discrimination in school work and in school life;
- Ministry of Education, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Finance and the Deputy Prime Minister's team drafted a proposal of recommendations on possible developments of Roma culture, history and tradition programs through the education_system, as part of the Strategy for Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction.
- Manuals have been written to support the development of the culture of anti-discrimination in the institutions of education, and were distributed to all primary schools;
- The Civic Education subject-matter in primary and secondary schools was advanced and the subject's status improved in all years. The contents of the course and the manuals for teachers and pupils are prepared in cooperation with experts from the Council of Europe in charge of education and with the most successful teachers from the entire region. Support was given to the creation of an anti-discriminatory educational environment for Roma children (training for school principals and school experts, workshops for Roma parents)
- Prevention of Human Trafficking program was applied in the elementary schools of the City of Kragujevac, as under the Strategy for the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings. A 'Prevention of Trafficking – Teaching Children' handbook for teachers was developed in



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collaboration with the International Organization for Migrations; 'Safe Childhood - Development of a Culture of Security among Youth is implemented with all the students of the fifth grade of primary school, in cooperation with the Interior Ministry; Guidelines on Prevention of Human Trafficking are created for employees of educational institutions, in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior Affairs;

- Ministry of Education has been involved in resolving individual cases of segregation in schools, in collaboration with the Centre for Minority Rights.

- During 2012, the Ministry of Education took part in the development of action plans in the territory of local self-governments in collaboration with school administrations (In the towns/cities of: Apatin, Tornjoš, Mali Idjos/Kishegyes, Novi Pazar, Leskovac, and Nis)

Please provide information on the developments achieved in 2012 in the following areas:

The number of Roma children attending pre-school, primary, secondary school and college/university, the number of Roma children who do not attend school; Number of Roma pedagogical assistants in preschool, primary and high school and college/university;

The number of Roma children who have moved from isolated 'Roma' pre-schools, primary and high schools, to regular schools.

- The sources for all above stated information are data obtained from the MICS / UNICEF, the Ministry of Education Science and Technology Development ('Monitoring the implementation of inclusive approaches in education for 2010/2011', a research within DILS project, the draft report, 'Analysis of dropout from mandatory education-the role of local institutions and processes'- a report within DILS Project), the Statistics Office of the Republic of Serbia (SORS)

The data for year 2012 will be accessible in late May 2013. The Ministry and the SORS have announced details for the 2010/2011 academic year about the children from vulnerable social groups, predominantly concerning Roma children.



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- Preschool: In 2010 / 2011 academic year, 3 623 children were registered (264 children aged 1-3 years; 697 children aged 3-5.5 years and 2 561 children aged 5.5-6.5 years);
- Primary school: 528 266 – the total number of students; 15 753 - the number of students from socio-economically non-stimulating communities, the number of girls – 6 787;
- High school: 211 829 Number of pupils; 1830 - the number of students from socio-economically non-inciting communities, the number of girls - 630;
- The coverage of primary education: MICS data show improvement in the situation among the Roma population in relation to the rate of school attendance in the past 5 years (rate increased from 74% to 88%). In 2005/06 academic year - 14% attended high school, in 2010/11 academic year - 19%. 175 pedagogical assistants have been introduced. 35 assistants were introduced in preschool institutions and 140 assistants in primary schools across the Republic of Serbia.
- The number and percentage of Roma children in special schools / departments;
In the 2010/2011 academic year, the total number of students from non-stimulating socio-economic backgrounds, was as follows (predominantly Roma children / students): Elementary school: 2 981 - total number of pupils, of which the number of students from socio-economically non-stimulating communities was 505 students or 16.9%, the number of girls - 191.
- High school: 1667 students in total, of which the number of students from socio-economically non-stimulating communities 11 or 0.7% , the number of girls – 2.
- In 2010/2011 academic year, 74 681 children attended the PPP (pre-school preparatory program), the coverage is 96.07%, of that 2 551 Roma children attended PPP;
- The measured coverage of the Roma population is very high at 78%. Among the Roma, somewhat lower coverage is observed in girls compared to boys (72% vs. 84%), and in school attendance in rural compared to school attendance in urban areas (66% vs. 84%) As was expected, the coverage is very dependent on the level of education among parents and on the financial-economic situation in the household;
- Reasons for not attending the PPP among the Roma population vary from financial problems in 55% of cases (failure to provide a child with food, clean clothes, to make it bathed and clean), in 30% of cases the reason for not attending PPP is the parents' attitude (as many as 23% of parents state that they are not familiar with the fact that this program is mandatory), 24% report problems regarding the availability of PPP programs (the school is far, there is no transportation, there is no one who can take the child to the PPP institution). Other reasons are listed in 43% of cases.
- 2011/2012 the number of Roma children who attended the PPP increased to 3 623
- One of the most important system measures introduced in the education system, that has a large impact on prevention of school dropout is the introduction of the preparatory pre-school program and its extension to 9 months.



