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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;*

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

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

Further current quantitative data on the number of Roma sorted by gender, age etc. aren't available, as there has been no survey with such focus conducted in the Czech Republic in 2012.

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

Table No. 1 Number of people living below the poverty line (source: CSO)

Year	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
Population below poverty line (thousands)	1 022,3	1 000,8	936.4	884.9	925.2	980.0
Poverty rate	9,8	9.7	9.0	8.6	9.0	9.6

There has been no survey conducted at the national level in the Czech Republic in 2012, which would provide relevant data on the number of Roma living below the poverty threshold. As the number of people living below the poverty threshold in the Czech Republic increased by 86 000 in 2012, it can be expected that the number of Roma living below the poverty threshold increased as well, particularly when taking into account the high unemployment rate of the Roma and the impact of the social reform, which restricted access to some welfare benefits.

According to the international research survey “*The situation of Roma in 11 EU Member States*”, which was conducted in 2012 by the World Bank, FRA and UNDP, in the Czech Republic about 70% of Roma living in Roma localities suffered material deprivation, as

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opposed to 23% among non-Roma. The concrete results of research on the economic situation are provided below.

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

	Roma	Non-Roma
Absolute poverty rate PPP\$ 4.30 income based	2%	2%
Absolute poverty rate PPP\$ 4.30 expenditures based	1%	0%
Absolute poverty rate PPP\$ 2.15 income based	1%	2%
Absolute poverty rate PPP\$ 2.15 expenditures based	0%	0%
Relative poverty rate (60% equalized median income)	71%	22%
Poverty gap PPP\$ 4.30 income based	1%	1%
Poverty gap PPP\$ 2.15 income based	0%	1%
Poverty gap PPP\$ 60% equalized median income	24%	7%
Gini coefficient	0,24	0,27
Ratio of richest 20% v. poorest 20%	3,71	4,21
Financial security	13%	60%
Outstanding payments (share of people)	40%	8%
Outstanding payments (share of people) - type		
1. Water	21%	4%
2. Electricity	25%	5%
3. Other housing related utilities	13%	2%
4. Mortgage	1%	1%
5. Credit for household appliance or furniture	9%	1%
6. Taxes	1%	0%
7. Education	2%	0%
8. Health services	20%	4%
Share of outstanding payments in HHs monthly income	64%	32%
Share of outstanding payments in HHs monthly income - type		
1. Water	27%	18%
2. Electricity	30%	13%
3. Other housing related utilities	32%	22%
4. Mortgage	42%	89%
5. Credit for household appliance or furniture	102%	
6. Taxes		
7. Education	13%	66%
8. Health services	5%	
Home production	3%	12%
Malnutrition**	30%	6%



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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.*
 - 1) **Concept of Roma Integration 2010–2013** (<http://www.vlada.cz/cz/ppov/zalezitosti-romske-komunity/dokumenty/koncepce-romske-integrace-na-obdobi-2010---2013-71187/>);
 - 2) **Action Plan of the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005–2015** (<http://www.vlada.cz/cz/ppov/zalezitosti-romske-komunity/dekada-romske-inkluzie/dekada-romske-inkluzie-74018/>);
 - 3) **Principles of the Long-term Concept of Roma Integration up to 2025** (<http://www.vlada.cz/cz/ppov/zalezitosti-romske-komunity/dokumenty/zasady-dlouhodobě-koncepce-romske-integrace-do-roku-2025-20283/>).
 - 4) **Strategy to Combat Social Exclusion 2011–2015** (<http://www.socialni-zaclenovani.cz/dokumenty/strategie-boje-proti-socialnimu-vyloucení>).
- *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?*

The Action Plan of the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015 and the Concept of Roma Integration 2010-2013 were prepared with the help of the representatives of the Roma minority, employees whose work includes the administration of Roma affairs at the regional (regional coordinators for Roma affairs) and local level (Roma counsellors), as well as representatives of the Roma civic society and NGOs that focus on the support of Roma integration. The preparation of the Strategy to Combat Social Exclusion 2011-2015 involved representatives of regional coordinators for Roma affairs and NGOs, which focus on solving the situation of the socially excluded population groups.

Important Roma personalities, regional coordinators for Roma affairs and representatives of Roma counsellors and field workers are members of the working bodies of the **Government Council for Roma Community Affairs**, which is an advisory body of the Czech government in the field of Roma integration. Apart from the representatives of Ministries, responsible for the Roma integration, 15 Roma members had the opportunity to comment the preparation of the Action Plan of the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015 and the Concept of Roma Integration 2010-2013 within this Council.

The Council's working bodies focus more thoroughly on both the Concept and the Action Plan. **The Committee on Cooperation with Local Governments and the Concept of Roma Integration** creates the concept of Roma integration, monitors the progress of its implementation, particularly at the regional and local level, monitors the development in the situation of the Roma and checks whether the Concept's measurements reflect their needs.



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The second body is the *Committee on the European Platform for Roma Inclusion and the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2013*, whose members are representatives of the Roma civic society and key NGOs dealing with the Roma integration. Its activities include preparation and currently monitoring of the implementation of the Action Plan of the Decade of Roma Inclusion, which they discuss with the representatives of the departments responsible for fulfilment of this Plan.

The third body is the Monitoring Committee of the Agency for Social Inclusion, which in cooperation with the Government Commissioner for Human Rights deals with the implementation of the Strategy to Combat Social Exclusion. It includes representatives of the regional coordinators, departments and Roma civic society, who evaluate the progress of the fulfilment of the Strategy. Members of the Council for Roma Community Affairs are continuously informed about the progress at its meetings.

These working bodies comment the progress of the fulfilment of all three strategies also via documents, which are presented to the Government for discussion. These are the Report on the State of the Roma Minority in the Czech Republic and the Information about the Fulfilment of Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015.

The office of the Council continuously organizes meetings with Roma minority and NGO representatives, where the government's measures concerning the Roma are discussed. Such meeting was held on 24th April 2012 in the Liechtenstein Palace, where the Roma integration policies were discussed at the national level by the Government Commissioner for Human Rights Mgr. Monika Šimůnková and important representatives of the Roma minority, Roma activists, members of the Council for Roma Community Affairs and experts on Roma integration (a total of ca. 60 participants).

- *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.*

In 2012 there have been no changes in the participation of the Roma in the decision making process. The Council for Roma Community Affairs remains the highest authority enabling the participation of the Roma in preparation and implementation of the Roma integration policies. The civil part of the Council comprises of 15 Roma representatives attaining the positions of coordinators, representatives of the civic society, who actively work to improve the standing of the Roma or significantly contribute to their integration.