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- The data show a significant improvement in the situation among the Roma population in relation to the rate of school attendance in the past 5 years (the rate has increased from 74% to 88%);
- The number of families that address the counseling for Roma families with children has increased;
- A number of different resources have been introduced into the primary and secondary education (pedagogical assistants, IEP - individualized education plans, tutoring, extracurricular activities, other inclusive measures);

Data for primary schools:

- The total number of students for whom a pedagogical profile has been created: 6 823
- The total number of students which have been found entitled to receive the Individual Education Plan IEP - 4203
- The total number of students who have received an opinion from the Interdepartmental Commission to receive some form of an additional educational, medical or social support - 398
- The number of students from non-stimulating socio - economic backgrounds who have IEP 1: 770 or 4.9% and the number of those who have the IOP 2: 146 or 0.9%.

Data for secondary schools:

- The total number of students for whom a pedagogical profile has been created: 1 264
- The total number of students who were found entitled to the IEP - 82
- The total number of students who have received an opinion from the Interdepartmental Commission to receive some form of additional educational, medical or social support - 11
- The number of students from non-stimulating socio - economic backgrounds who have a IEP 1 is 39 or 2.1%, the number of those with the IEP 2 is 3 or 0.2%.

- The rate of Roma who leave primary, secondary schools and universities for 2010/2011 school year:
- Data concerning primary education: 528 266 - total number of students, 521 705 - the number of students who completed the school grade they enrolled, 15 753 - The number of students from socio-economically non-stimulating communities, the number of girls – 6 787
- 14 232 is the number of students from non-stimulating socio-economic backgrounds who have completed 8th grade, of which the number of girls is 6060.



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- Dropout rate: 7.4% of students dropped out of primary school, 7% of students repeated the grade during school, 15% of students from non-stimulating socio-economic backgrounds left school in the most critical, 5th grade of elementary school.
- Data concerning high schools: 211 829 is the total number of students, of which 202 957 is the number of students who have completed the grade they started; 1830 is the number of students from socio – economically non-stimulating backgrounds, the number of girls was 630.
- - 1 838 is the number of students from socio-economically non-stimulating communities who have completed the final grade of high school, of which the number of girls is 610.
- - The number of Roma students who receive scholarships and other support in the primary, secondary and higher education is as follows:
- - High school and college/university student grants and loans from the Republic of Serbia: In 2007/8 : 36 scholarships for college/university students, 138 scholarships for students of high schools; In 2008/9 - 182 for college/university students, 117 for high school students; In 2009/10 - 187 for college/university students, 343 for high school students; In 2010/11- 185 for college/university student grants and 6 student loans, 444 for high school students; In 2011/12 - 240 college/university student grants and 2 loans, 590 for high school students; In 2012/13 - 621 loans and 472 scholarships were granted to college/university students and 567 high school student scholarships.
- Financial support was extended to around 860 Roma students, receiving their education in the regular secondary schools in Vojvodina, in the period 2007 - 2013, and mentoring support was provided for students, and the provision of a mentor teacher for students recipients of scholarships.

3. EMPLOYMENT

National Employment Strategy for the 2011-2020 period, adopted in May 2011, states as one of the strategic objectives of the Serbia's employment policy the advancement of human capital and a greater social inclusion of individuals and groups in the position of social exclusion, including, of course, the persons of Roma ethnicity.

In the National Employment Action Plan, which is designed annually and is the main vehicle for the implementation of the Republic of Serbia's active employment policy, the Roma are defined as a category of persons with low employability (due to lack of education, lack of motivation, work ethic, etc.) As persons difficult to employ, they are included in all active employment policy programs and measures as priority. In addition, as part of the National Employment Action Plan, special programs and measures to promote the employment of Roma and improve the employability of Roma are regularly created.

The promotions of the employment of Roma and various awareness campaigns on the importance and benefits of employment and work over receiving social assistance, conducted by the line ministry and the National Employment Service, have started to yield positive results, reflected in an increased number of Roma who have opted to register with the National Employment Service as unemployed. An improved database of the unemployed Roma, allowed for a better monitoring of the incentives to employ and the hiring of the unemployed Roma persons.

At the end of 2012, the number of unemployed Roma registered with the National Employment Service was 20 342 persons, of which 9 513 were women. Of the Roma persons registered with the National Employment Service in the 2012, the number of those who were employed was 1 382, of which 446 were Roma women. In the course of 2012, special public calls were announced to encourage the employment of Roma through granting subsidies to employers who hire Roma or supporting Roma self-employment.

In 2012, the unemployed Roma were included in the following programs and measure of active labor market policy:

- Individual Employment Plan was concluded with 14 315 Roma persons, of which 6 361 were women (44.44%).