Another opportunity to promote the rightful interests of the Roma minority lies with the Roma at the regional and local level and their participation in the **Committees for Minorities**, the creation of which depends on the number of persons who declared that they belong to a minority during the census. The Roma had the opportunity to influence their right to participate in solving affairs that concern them. These rights are defined in the Act on the Rights of Minorities. The Committee serves as a platform for solving current affairs of the minorities (e.g. integration of children from minorities at Czech schools, labour market status, cultural and religious specifics of the minorities). In 2012 the Committees for Minorities were



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re-established and their members altered according to the results of the 2011 census. At the regional level the Committees were established in 5 of 14 regions. The other regions didn't establish these committees due to the insufficient number of persons belonging to minorities or due to the lack of interest of the minorities to solve their affairs in committees.

The Romani Civic Initiative plays an important role. A network of civic associations has been created over time in the Czech Republic, which were established and further run by the Roma. The NGOs have an important participation role and are involved in the preparation and implementation of measures and evaluation of their efficiency. They can develop their activities with the help of grants from the state, regional or local budgets or other foundation funds, or thanks to the support of their projects from the European Structural Funds.

- *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?*

When creating the Action Plan the authors created objectives, measures and indicators of the fulfilment of the measures and defined the methods of their evaluation as well. The Council for Roma Community Affairs annually requests information about the fulfilment of individual measure from the departments responsible for the fulfilment of the tasks defined in the Action Plan. The information is then processed in the document *Information about the Fulfilment of Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015*, which is presented to the Czech government as one of the appendices to the Report on the State of the Roma Minority in the Czech Republic. After that the document is made public so that the expert and general public may comment it. The fulfilment progress is discussed in the Committee for the European Platform for Roma Inclusion and the Decade of Roma Inclusion.

The fulfilment of the Concept is also evaluated annually. Information about its progress is listed in one of the appendices of the Report on the State of the Roma Minority in the Czech Republic – *Information about the Fulfilment of Tasks Listed in the Government Resolution Regarding the Roma Minority*. The update of the Concept of Roma Integration 2014-2020 is being prepared at the moment. It should have its objectives set so that they would be better measurable and should include indicators, according to which the fulfilment progress and the methods of its measurement will be evaluated. By doing this the Council wants to react to the recommendation of the European Commission, which stated in the *EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies 2020* that a robust monitoring system should be a part of the national strategies.

The monitoring of the progress of the Decade and Concept has been also improved by the establishment of a regular survey, which focuses on the monitoring of the situation of Roma communities. The government approved its implementation in 2008 and allocated an annual contribution of 1.5 million CZK for this purpose. This monitoring was conducted twice (in 2008 and 2009). Regrettably due to austerity measures this project wasn't carried out in 2010, 2011 and 2012. Due to this fact the data necessary for evaluation of the impact of national strategies on the Roma situation are missing.



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The mechanism of the creation of the above mentioned reports receives positive evaluation from the interested Ministries, although they repeatedly point out its administrative demands. However, it is necessary to conduct more thorough surveys and again conduct research activities focused on the evaluation of the influence of the measures and their impact on the situation of the Roma. The surveys should target the fulfilment of the objectives with the use of indicators, which are defined in the Action Plan.

The WB, UNDP and FRA survey „*The situation of Roma in 11 EU member States*“ provided very useful data in this regard last year. The Council for Roma Community Affairs would welcome if such surveys would be conducted at a regular basis (at least once every two years).

- *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.*

On 1st September 2009 the Act No. 198/2009 Coll., on Equal treatment and Legal Forms of Protection against Discrimination (the Anti-discrimination Act) entered into force. This established the possibility to defend against discrimination via a specific action, through which the discriminated person is able to claim that the other party desist from discrimination, remove its effects or provide adequate satisfaction (including financial compensation). The Act also defines the possibility of NGOs to provide information and legal support to discrimination victims and newly lists providing aid to discrimination victims among Ombudsman's competencies.

The Public Defender of rights plays a crucial role in the field of monitoring and fulfilment of the Antidiscrimination Act. The defender annually provides the Council with information regarding his activities in relation to the Roma. This information is part of the *Information about the Fulfilment of Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015* document, which is annually presented to the government. However, the precise data on the number of cases regarding the Roma he solved isn't available, as the defender's office doesn't register the ethnicity of the complainants. His data show that the most frequent case of discrimination regarding the Roma is related to housing.

The Public Defender also supports the surveys aimed at the processes of public institutions and discrimination monitoring. In 2012 he also published the *Survey of the Public Defender of Rights Regarding the Ethnic Composition of Pupils of the Former Special Schools*. Part of this research was the recommendation to provide equal access of Roma children to education. This recommendation is reflected by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports during the preparation of legislative changes.

Apart from the Ombudsman there are other parties involved in dealing with discrimination in the Czech Republic, specifically supervisory bodies such as e.g. the Labour Inspectorate or Czech Trade Inspection Authority. The discrimination victims may also turn to the Czech Police and deal with the issue at the court. The listed authorities don't keep



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statistics on the complaints or filings according to the ethnicity of the complainant or plaintiff and therefore it again isn't possible to provide accurate data on the number of Roma persons, who turned to these authorities with a petition to solve a discrimination issue.

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

The Czech Government allocated a total of 74.663.342 CZK for Roma integration in 2012. The table below shows the comparison of the state budget expenditures on Roma integration in 2012 and the previous 5 years.

Table No. 3 Overview of expenditures on Roma integration in the past 5 years

Dept.	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Mo EYS	25.519.400	55.147.700,-	17.149.400,-	21.733.000,-	20.360.672,-
MC	20.525.760	43.287.524,-	17.364.935,-	19.937.350,-	16.102.750,-
MLSA	0	0	0	0	0
MI	0	0	0	0	0
VPS	0	0	0	0	0
MLD	0	1.704.000,-	2.894.642,-	1.403.405,-	869.000,-
Gov. Office	71.648.530	55.244.054,-	49.302.221,-	41.955.523,-	37.330.920,-
Total	117.693.690	155.383.278,-	86.711.198,-	85.029.278,-	74.663.342,-

The government allocated 245 632 CZK directly for the needs of the Decade in 2012. For 2013 the expected amount is 200 000 CZK and for 2014 300 000 CZK. The table below shows the comparison of the expenditures related to the Decade with the funds invested in this initiative during the past 5 years.