Table 2 Individual employment plan, according to the education level completed by Roma:

Education completed	The number of Roma persons with an individual employment plan	The share of Roma persons with an individual employment plan
I – first four grades of primary school	12154	84.90 %
II – completed primary education	415	2.90%
III – completed a 3-year high school	1277	8.92%
IV – completed a 4-year high school	392	2.74%
V – completed a vocational school	12	0.08%
VI – college degree	45	0.32%
VII – university degree	20	0.14%

Table 3 Individual employment plan, by age:

Age	The number of Roma with an individual employment plan	The share of Roma with an individual employment plan
15-24	3725	26.02%
25-29	2231	15.59%
30-39	4001	27.95 %
40-49	2670	18.65%
50-59	1500	10.48 %
60-65	188	1.31%

- Two members of Roma ethnicity, under 30 years of age, were included in the professional internship program
- The program to acquire practical knowledge included 13 Roma, of which 5 women. 8 were under 30 years old and 6 persons belonged to the category of long-unemployed persons.
- The training program at the request of the employer included 13 Roma, of whom 11 women; 9 persons were under 30; 7 of the included Roma belong to the category of long-unemployed persons.
- Program of training for the labor market included 23 Roma persons, of which 8 women; 13 persons without any qualifications and 10 persons have a high school diplomas. Younger than 30 were 15 persons, while 13 belonged to the category of long-unemployed persons.
- Functional Elementary Education Program (FEE) included 930 persons of Roma ethnicity. Of the total number of persons covered by the program 49.78% were women, and all persons involved had no qualifications. Young persons under the age of 30 comprised 53.11%, and 62.58% belong to the category of long-unemployed.
- The training for an active job search (AJS 1) included 440 Roma persons of whom 213 women (48.40%).

Table 4 Number of Roma involved in the training for an active job search, by education level:

Level of education completed	The number of Roma included in the active job search training	The share of Roma included in the active job search training
I – first four grades of primary school	246	55.91%
II – completed primary school	22	5.00%
III – completed a 3-year high school	127	28.87%
IV – completed a 4-year high school	40	9.09%
V – completed a vocational school	2	0.45%
VI – college degree	45	0.32%
VII – university degree	3	0.68%

Table 5 The number of Roma included in the training for an active job search, by age :

Age	The number of Roma included in the active job search training	The share of Roma included in the active job search training
15-24	177	40.22%
25-29	83	18.87%
30-39	117	26.60 %
40-49	46	10.45%
50-59	14	3.18 %
60-65	3	0.68%

- After the completion of the training for an active job search 29 people were employed including 15 women (51.72%).
- The Job Search Club included 7 persons of Roma ethnicity, of whom 3 were women (42.85%), all belonging to the category of young (under 30). By qualification, 3 persons had no education or training, and 4 persons have completed a secondary school education.
- The job fairs were attended by 399 Roma, which represents 0.81% of the total number of participants at job fairs.

Table 6 Roma participation at job fairs, by level of education :

Level of education	The number of Roma with an individual employment plan	The share of Roma with an individual employment plan
I – first four years of primary school	222	55.64 %
II – completed primary school	34	8.52%
III – completed a 3-year high school	97	24.31%
IV – completed a 4-year high school	37	9.27%
V – completed a vocational school	3	0.75%
VI – college degree	4	1.00%
VII – university degree	2	0.50%

Table 5 Roma participation in job fairs, by age:

Age	The number of Roma included in the active job search training	The share of Roma included in the active job search training
15-19	27	6.77%
20-24	91	22.81%
25-29	69	17.29%
30-34	62	15.54%
35-39	47	11.78 %
40-44	37	9.27%
45-49	27	6.77%
50-54	23	5.76%
55-59	12	3.01%
60-64	4	1.00%

After participating at job fairs, 50 Roma persons were hired, making up 0.59% of the total number of employed job fair participants.

- A two-day training, ‘The Road to Being a Successful Entrepreneur’, was attended by 128 Roma persons.
- Subsidies for self-employment, especially after the public call was announced, was received by 11 Roma persons. 3 Roma persons were employed by state-subsidized employers.
- Public works carried out in 2012 employed 175 Roma persons.

4. HOUSING

Please list policies and programs designed and implemented at the national and local level to support the housing for Roma in 2012, with a special focus on the goals and implementation of the National Action Plan for the Decade of Roma Integration / National Strategy (where applicable).

National Strategy for Social Housing, Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, issue: 13/12. Bearing in mind that the Roma predominantly live in substandard settlements (under-equipped with basic infrastructure or lacking basic hygiene), this strategic document for the promotion of Roma housing considers the Goal 7 to be of particular importance - Improving housing conditions of the population of sub-standard settlements, through two measures: 7.1 . – Regulating sub-standard settlements under urban plans and 7.2. Improving the infrastructure in the sub-standard settlements

Regulations on standards and norms for planning, blue-print projects, construction and conditions for use and maintenance of social housing apartments (hereinafter referred to as the Regulations) were prepared, The Official Gazette of the RS, issue: 26/13.

Given that there are a number of settlements that will not be possible to keep at the current locations (on landslides, flood-prone land, land where major infrastructure corridors are foreseen, etc.) housing for this population needs to be secured through a system of social housing. Bearing in mind that a large number of these persons are very poor, the economic sustainability of such housing projects would be very low, so the Regulations introduced for the first time the institution of housing allowance to pay rent, which increases the availability of social housing for people with low income.

The Law on special rights to registration of ownership of buildings constructed without building permits has been prepared, Official Gazette of the RS, issue: 25/13.

The Law should provide for faster regulation and registration of ownership of residential and smaller-size commercial buildings, in order to speed up the next step of legalizing the said facilities. This document concerns the legalization of Roma settlements, as it will provide the basis for further legal proceedings in that sense, and the implementation thereof, for households that haven't applied for legalization within the deadline for submission of applications for legalization under the Law on Planning and Construction.

- *What were the results of policies and programs that your government implemented in 2012?*

The completion of the strategic, legal and institutional framework for social housing (the drafting of the National Strategy for Social Housing, Regulations, forming the National Agency for Housing and supporting the development of local non-profit housing organizations) is expected to enable a more efficient and effective implementation of social housing projects for different types of housing assistance (improvement of housing conditions, affordable lease with the support of the housing allowance, housing through social security housing programs, etc.) intended for poorer households with difficult housing conditions. These activities have accelerated the preparation of two social housing projects where socially disadvantaged Roma families will be among the end beneficiaries: 1) a social housing project to build around 1700 apartments in 12 local self-governments and 2) urban renewal project to renovate the facilities damaged in the Kraljevo earthquake, under which apartments for affected households will be built, among whom there are a number of Roma families who now live in completely uninhabitable apartments in two apartment buildings. Both projects will be co-financed from the loan funds of the Council

of Europe Development Bank (CEB). A share will be funded from the state funding and local self-governments will provide the construction land and materials. The effects of the newly adopted Law on special rights to registration of ownership of facilities built without a building permit is not yet possible to assess, as the entry into force is only recent, but it is expected to speed up and simplify the regulation and registration of ownership of illegal structures and the process of their legalization, which is a very important element to obtain the right to adequate housing – the security of the legal status (legal security of tenure).

- *Please describe how these policies and programs affect the Decade cross-cutting issues. In particular, how did they affect the promotion of gender equality, fight against discrimination and poverty reduction?*

The measures and activities (which are, above all, regulatory and under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Construction and Urban Planning) under the policies and programs in the field of housing are entirely non-discriminatory and aimed at increasing the availability of apartments for the poor (housing support).

- *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 program, the amount allocated, the goals to be reached, and the indicative number and share of Roma beneficiaries.*

Additional support will be given to the Ministry towards the end of 2012 in order to implement activities to improve Roma housing, as part of the implementation of the National Program for Serbia under the IPA - Transition Assistance and Institution Building component for the year 2012, in the Support to Social Development sector, by implementing the Measure#4 - Implementation of the Strategy for Improvement of the Situation of Roma in the Republic of Serbia. A larger share of the 4.8 million foreseen for the entire component related to the improvement of the situation of Roma will be allocated for the implementation of activities aimed at improving Roma housing. The activities in the housing sector will cover: establishing a spatial database on Roma settlements on the territory of the Republic of Serbia, developing urban plans to regulate informal settlements in the concerned municipalities, the preparation of technical documentation for infrastructure improvements, and creating pre-parcel registration plans to legalize individual parcels in Roma settlements, for which the Ministry has already funded the development of plans in an earlier period (2009-2011), or the

local self-government has already adopted a plan. Implementation of these activities is a prerequisite to carry out the works in the areas of infrastructure (roads, water, sewer, etc.), as well as improvements (reconstruction, extension, or construction) of the existing housing for individual households, depending on the degree of vulnerability (respecting priorities regarding housing, financial and social vulnerability).

In 2013, the Swedish International Development and Cooperation Agency (SIDA) is to finance the construction of infrastructure in the Roma settlement in the town of Knjaževac. As part of this project, additional funding will be provided from other sources. In the Budget of the Republic of Serbia for 2013, to the Ministry of Construction and Urban Planning foresees funds to finance urban development plans, including the plans for detail regulation of informal Roma settlements.

Please provide the following information about the achievements in the year 2012.

- *The number of Roma who have benefited from the development of infrastructure. How did the desegregation, as a priority issue within the EU as concerns National Roma Integration Strategies, influence the development of infrastructure?*

There are no available data following this particular issue.

- *The number of Roma included in social programs of urban renewal;*

During the preparation for the project of urban renewal in Kraljevo (2011/2012), about 50 Roma families who live in substandard housing in a heavy traffic location, being the prosperous final occupants of apartments to be built under the project, were surveyed in order to determine their housing needs and ensure that they are willing to be the project's beneficiaries. All households answered in favor of the project, knowing that the implementation of the project would significantly improve their housing conditions.