Table No. 4 Comparison of the drawing of funds in the past 5 years

Year	Allocated from budget	Drawn
2012	300 thousand CZK	245,632 thousand CZK
2011	1 000 thousand CZK	978,340 thousand CZK
2010	570 thousand CZK	438,229 thousand CZK
2009	987 thousand CZK	962,324 thousand CZK
2008	618,3 thousand CZK	378,452 thousand CZK



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2. EDUCATION

- *Please list policies and programs 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).*

Strategic documents prepared by the Section for Human Rights of the Office of the Government aimed at the improvement of the education level of the Roma:

- 1) *Concept of Roma Integration 2010–2013;*
- 2) *Action Plan of the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005–2015;*
- 3) *Principles of the Long-term Concept of Roma Integration up to 2025;*
- 4) *Strategy to Combat Social Exclusion 2011–2015.*

The most important department dealing with the education policy and fulfilment of the Action Plan and Decade in the field of education is the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports.

In the second half of 2012 this department created and in December 2012 presented to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe the *Plan of Measures to Execute the Judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in the Case D.H. and others vs. the Czech Republic*, which includes individual steps to remove indirect discrimination of Roma pupils, which has been found by the European Court of Human Rights.

The document is a consolidated action plan to execute the D.H. and others judgment within the meaning of the Decision of the Ministers' Deputies CM/Del/Dec(2012)1144/9 of 6th June 2012. The plan was prepared by a working group established by the Minister of Education; its members being representatives of all relevant state authorities – Ministry of Education, Ministry of Justice, Office of the Government – Section for Human Rights, the Ombudsman's office and the Czech School Inspectorate.

The planned measures should set up efficient legal guarantees, which will ensure that the process of placing children into the education programme for mentally disadvantaged will be objective, without discrimination based on ethnicity and social background and will ensure the child's best interest. The Czech Republic believes that by adopting these specific measures it will achieve concrete progress in the field in the short term and that the number of Roma children being educated within the programme for slightly mentally disadvantaged will decrease continuously.

The Czech Republic also plans to continue to strive to achieve a broader goal than the execution of the D. H. judgment, i.e. in increasing the inclusivity of the environment at the mainstream elementary schools and will adopt measures in this regard. Although this issue is closely related to the D. H. judgment, it isn't the same problem.

The basic goal of all measures included in the Plan is the thorough fulfilment of the principles of the Education Act, Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, Convention on the Rights of Child and the Czech Constitution so



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that the ethnicity and social background won't influence the placement of pupils into education programmes.

The plan includes the following measures:

A. Pupils with no indication educated in the group integration with pupils with light mental disadvantage (LMD)

- 1) Omission of the 25% tolerance of pupils with health disadvantage in a class for pupils with mental disadvantage in the regulation 73/2005 Coll., as amended by regulation 147/2011 Coll. (§ 10 par. 2). This will remove the possibility to temporarily place a pupil with health or social disadvantage into a class for pupils with mental disadvantage (§ 3 par. 5 of the regulation 73/2005).

B. Diagnostic stay

- 1) Omission of diagnostic stay from the regulation 73/2005 Coll. (§ 3 par. 5, letter b)
- 2) Replacing the diagnostic stay with diagnostic monitoring, this will aim towards the support of the teacher educating the child in the mainstream education from counselling facilities.

C. Diagnostic tools

- 1) Revision of diagnostic tools used to diagnose LMD (ensuring a culturally neutral approach and equal access to education – diagnostic needs should be reflected by corresponding services).

D. Supervisory mechanism in the field of diagnostics and counselling facilities

- 1) The Czech School Inspectorate will receive the competence of a revision authority (evaluation of the correctness of the assessment in case of an incidents, random check of counselling facilities);
- 2) Amendment of the Education Act – school counselling centres (Pedagogic-Psychological Counselling Facilities - PCF and Special Counselling Centres - SCC) will be include in the Ministry Registry or will be accredited by the Ministry

E. Registers and statistics related to the ethnicity of pupils educated according to the appendix of the Framework Education Programme (FEP) – LMD

- 1) In order to fulfil the D.H. judgment the Czech Republic will conduct an annual survey to determine the number of Roma pupils in programmes according to FEP –LMD;
- 2) An amendment will be made to the regulation on the documentation of schools and school facilities within the meaning of implementing a registry of children educated in programmes according to FEP –LMD.

F. Preparatory classes and kindergartens

- 1) Preparatory classes could not be established at practical schools (amendment to the Education Act);



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- 2) It will be impossible to establish kindergartens at practical schools
- 3) The school headmaster will decide on the placement of a pupil into a preparatory class based on the evaluation of the pupil's educational needs (the condition of the opinion of the school counselling facility will be omitted).

G. Status of the FEP-LMD appendix and further progress regarding this appendix

- 1) Revision of the FEP-LMD appendix – legal and expert analysis of the current state; revision of the methodology of work with FEP for elementary education and definition of the possibility to amend expected outputs of the FEP for elementary education.

H. NGO forum for discussion of the issue of equal opportunities

- 1) The Czech Republic initiates the creation of and will moderate the forum, which will discuss issues of equal opportunities in education (inclusive education concept).

The Ministry of Education currently prepares the **Strategy of the Education Policy until 2020**, which will newly include also measures to ensure equal access of disadvantaged groups to education, including the Roma.

In 2012 the Ministry also implemented the **Long-term Intent of Education and Development of the Educational System of the Czech Republic 2011-2015**, the priority of which are equal opportunities in education. This intent is implemented at the local level with the participation of regions, which also create educational strategies, i.e. regional *Long-term Intents of Education and Development of the Educational System*, which reflect the priorities of the governmental document and include measures, which are tailor-made to regional differences and local people's needs. The regions are an important link between the bodies of the national and local government. They have funds at their disposal and can conduct supervisory activities.

The measures to improve the educational level of the Roma people will also be a part of the **Concept of Roma Integration 2014-2020**, which is currently being prepared by the Council for Roma Community Affairs.

• **Individual national project “Centre for Support of Inclusive Education”**

The year 2012 was the last year of operation of the project *Centre for Support of Inclusive Education (CSIE)*, which was implemented by the Ministry of Education with the *National Institute for Education, School Counselling Facilities and Facilities for Further Education of Pedagogues* as a partner.

The aim of the programme is the methodological support of schools to implement inclusive principles of education. The workers of the centres provide these schools with counselling and methodological support of psychologists, special pedagogues, social workers, didactics, project managers and cultural anthropologists, who together with the school employees identify the needs of the school related to the implementation of the inclusive education model and based on that create the school support programme, which provides the



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school with a strategy to set up conditions for inclusive education. The support also includes help with providing inclusive measures.