- *The number of Roma affected by the regulation of property ownership regimes*

The answer to this question depends on the accuracy of its translation. The question, as it was translated before the correction, conveys a negative meaning to the term: *regulation of property ownership*, which is not the case.

If the term *regime of property ownership regulation* in question is perceived as positive, as is the meaning in the corrected translation, then the previously mentioned Law on special rights to registration of ownership of buildings constructed without building permits precisely refers

to that issue. As regards the implementation of the law itself, however, it should be noted that the data referring to the ethnicity of the persons regulating their property rights are not considered relevant in the process of registration so as to be followed by official statistics.

- *The number of Roma who have been affected by forced relocation;*

Please see answer under item number 3

- *The number of Roma included in the social housing programs;*

Social housing programs of the City of Belgrade, imply moving to a better, yet temporary housing. They included 118 families relocated from the Belleville settlement, that had permanent residence in the city of Belgrade. The 2013 will see the construction of social housing for a number of these families, while a smaller number will be users of other social housing programs (country houses with gardens, etc.).

Families whose place of permanent residence is in other municipalities were returned to the municipality of origin and were users of other forms of housing assistance (e.g. assistance to improve living conditions in their private property). Some of these families are in the settlements for which the Ministry is financing the development of detailed regulation plans, with the end goal to legalize their houses and improve their housing conditions.

* A general remark concerning the issue of housing is that the housing policy measures have long-term effects in terms of the delivery of results and can not be fully viewed on an annual basis. The real effects of these measures will be more visible a few years into their implementation.

6. HEALTH CARE

The Ministry of Health's Health Mediators Project:

The aim of the project is to improve the health of Roma, in particular of Roma women and children, to improve their access to health care, the amount of information they obtain about health, and to reduce inequalities. Activities of the project are aimed at increasing the number of: insured persons, vaccinated children, general health check-ups, the number of Roma attending health counseling and preventive health counseling at their local health centers, the number of Roma who chose their general practitioner, the number of Roma who adopted healthy lifestyles, the number of Roma who acquired knowledge on how to gain control over their health, how to prevent disease, family planning, the harmfulness of psycho-active substances, proper nutrition and food storage, personal and general hygiene, the importance of waste disposal, domestic violence-abuse-neglect, human trafficking, rights to social and health care and health insurance. In 2012, a total of 75 health mediators were engaged in 59 municipalities in Serbia, 60 under the program of the Ministry of Health through the Action Plan to improve the health among Roma, and 15 activists under the Project of Technical Assistance to the Office for Human and Minority Rights, conducted by the OSCE Mission to Serbia, with the support from SIDA programs.

The results achieved by the health mediators:

There are 129 367 Roma currently registered in the electronic database, 37 502 families (40607 women, 37 502 men, 51 258 children) who received 329 514 visits in 1051 villages:

- 23 388 Roma men and women have chosen their general practice doctor
- health insurance was provided for 13 428 Roma
- 9 304 women chose their gynecologist
- 9365 women underwent the overall medical check-up
- 877 mammography tests were done
- 21 712 children were vaccinated
- 2497 adults were vaccinated (Te-AI)
- 18 419 people received health education training in workshops organized in Roma settlements
- 5500 children were enrolled in school
- 3372 families were assisted to achieve MOP social welfare and 1155 received child allowance
- Red Cross organized assistance for 4589 people
- 11446 people were assisted in registering with the National Employment Agency
- 8178 Roma lacking personal identity documents were identified
- IDs were issued to 3295 Roma
- 970 new ID cards were issued
- 307 Roma were entered in the register of births

Health education was given to 21 529 Roma, carried out in small groups, through lectures and posters:

- lectures were attended by 4057 Roma men and women
- workshops were attended by 17 304 Roma
- posters were posted in almost all municipalities

112 860 visits were paid to a family or family members to give health education through a planned conversation and health education materials were distributed - a total of 40 482 pieces (flyers, brochures, immunization schedule, and material goods - condoms, wipes, toothpastes and toothbrushes, etc.).

The Health Mediators project was conducted in 13 municipalities in the south of Serbia:

The Ministry of Health implements the project in partnership with the UNICEF, with funds secured by the PBILD program for peace and inclusive local development. The project is being implemented in 13 municipalities of the Pčinj-Jablanica District. The Ministry of Health employs health mediators in 8 municipalities: Leskovac, Lebane, Major, Vlasotince Vladoicin Han, Surdulica, Vranje and Bujanovac. In the remaining five municipalities without health mediators: Medvedja, Crna Trava, Trgovishte, Bosilegrad and Preshevo, mini grants have been allowed for medical teams comprised of a pediatrician, a gynecologist, a trained field nurse and a selected health mediator. The project supports the health mediators, sensitizes health workers on the issues related to Roma population and provides support to medical teams from the local health centers and municipalities where there are no health mediators.