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

The influence and impacts of the strategic documents can be evaluated only with difficulty due to the fact that the *Plan of Measures to Execute the Judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in the Case of D. H.* is currently being implemented and the *Strategy of the Education Policy until 2020* is being prepared.

Part of the Plan is to prepare legislative changes, particularly key Acts such as the Education Act or regulations related to education of children, pupils and students with social disadvantages. The changes should lead to a complete discontinuation of education socially disadvantaged students into programmes for pupils with light mental disorder and their placement into classes, schools or study groups for pupils with light mental disorder.

A network of 6 regional sites with nationwide competences (Plzen, Prague, Most, Hradec Kralove, Olomouc and Brno) has been created within the project Centre for Support of Inclusive Education. The project helped to create inclusive environment at 342 schools in 2012 (11 kindergartens, 320 elementary and 11 secondary schools). It succeeded in creating conditions for education, which react to the specific educational needs of children. The expertise of pedagogues working with this target group also improved and the activities of schools were more interconnected with the activities of counselling centres and NGOs, which focus on education and meaningful free-time activities of disadvantaged groups of pupils and children. The *Report on the Situation of Inclusive Education* has also been created, which will be the foundation for the pro-inclusive reform of education.

- *Please describe how these policies and programs impact the cross-cutting issues of the Decade. In particular, how did they promote gender equality, combating discrimination and reducing poverty?*

All measures aim to increase the educational level of the Roma, which is a crucial factor of the success of the Roma people at the labour market. It should decrease the risk that they will face poverty and unemployment in their future lives.

Strategic documents and programmes focus on ensuring equal access of the Roma to education and try to react on the demands following from the D. H. judgment. Changes have been made e.g. in the conditions of the departmental grant programmes, where priority has been given to funding of projects, which aim to provide support to keep the Roma in mainstream education or ensure transfer of Roma pupils from practical schools to mainstream schools. The strategies focus on ensuring equal opportunities not only from the ethnicity perspective, but also regarding the opportunities of men and women. The equal opportunities in education should be supported mostly by legislative changes planned for 2013.



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- *Please identify the most important mainstream and targeted national, EU and other funded schemes launched in 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 program, the amount allocated, the goals to be reached, and the indicative number and share of Roma beneficiaries.*

The key provider of grants in relation to the Roma is the Ministry of Education. *The Programme for Support of Roma Integration* aims to create conditions for early care for Roma children from socially disadvantaged environment and for their education within the mainstream education system. In 2012 98 projects were supported with the total amount of 15 665 372 CZK.

Another important programme is the *Funding of Assistant Teachers for Socially Disadvantaged Children, Pupils and Students*. Its aim is to create conditions for creation of new jobs for assistants and help the regions and municipalities to carry the costs related to their work. In the 2011/2012 school year there have been a total of 450 assistant teachers. The Ministry of Education annually allocates 75 000 000 million CZK for the support of assistant teachers.

The programme *Support of Socially Disadvantaged Roma Students at Secondary Schools* offers compensation of costs related to the secondary or higher education to Roma families. Stipends are granted to socially disadvantaged Roma pupils, who are educated within the daily education and are under 27 years. The support is provided via the secondary schools providing secondary education with apprenticeship certificate or leaving examination, vocational education and conservatory education. In 2012 a total of 7 977 300 CZK were allocated to Roma students.

The programme *Support for Schools Providing Inclusive Education of Socially Disadvantaged Children and Pupils* provides support to schools, which provide inclusive education. It is designated for kindergartens, elementary and secondary schools, which provide inclusive education and education of disadvantaged children and pupils. The goal of the programme in 2012 was to increase the funds for the improvement of the amount of bonus and incentive pays to pedagogues of the mainstream schools, who educate socially and physically disadvantaged pupils. The priority for 2012 was the support of the justified transfer of a pupil from the LMD education programme to the mainstream educational programme. For this purpose the schools received 39 909 662 CZK.

The funds for projects aimed at equal opportunities in education are also drawn from the ESF, Operational Programme Education for Competitiveness (OPEC), which is directed by the Ministry of Education. These funds were used to finance individual national projects “Centres for Support of Inclusive Education”, the activities of which were already described. Another individual national project was the “Development and Methodological Support of Counselling Services – VIP III”, which focuses on improving the quality of services provided in schools and school counselling facilities by psychologists, special pedagogues, methodologists for school counselling facilities and other experts. At selected schools and counselling facilities the school psychologists and special pedagogues will provide a broad range of services to pupils, pedagogues and parents. These employees will receive



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methodological support and multi-level specialist education. Schools, which don't have a school psychologist or a special pedagogue, will receive methodological support and aid via the centres of educational care.

Draft concepts, methodologies and other programmes for education of pedagogues should be created within OPEC with focus on:

- Creating an integrated methodological support for counselling facilities in the Czech Republic
- Proposal for the alteration of the system of school counselling facilities in the Czech Republic, including the definition of the role of educational care centres in the school support system
- Innovated conceptual and methodological documents defining the school counselling centres
- Standards for using the diagnostic and intervention tools for school counselling services regarding the inclusive and dynamic diagnostics
- Catalogue for determining the equalizing and supportive measures for education of pupils
- Proven modules for further education of pedagogues (FEP) for structured education of employees of schools and counselling centres, at least 65 new or innovated FEP programmes for school psychologists and special pedagogues, for special pedagogues within PCF and SCC, for psychologists within PCF and SCC, for special pedagogues and psychologists at educational care centres
- 10 methodological reports mapping the content and specifics of provided counselling services at schools, counselling facilities and educational care centres
- Proven 3MP (three levels of methodological support) programme, which sets the processes for work with pupils at the first level of elementary schools, who have problems in mastering the basics
- Methodology for creating equalizing measures at schools
- Methodology for setting up support measures at schools in cooperation with counselling facilities
- Methodology for pedagogues working with pupils with behavioural disorders or those in risk of developing such disorders
- Evaluation tool for evaluating the quality and efficiency of counselling services at schools and counselling facilities
- Methodological and informational portal for counsellors and pedagogues, of mainstream schools serving to publish the project's outputs to the general public.

The grant support from the OPEC isn't based on the ethnical principle; therefore it isn't possible to determine the amount of funds that were invested directly into the Roma.

Please provide information about 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*

The accurate data aren't available due to the fact that the ethnical data aren't collected within the educational system; therefore it is only possible to use estimates. The estimate for



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2012 shows that the participation of Roma children in pre-school education is lower compared to other children. According to the estimates only 30% of Roma children participate in pre-school education compared to 90% of the other children in the Czech Republic. Roma children more frequently use the preparatory classes, which they attend one year prior to attending elementary schools. However, the provided preparation is insufficient and doesn't replace the long-term preparation at kindergartens.

The participation of Roma children in elementary education is good (almost 100%) as the Czech Republic has a compulsory school attendance from 6 to 15 years of age. All children, including the Roma, must attend school within this period. If the legal representatives don't ensure school attendance, they risk problems in the field of social and legal protection of the child, which can escalate into a criminal penalty. However, accompanying problems of the Roma children's school attendance are truancy, lower education success rate and upbringing problems. Another problem is the premature departure of Roma pupils without completing all grades of the elementary school.

A significant problem is the high share of Roma pupils, who are educated at elementary schools outside the mainstream education. These are practical elementary schools, established for pupils with LMD. The education is adjusted so that the children would master practical skills, which have a priority over theoretical knowledge. Due to the limited scope of knowledge the graduates of these schools have a very low chance to pass the entry exams at secondary schools. This restricts their chances of education as well as chances of getting prestigious and well-paid employment. Another accompanying problem is the failure to complete all grades of the elementary school; it is estimated that as much as 39% of Roma children complete their elementary education prematurely by reaching 15 years of age due to the fact that they repeat a year several times due to bad grades.

This is also the reason why a lower share of Roma pupils continues their education at secondary schools. A significant share of the Roma pupils don't continue (estimate 16%). The first problem is the low motivation for secondary education; the second is the lower success rate at entry exams at secondary schools. Another problem is the financial demands of the secondary education. A total of 68% of Roma students transfers to secondary schools with apprenticeship certificates, 16% studies at secondary schools with leaving exams. Only 58% of Roma students complete their studies (70% at schools with leaving exams).

The study of Roma students at colleges and universities is completely unmapped. According to qualified estimates Roma students at tertiary schools are rather rare cases.

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

In 2012 there have been 554 assistant teachers for socially disadvantaged pupils in the Czech Republic. Most of them work in elementary education, much smaller number in pre-school and secondary education (regrettably, specific data are unavailable), which is a negative trend as the assistance to and individual support of Roma children is highly needed at both neglected educational levels.

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Table No. 5 of assistant teachers at schools, total sum of their workloads and the amount of grant support in 2012

Region	Number of assistants	MoEYS support	Support from regional budgets
Jihočeský	27	4.537.730,-	0
Jihomoravský	36	6.108.672,-	0
Královéhradecký	34	5.301.899,-	0
Liberecký	32	4.512.284,-	0
Moravskoslezský	90	16.680.237,-	0
Pardubický	22	4.925.832,-	0
Plzeňský	21	3.169.494,-	0
Prague	26	3.101.808,-	0
Středočeský	63	11.166.298,-	0
Ústecký	91	17.099.950,-	0
Vysočina	12	1.916.303,-	0
Karlovarský	32	4.588.858,-	0
Zlínský	15	1.727.318,-	0
Olomoucký	53	8.330.304	0
Total	554	93.166.987,-	0

The assistant teacher programme is funded from the development programme of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports *Financing Assistant Teachers for Socially Disadvantaged Children, Pupils and Students*. This programme counts with co-funding from regional and municipal budgets. However, those didn't participate in the programme's funding in 2012, contrary to 2011, and that decreases the availability of this programme at schools where the assistants are needed.

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

The transfer of pupils, who were transferred from the education programme for pupils with LMD to the mainstream education programme for elementary schools, was the focus of the Czech School Inspectorate survey *“Topical Report: The Progress of Transformation of Former Special Schools in the School Year 2011/2012”* conducted in 2012. 146 former special schools took part in this survey. The report states that only 76 pupils were transferred (however, the report didn't provide information about their ethnicity as well as the total number of pupils who took part in the survey).

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

An investigation by the Ombudsman in 2012 found that 32% of Roma pupils were educated in special schools (a reasonable estimate by the teachers involved in the survey cited as many as 35% of Roma pupils). The Ombudsman's survey confirmed that Roma children continue to suffer from indirect discrimination in education in the Czech Republic.



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In July 2012 the “*Topical Report of the Czech School Inspectorate: The Progress of Transformation of Former Special Schools in the School Year 2011/2012*” was published, which provided information about the further progress of the transformation of the former special schools, which in accordance with § 189, par. 3 of the Act No. 561/2004 Coll., on Pre-school, Elementary, Secondary, Vocational and Other Education, as amended, became elementary schools, elementary practical schools and special elementary schools on 1st January 2005. The share of Roma pupils, who were educated in the programme for pupils with LMD, was 26.4% according to the qualified estimate of the school headmasters, which is 8.6% less than in 2009/10.

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

In 2012 209 schools in the Czech Republic established 244 preparatory classes, which educated 2 884 children. Similar to 2011 higher interest in this pre-school preparation type has been noted (for comparison in 2011 194 schools established 228 preparatory classes for 2 800 pupils).

Table No. 6 Number of preparatory classes in 2012

Region	Number of schools creating preparatory classes	Number of preparatory classes	Number of pupils attending
Prague	16	19	220
Jihočeský	2	3	25
Jihomoravský	11	16	193
Karlovarský	20	27	314
Královehradecký	9	9	110
Liberecký	7	8	92
Moravskoslezský	25	30	383
Olomoucký	5	5	64
Pardubický	6	6	74
Plzeňský	9	12	102
Středočeský	18	18	178
Ústecký	73	81	987
Vysočina	7	9	127
Zlínský	1	1	15
Total	209	244	2884

The “*Topical Report of the Czech School Inspectorate: The Progress of Transformation of Former Special Schools in the School Year 2011/2012*” provides information about the representation of children educated in these classes. It states that 97.5% of children in the preparatory classes were socially disadvantaged. The experts’ educated guess shows that the vast majority of children in the preparatory classes are Roma. Another problem is their segregation in the preparatory classes, especially if these are established at practical schools. Roma children thus complete segregated pre-school preparation and this increases the likelihood that this segregation will continue at the elementary level as often the children transfer from the preparatory class to the first year of a practical school.



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

Counselling services are a part of the general education policy and are provided to families, including the Roma families, by school counselling facilities. Their activities, rights and obligations of their employees and legal representatives of the pupils are regulated by a special regulation. Other counselling services are offered to the Roma families by NGOs, which draw funds for counselling programmes from the Ministry of Education's budget within the *programme Support of the Integration of Roma Community* as well as from other sources.