The results achieved through the work of the health mediators:

- 1845 Roma, 433 families, 142 villages, of which 523 women and 433 men and 889 children were covered by and recorded during the first visits
- a total of 18 635 visits to families and family members who need help were performed
- 8513 visits to families or family members were paid to carry out health education by distributing 2496 pieces of health education materials: flyers, brochures, vaccinations calendars, condoms, wipes, toothpastes and toothbrushes, etc..
- health education workshops were conducted attended by 1 111 people
- IDs and health insurance cards were issued to 523 Roma men and women
- 1055 children were vaccinated
- 17 adults were vaccinated (Te-AI)
- 266 pregnant women were checked for general health
- 465 women underwent a general medical check-up
- 238 women chose their gynecologist
- 52 mammograms were done
- 288 children underwent an overall medical examination and were enrolled in school
- 678 Roma chose their designated general practitioner

Training for health mediators:

Two training sessions were held with health mediators employed in the municipalities of the Pčinj-Jablanica District, one on November 1, 2012, in Surdulica, and the other on November 29, 2012, in Bojnik.

Topics covered with health mediators were:

- 1 Health care and health insurance
- 2 Social and family legal protection of citizens
- 3 Reproductive Health
- 4 The health of children and youth
- 5 Infectious and chronic non-communicable diseases
- 6 Nutrition of children and pregnant women
- 7 The health mediators' communication and ethics code
- 8 Domestic violence and trafficking in human beings
- 9 The role of health mediators in the local community
- 10 The local health centers' structure and the role of health mediators in the health care system
- 11 Registration in birth register and identity documents
- 12 Health education
- 13 Registering visits and monthly reporting
- 14 Training for work on a laptop computer in the specific program / software
- 15 Anti-Discrimination Law
- 16 Women's Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- 17 Human rights
- 18 Historical and cultural heritage of the Roma
- 19 Communication Skills

Distribution of grants to health centers in 5 municipalities in southern Serbia:
Local Health Centers: Medvedja, Presevo, Trgovishte, Bosilegrad and Crna Trava received funds in the amount of 219 500.00 dinars each, to be used to set up medical teams to visit and record the situation of the vulnerable groups and of the Roma in their respective municipalities. Health teams consist of a pediatrician, a gynecologist, a trained field nurse, and a health mediator.

Sensitization of health workers in 13 municipalities in southern Serbia:

10 training sessions were held in the health centers of the following municipalities: Leskovac, Lebane, Vranje, Medvedja Vlasotince, Crna Trava, Vladicin Han, Surdulica, Trgovishte, and Bojnik. A total of 885 health care workers were sensitized. Topics covered were:

- 1 Prenatal Health Care
- 2 Early child development, early detection of risks (0-3) and the occurrence of violence
- 3 Anti-Discrimination Law
- 4 Women's Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- 5 Human rights
- 6 Historical and cultural heritage of the Roma
- 7 Communication Skills
- 8 Health mediator
- 9 Health status of the Roma: 'Roma our neighbors, Roma our patients'

Application of the Special Protocol for the health care system concerning the protection of children from abuse and neglect:

The Ministry of Health and the Institute for Mental Health have jointly implemented a project aimed to increase the efficiency of the protection of children from abuse and neglect in the health system, and to advance the prevention from abuse and neglect and promote the protection of children from abuse and neglect in the Republic of Serbia through a multi-departmental approach. The project was supported by the UNICEF. Two training sessions were held, one in Vranje, for professional teams from Pcinj region, and the other in Leskovac, for professional teams from the Jablanica region. A total of 105 health workers were trained.

Allocation of funds from the 1803-04 Support to Non-Governmental Organizations program and 01 - Encouraging Activities of Expert Organizations, Councils and Associations project in 2012:

- 1 The 'Group 272' Citizens Association's 'Reproductive health of youth and women of Roma Populations' project received 300 000.00 RSD
- 2 Center for the Promotion of Women's Health, Belgrade, 'Application of a new Ministry of Health's protocol for the care and treatment of women subjected to violence' project received 292 200.00 RSD
- 3 JAZAS Association for the Fight Against AIDS, Belgrade, 'The health of the homeless' received 300 000.00 RSD
- 4 'Roma Women of Vojvodina' NGO, 'Truth About ...' 234 600.00 RSD
- 5 'Rosa' Women's Association, citizens association, 'Prevention of violence against the elderly' project
- 6 The Center for the Integration of Roma of the Region, 'Sensitization of health workers' project
- 7 JAZAS Health care system adjusted to youth, 'Partnership for Health' project

The Ministry of Health's 'Delivery of Improved Local Services' - DILS Project
Training on palliative care for health care workers and associates:

In line with the Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy for Palliative Care, an elementary education course on palliative care was held for 476 health workers and associates (directors of health centers, heads of departments, doctors, nurses, staff of general medical services, home care and visiting nurses, psychologists, social workers and volunteers) from 61 health centers.