The authors of the Report on the Situation of Inclusive Education in 2012 focused on evaluating the availability of special pedagogues and psychologists providing counsel at schools. Most of the schools had counselling facilities, which comprised only of the educational counsellor and prevention methodologist. Broader consultation team was only available when dealing with problems, which demanded swift solutions, not prevention. The aid of psychologists and special pedagogues was provided mainly by pedagogic-psychological counselling facilities and special pedagogic centres. School psychologists and pedagogues were usually funded from the Development of School Counselling Services – VIP III programme, other OPEC support possibilities (1.2 and 1.4), city funds or by increasing the pedagogues workload.

Following shortcomings were identified in the field of counselling services:

- Only short-term, non-systemic solutions of funding the positions of school psychologists and special pedagogues;
- Conflict between the expectations of pedagogues or parents and the real possibility of the influence of employee's expert activities (limits, competences, responsibility and work processes);
- Too narrow or insufficient specialization of the expert worker.

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

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

- 1) application of educational or special educational methods and procedures consistent with the educational needs of pupils;
- 2) provision of individual support within the scope of education and preparations for education;
- 3) use of the counselling services of schools and education counselling facilities;



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- 4) use of an individual education plan;
- 5) use of the services of an assistant teacher.

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

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

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

This figure isn't standardly monitored in the Czech Republic via the regular surveys. In general it is possible to state that the educational career of the Roma people is shorter (around 10 years) in comparison to the non-Roma (around 12.5 years).

As was already stated above, education at the elementary school is compulsory until the age of 15. According to educated guesses a significant portion of the Roma pupils leave the elementary schools prematurely by achieving the age of 15 without completing all the 9 years of the elementary school (39%) in comparison to other pupils (6%). This is due to the fact that a part of the Roma pupils repeat a year several times due to bad grades or a high number of absences.

The portion of Roma pupils, who end their education by completing the elementary school is also high (16%). The WB, UNDP and FRA survey „*The situation of Roma in 11 EU member States*“ states that 40% of Roma graduates living in socially excluded localities continue their education at the secondary school. Another survey from 2010 states that 68% of Roma pupils go to secondary vocational schools, where they study programmes that are completed by an apprenticeship certificate, 16% go to secondary schools with leaving exams. 42% of those at vocational schools and 30% of those at secondary schools with leaving exams leave school prematurely.

Only about 1% of Roma pupils study at gymnasiums. The Roma only very rarely study at universities and such are a rarity in the Czech Republic. One of the obstacles is the lack of funds. However, there are no data available on how many Roma students end their university studies prematurely in the Czech Republic.

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

This figure also is not monitored. According to the data from regional coordinators for Roma affairs their number is low. The programmes of further education for the Roma are offered mostly by NGOs with the use of European Structural Funds. Detailed data will be



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available after the end of the support from ESF for the programme period 2007-2013, when a complex evaluation will take place.

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

The Ministry of Education annually provides stipends to Roma pupils of secondary and vocational schools within the grant programme *Support of Disadvantaged Roma Pupils at Secondary Schools*. These stipends are provided via the schools where the pupils study.

One of the problems, which is also related to this programme is the sustainability of Roma pupils at secondary schools, because a number of them drops out of the school despite receiving the stipend. One of the solutions was to make several levels of the grant according to the achieved length of study by the Roma pupil. The stipends are set up so that the Roma pupils, who remain at the school for a longer time, will receive higher stipends than those who just started their studies. In 2012 the stipend levels were as follows:

- Pupil in the 1st year of secondary school maximum 4 000 CZK
- Pupil in the 2nd year of secondary school maximum 5 000 CZK
- Pupil in the 3rd year of secondary school maximum 6 000 CZK
- Pupil in the 4th year of secondary school maximum 7 000 CZK
- Pupil in the 1st - 3rd year of college maximum 8 000 CZK

In the period between January and June 2012 132 petitions of individual schools were supported and stipend paid to 699 Roma students in the amount of 3 282 000 CZK.

In the period between September and December 2012 all 171 petitions of individual schools were supported and stipend paid to 1052 socially disadvantaged Roma students in the amount of 4 695 300 CZK.

Compensation of expenditures related to the compulsory school attendance or secondary education is also possible by using the social welfare benefits, specifically extraordinary aid payments, which are paid by the regional labour authorities in the Czech Republic.



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3. EMPLOYMENT

- *Please list the policies or programs 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).*

In 2012 there have been no new programmes or policies with direct impact on the Roma situation. The already mentioned documents focus on support of employment of the Roma:

- 1) *Concept of Roma Integration 2010–2013;*
- 2) *Action Plan of the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005–2015;*
- 3) *Principles of the Long-term Concept of Roma Integration up to 2025;*
- 4) *Strategy to Combat Social Exclusion 2011–2015.*

The key department for the field of employment is the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Czech Labour Authority, whose competencies include the fulfilment of the measures listed in the Action Plan of the Decade of Roma Inclusion in the field of employment.

In 2012 the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MLSA) created the document “*Long-term vision of the MLSA for Social Inclusion*”, which introduced basic and long-term foundations of social inclusion. This document perceives the Roma as one of the disadvantaged groups and takes into account the ethnic aspect of social exclusion when setting up the support. It claims that there is no doubt that the Roma ethnicity is one of the reasons of social exclusion. One of the priority areas of the document is the “*inclusive labour market/ active employment policy*”, the aim of which will be the improvement of the chances of socially excluded persons to find employment and support their labour integration, including the support of social entrepreneurship.

Within the active employment policy there are no specific tools aimed at the Roma target group. If they are having difficulties in finding employment also due to other characteristics, they are perceived through the prism of § 33 of the Act No. 435/2004 Coll., on Employment, which includes persons with physical handicap, natural persons under 20 years of age, pregnant women, nursing mothers and mothers up to the ninth month of birth, natural persons taking care of a child older than 15 years, natural persons over 50 years, natural persons, which are registered in the register of employment seekers for at least 5 straight months and natural persons, who require special aid. Roma applicants included in this group then receive increased attention from the employees of the Labour Authority. They are being offered active employment policy tools, namely:

- Community service
- Social purpose jobs
- Qualification programmes
- Counselling programmes

Directly related to the Roma are employment support programmes implemented by NGOs, with the majority of these programmes being funded from the European Social Fund,



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usually from the Operational Programme Human Resources and Employment, within which a priority 3.2 – *Support of Social Integration of Members of the Roma Localities* has been established specifically in relation to the Roma. Some of the projects aimed at socio-economic activities were funded from the European Regional Development Fund.

- *What are the outcomes of the policies and programs that your government implemented in 2012?*

In 2012 there have been no new programmes or policies with direct impact on the Roma situation. The new document “Long-term vision of the MLSA for Social Inclusion” is currently being processed into a concrete action plan of social inclusion. Impact of its measures can be expected within the next three years.

- *Please describe how these policies and programs impact the Decade cross-cutting issues. In particular, how did they promote gender equality, combating discrimination and reducing poverty?*

As there have been no new measures in the field of employment, it is impossible to evaluate their impact on the situation of the Roma. In general the use of the employment policy, particularly the tools of active employment policy, leads to the improved chances of the Roma to find employment. For a certain period the applicants also receive unemployment benefits, which is one of the welfare benefits, which contributes to the decrease of poverty.

Included in the Act on Employment and the Anti-discrimination Act is also the prohibition of employment-related discrimination. The Labour Authority also provides discrimination victims with counsel on how to solve such a situation. The applicants’ petitions are handed over to the regional branches of the Labour Inspectorate, which may perform an inspection of the employer and investigate their rules for accepting employees. Apart from the Labour Inspectorate it is possible to turn to the Ombudsman with a discrimination complaint. This is possible also if the Roma applicant faced discrimination from the Labour Authority’s employees. These institutions solve not only discrimination based on the Roma ethnicity, but also based on gender.

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

I. Grant support from the ESF



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The MLSA uses ESF funding to ensure the return of the disadvantaged Roma to the labour market. The Roma integration projects can be supported via the Operational Programme Human Resources and Employment (OP HRE), either with a global grant or individual municipal projects.

- **Implementation of the global grant Support of Integration of Members of the Roma Localities**

Important for the integration of the Roma is the support from the OP HRE, particularly from the priority 3.2 - *Support of Social Integration of Members of the Roma Localities*. Its goal was to help with social integration of members of socially excluded Roma communities and ensure availability, quality and supervision of services, including the removal of barriers of the Roma's access to education, employment and investment support.

Calls for proposals within the 3.2 OP HRE were declared already in 2008. One of these calls was **call No. 19** for grant projects with total allocation of 477 474 000 CZK; the total allocated amount for 76 projects was 458 146 434 CZK. This call was closed on 31st November 2011 due to the exhaustion of the total allocation for the global grant. As of 31st January 2013 there are 48 projects being implemented.

- **Implementation of individual projects for support of the social integration of Roma localities members**

Individual projects submitted by regions ensure the provision of social services and other activities, aimed at combatting the social exclusion in Roma localities and support of employment in the stricken regions. Individual projects may also be submitted by municipalities within another call for proposals designated for these projects. For this purpose total amount of 250 million CZK was allocated within the call for proposal No. 55. This call is designated for municipalities and the support is directed particularly into localities, where the Agency for Social Inclusion in Roma Localities operates. As of 31st January 2013 there were a total 14 supported projects in the total amount of 197 387 492 CZK. The supported activities are aimed mostly at the support of selected social services focusing on returning people back into society, labour market or keeping them in the labour market or enabling access to services, which enable the return to the labour market.

Another call for proposal was the call No. 15 declared in 2008 and ended on 31st December 2012. The call was designated for regional individual projects and supported a total of 11 projects in the total amount of 236 845 920 CZK. The total allocation was increased during 2012 based on the interest of the applicants. For 2013 another such call is expected with the allocation estimated to be 50 million CZK. The objective of the call is the direct support of socially excluded Roma communities, which have limited access to the labour market.

Regional individual ESF projects are also executed by the regional branches of the Labour Authority, which aim mainly at groups of hard-to-employ job applicants, which were



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explicitly listed in the Act on Employment; most of the participants were long-term unemployed. The aim of these projects is to prepare the job applicants for current and expected job vacancies and to support such jobs at the employer who provides them. The Roma applicants receive support while increasing motivation, qualification and during the subsequent job search. In 2012 these projects had 1 460 Roma applicants.

II. European Regional Development Fund

Another applied tool of the Roma integration using the resources of the European Regional Development Fund is the implementation of the activity 3.1 b) focused on investment support of availability of such services, which enable the return of the members of the most endangered socially excluded Roma localities back to the labour market and society. For such projects the call No. 3 OI 3.1 IOP was declared on 30th September 2009 with a continuous influx of projects, which ran until its end on 28th February 2011. Within the call No. 3 OI 3.1 9 projects were successfully completed in the total amount of 64 135 133 CZK and three projects remain operational in the amount of 36 246 365 CZK.

On 31st May 2011 a new continual **call No. 6 OI 3.1** has been declared within the above mentioned activity. The projects can be submitted at any time from the declaration until 6th June 2013, when the call is planned to end. The allocated amount is 260 433 287 CZK. By the end of 2012 there were 29 projects submitted within the call with the total required amount of 362 827 654 CZK. Of all these projects there are currently 15 being implemented in the total amount of 91 631 353 CZK.

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

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

Czech legislation has stipulated the basic framework for the fight against discrimination against on the basis of different gender, racial or ethnic origin, faith or world view, health status, age or sexual orientation, both from a general point of view, and where employment, the exercise of work including specialist training and working conditions and invoking the right to employment are concerned. The most important Acts whose provisions forbid unequal treatment or discrimination are:

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



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

One of the examples of best practice in the Czech Republic is the project from the IQ Roma service organisation, entitled *Ethnic Friendly Employer*. Since 2007 Roma Servis has awarded the title Ethnic Friendly Employer to employers who espouse the principle of equal treatment and do not discriminate in their work against job applicants and employees because of their ethnic origin and nationality. The organisation's clients and others (not only) of Roma origin thus obtain a clear signal that they should not give up on looking for work because of refusals due to their origins, because here there are employers who will give them the same opportunity as everyone else¹. The project continues in 2007 - 2013 and is co-financed from the ESF.

- *Use of active labor market measures for improving the situation of Roma in the labor market and evaluation of the effectiveness of these programs (participation in re-qualification courses, public work programs, etc),*

The MLSA conducts an annual survey at the regional branches of the Labour Authority and uses educated guess to determine the participation of Roma applicants in the active employment policy and their success rate at the labour market. In 2012 13 out of 14 regional branches participated in this survey. Data are presented in shares and can be perceived as representative as 93.7% of the branches participated in the survey.

These branches state that in 2012 there were a total 47 854 Roma applicants. This means that there has been a significant increase compared to the previous year (in 2011 there were 38 456 Roma applicants). The men had a slight majority (52%) over the women (48%).