Projects aiming to increase the accessibility of health care to vulnerable population groups - elderly, children, youth, disabled, Roma:

42 health centers involved in the project were awarded funding (grants), with a total value of 440 000 EUR for the implementation of projects aimed at increasing access to health care for vulnerable population groups - elderly, children, youth, disabled, Roma. These projects included 33 000 citizens.

Legal advisor to the patients' rights at the local self-government level:

In the 9 pilot municipalities a new service was introduced that provides legal advice in the field of patients' rights. Legal advisor in the municipal administration informs citizens about the extent and nature of patients' rights, provides legal advice and assistance and informs the citizens about the existence of the association of patients and its activities, records and considers each claim or objection submitted by citizens. In this way, another place where people can turn to for assistance in exercising their rights has been opened. As part of the preparations, 9 legal experts were trained, and a media campaign was conducted at the local level.

Local health centers' strategic plans:

9 workshops were held providing expert support for the development of strategic plans for local health centers, one of the requirements necessary to obtain recognition accreditations. 240 representatives of local health centers were trained. 28 health centers developed their strategic plans.

Sensitization of health workers on the issues concerning vulnerable population groups:

488 health workers were trained about the needs of vulnerable population groups. The trainings were based on programs accredited by the Health Council. Center for Integration of the Roma from the Region held four courses on a 'Healthier Roma Population' in the cities of Belgrade, Uzice, Nis and Novi Sad, attended by doctors, nurses, technicians, and dentists from all 42 local health centers represented in the DILS – 'Delivering Improved Local Services' project, through which 142 health workers were trained.

Support to Decentralization - training local self-government on the competencies in primary health care:

8 workshops were held in 42 municipalities for 430 representatives from local self-governments, community health centers, and institutes / departments of public health.

Draft Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy to Improve the Situation of Roma in the Republic of Serbia for the period up to January 1, 2015.

The Ministry of Health participated in the drafting of the Action Plan for the Improvement of the Health of Roma.

The priorities defined for the upcoming period are:

- Monitoring the health situation of the Roma population
- Further development of the set of indicators for monitoring the health of the Roma population
- Increasing the accessibility and quality of healthcare for the Roma
- Organizing seminars and workshops for health workers and associates to learn about the specific needs of the Roma population, and establish better communication and understanding
- Improving the work of home care nurses
- Organizing training for the Roma on their rights to health care
- Improving the work of health mediators
- Employing health mediators
- Developing a system of monitoring the health mediators' work
- Extending the health mediators' work so as to assist:
 - a) vulnerable groups in rural areas
 - b) the 'street children'
 - c) the homeless persons
- Defining the health mediators' job in the system of professions (employment of Roma health mediators is necessary because they directly encourage the Roma to use health and social care and other services and to exercise of their civil and legal rights and obligations. Thus it raises the level of knowledge among the Roma and increases their involvement in the society).
- Improving the health conditions of the Roma population, especially among Roma women and children
- Strengthening and further developing the activities of a healthy lifestyle among the Roma
- Improving the environment and living conditions of all Roma settlements
- Including the Roma in the health counseling
- Ensuring that the adults engaged in waste collecting are vaccinated against tetanus and hepatitis B
- Implementing projects for the improvement of Roma health (priorities include: a mandatory immunization coverage, improving reproductive health, preventing chronic non-communicable diseases, specific health care of Roma involved in the collection of recyclable materials, treating addiction, tuberculosis, etc.).
- Training parents / guardians and children to have an active attitude toward their health and take responsibility for their health
- Improving the nutritional status of infants and young children in Roma settlements
- Improving the living environment in the Roma community
- Conducting regularly analyses of sanitary and epidemiological conditions in Roma settlements
- Developing and implementing the measures proposed by the Institute for Public Health to improve housing conditions

The Ministries of Health's activities and engagement in the preparation of programs:

- In coordination with the Office for Human and Minority Rights and the City Administration, the MoH held a coordination meeting to resettle families from four container settlements in the villages of Makis, Kijevo, Jabučki rit and Resnik in October 2012, where basic elements of the draft action plan for dislocation were analyzed, and the implementation of the proposed measures.

- The OSCE Mission to Serbia is to sign a contract with the Ministry of Health to provide the necessary funds to the Ministry, so as to enable it to extend the health mediators' contracts until April 2013. In addition, it is planned to provide the necessary funds to the Ministry to enable it to hire an expert (experts) to assist in the preparation of the necessary documents for the systematization of the health mediators' workplace.

- Office of the World Health Organization in Serbia, in cooperation with two other UN agencies (IOM and UNOPS), and the Ministry of Health, is preparing to open another series of authorized recycling centers. The cities where construction of recycling centers is foreseen are: Sremska Mitrovica, Novi Sad and Nis. Based on the model of the recycling center in the Zvezdara municipality in the City of Belgrade, two more have been opened in the municipalities of Surčin and Palilula. The activities of the SWIFT recycling center comprise the collection and processing of recycled materials, primarily paper, cardboard, plastics and metals.

- The World Health Organization is implementing a project to support the building of institutional capacity to: 1) to reduce vulnerability and 2) to deal with social and economic factors affecting health and sustainable development in Serbia, in order to improve public health, through national and local policies and plans. It is important to promote improvements in health, to increase the life expectancy of men and women and achieve a decline in the mortality rate. The situation in Europe regarding health shows great disparities between comparable countries, and inequalities in the financial conditions, social and political structures, i.e. in the social determinants of health. Consequently, the tackling of social determinants of health and health inequalities requires coordination across different sectors and policies. It also requires the involvement of many different agents in society, both within and outside the government. Policy coordination and stakeholder involvement requires a special kind of institutional arrangements, capacity and instruments.

- PBILD program for Peace Building and Inclusive Local Development. UN agencies have begun to develop the concept of a project that would continue the PBILD in the municipalities

of Southern Serbia (13 municipalities covered by the joint project of the UN agencies) as of April 2013. The concept includes activities in the health field. Improving the knowledge of Roma health mediators on key issues related to mother and child health, and supporting the vulnerable Roma while choosing their designated general practitioner, advancing the knowledge of any other health care professional dealing with the health issues of mother and child, in relation to vulnerable groups, extending the training of health mediators to the field of improving health of marginalized groups in rural areas, 'street children' and the homeless.

Please list any other activities, initiatives and / or policies implemented in the 2012, that were not part of the priority areas of the Decade of Roma Inclusion, but you feel they are relevant for Roma inclusion (e.g. educational and institutional support to the Roma culture and language, affirmative measures taken for Roma youth, securing the freedom of movement within the EU, anti-discrimination in the system of visa-free travel, etc).

REGISTRATION OF BIRTH: Access to personal documents (IDs)

- The Minister of Human and Minority Rights, State Administration and Local Government, the Deputy Ombudsman of the Republic of Serbia, and the Head of Mission of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, signed a Memorandum of Understanding on April 9, 2012, whereby a closer cooperation is established in implementing activities aimed at supporting the Roma minority in the process of late registration in the official registry of births.
- The Memorandum comes as the result of a need for these three institutions to join efforts to facilitate the planning and defining of activities aimed at assisting those members of Roma population who do not have identity documents. The MoU foresees the creation of a technical body whose task will be to enable faster solutions for citizens who lack identity documents.
- Amendments to the Law, adopted on August 31, 2012, created the necessary conditions for the solution of the problem of legally invisible persons, which are now allowed to be registered in the civil register.

- At the proposal by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, the Law on Permanent and Temporary Residence of Citizens was adopted, and entered into force on November 29, 2011. Article 11 of the said Law foresees that, if citizens can not officially register their permanent residence on the grounds of property rights to their apartment, or a lease agreement or other legal grounds, the competent authority shall issue a decision establishing their place of residence at the institution where they are permanently housed, or at their nearest Center for Social Work, following the citizens' application to the institution or center in question to make their permanent address at the institution or center.
- Given that the registration of the permanent residence address is the prerequisite to the issuance of identity documents, this opened the possibility for the members of the Roma minority in the Republic of Serbia, who lacked the legal basis to report their place of residence and who could therefore not be issued their identity documents, to officially register their place of permanent residence at the address of an institution or center for social work, and subsequently to obtain their identity documents, having met all the legal requirements.
- With the view to the implementation of the Law, the Minister of the Interior, with the concurrence of the Minister of Labour and Social Policy, adopted the Regulations on the Application Form for the Registration of Permanent Residence at the Address of an Institution or Center for Social Work, which came into force on December 8, 2012. This Law enabled the members of the Roma population to register their address at the institution in which they are permanently housed, or at the social welfare center nearest to their actual residence, if they have no other legal grounds.

Refugees and IDPs

The Office of the Commissioner for Refugees and Migrations coordinates and organizes primary and urgent admission of persons returned under the readmission agreement, sets the conditions for a successful reintegration of returnees, is in charge of the primary admission activities in the Office of Readmissions at the 'Nikola Tesla' Airport in Belgrade. Local self-government commissioners for refugees and migration councils are included in the entire process. The returnees can obtain the following type of assistance at the Office of Readmission:

- information on their rights, duties and options;
- advice on how to obtain identity documents;
- primary and urgent admission;
- referral to commissioners / councils for migration, and to other services to local governments for further assistance;
- telephone contact with relatives and friends;
- transportation to shelters for adults in Belgrade, liaison with the centers for social work to obtain transportation tickets, housing in emergency reception centers of the Office of the Commissioner for Refugees and Migrations, offered to the most vulnerable returnee families.