Table No. 7 Estimated number of Roma job applicants registered at the Labour Authority in 2012

Data for CZ	Total Roma	Men	Women
Total	47 854	22 875	24 979
%	100	47,8	52,2

In 2012 15 % of all Roma job applicants (7 127 persons) were placed in the APE tools and 3% (1 460 persons) into ESF employment support programmes. More than 36% of them concluded an individual action plan (IAP), which are normally offered to applicants with registration length of more than 5 months, which proves, that the Roma applicants more often face long-term unemployment. Within the IAP job offers are arranged for the Roma and they are provided improved care during their job search.

¹ For more information, see www.ethnic-friendly.eu

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In 2012 the Roma applicants who were placed into the AEP used mostly the counselling programmes (29%), followed by community service (26%), requalification (9%), other AEP tools (9%), social purpose jobs (3%) and the least used were requalification programmes aimed at entrepreneurship (0.2%). The number of requalification courses, where the graduates would have a guaranteed job, was regrettably limited. Also due to this a number of Roma, who complete their requalification courses, won't find employment.

Table No. 8 Participation of Roma applicants in community service and social purpose jobs

AEP tools	Community service			Social purpose jobs			Total		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
	1 643	1 045	598	233	136	97	1 876	1 181	695
%	100	63,6	36,4	100	58,4	41,6	100	63	37

Table No. 9 Participation of Roma applicants in requalification programmes and other AEP tools

AEP tools	Requalification			Other active employment policy tools			Total		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Total	643	378	265	628	352	276	1 271	730	541
%	100	58,8	41,2	100	56	44	100	57,4	42,6

Table No. 10 Participation of Roma applicants in counselling programmes

Participation in counselling programmes	Total	Men	Women
	2 096	1 188	908
%	100	56,7	43,3

Table No.11 Estimated number of registered Roma community members placed into requalification focusing on entrepreneurship

Participation in requalification programmes focusing on entrepreneurship	Total	Men	Women
	17	10	7
%	100	58,8	41,2

Table No.12 Estimated number of Roma job applicants with whom an Individual Action Plan has been concluded in 2012

Number of Roma with individual action plan	Total	Men	Women
Total	16 985	8 621	8 364
%	100	50,8	49,2

The MLSA survey shows that of all the Roma applicants 11.4% succeeded in finding a job.

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

No study was undertaken at national level in 2012, on the basis of which the requested data might be provided. In general one can say that the active employment policy programmes and specific projects to support Roma employment all increase their employability. But they unfortunately, even with a certificate from a requalification course



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

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

No study was undertaken at national level in 2012, on the basis of which the requested data might be provided. From the data provided by regional coordinators for Roma affairs one state rather than no reduction has occurred in the level of long-term Roma unemployment. The most alarming position is indeed that of those Roma who live in excluded localities in the countryside.

The MLSA survey showed that only 11.4% of the Roma applicants successfully found a job. In comparison to 2011 there has been a decrease on the success rate of Roma applicants at the labour market (17% in 2011). The Roma men were more successful (7.4%) than women (4%).

It is estimated that 57.7% of the successful Roma applicants found employment at the primary labour market, which is characterized by more advantageous and stable employment opportunities and possibilities of career growth, better working conditions and higher protection against layoffs. 43% of the applicants found employment at the secondary market. The secondary labour market offers jobs with lower prestige. These are mostly low-qualified jobs with lesser pay in worse working conditions. This market also has a higher risk of job loss and higher worker fluctuation.

Table No. 13 Success rate of the Roma job applicants at the labour market

Labour market	Primary labour market			Secondary labour market			Total		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Total	2 063	1 080	3 143	1 481	844	2 325	3544	1924	5 468
%	65,6	34,4	100	63,7	36,3	100	64,8	35,2	100



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4. HOUSING

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

In 2012 there have been no new policies or programmes related to the Roma. Measures for the improvement of the housing situation of the Roma are included in the following documents:

- 1) *Concept of Roma Integration 2010–2013;*
- 2) *Action Plan of the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005–2015;*
- 3) *Principles of the Long-term Concept of Roma Integration up to 2025;*
- 4) *Strategy to Combat Social Exclusion 2011–2015.*

The key department for the field of housing policy in the Czech Republic is the Ministry for Local Development (MLD), which creates national concepts of the housing policy, spatial development and construction affairs. It also manages the finances for the housing policy and coordinates the activities of ministries and other central authorities related to the housing policy, including the coordination of funding in this area. It also fulfils the tasks of the Action Plan of the Decade related to housing, in cooperation with the MLSA and the Office of the Government.

Currently the basic document for the housing policy is the Concept of Housing Policy 2020, which sets several tasks with direct relation to the increase in the availability of housing to persons endangered by social exclusion (responsibility for these tasks is shared by the MLD and MLSA). The tasks are listed below:

- Analysis of the current legislative environment in the field of care for socially endangered groups of people with a higher availability threshold for quality housing and proposals for changes in order to increase the throughput of support in this area (especially for NGOs);
- Define a special tool in the Act on Social Work, which will solve the problem of housing for people endangered by the loss of housing and homeless people;
- Analysis and possible revision of social benefits related to housing, analysis of possible transfers of financial resources designated for housing supplements and benefits and embedment of a complex competency of municipalities regarding housing issues;
- Proposal of a complex solution of social housing with the use of the “housing shortage” institute. This will include a definition of a social situation or event, in which the entitled persons find themselves, in relation to an unsatisfied need for housing. The institute will include a draft regulation of “persons in housing shortage” and tools will be created for prevention and solution of the entitled persons’ housing situation.

In 2012 several analytical studies were created, which focused on the mapping of the current housing environment (legislative, financial and legal) and to determine the needs of



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vulnerable population groups with a more difficult access to housing. The Roma were perceived as excluded persons in these studies. One of these analyses was the study “*Social Dormitories as Long-Term Housing for the Socially Weak*”. Another was the “*Analysis of the Current Legislative Environment in the Field of Care for Socially Endangered Groups of People with Higher Availability Threshold for Quality Housing*”. These studies serve in 2013 as foundations for the creation of a complex proposal of social housing with the use of the “housing shortage” institute. In April 2013 the MLD submitted for broader discussion proposals of legislative changes aimed at the creation of a social housing system in the Czech Republic.

Another task set by the Housing Concept is the inclusion of housing support among the interventions within the preparation of development priorities of the Czech Republic for the next programme period 2014-2020. In 2012 there has been an intense discussion at the MLD about the use of this support to eliminate socially excluded localities and improve the housing situation of their inhabitants and other groups of people with difficult access to housing.

- *What are the outcomes of the policies or programs that your government implemented in 2012?*

The influence and impact of the measures and policies are very difficult to evaluate at this stage as many of the measures are currently being prepared and haven't been implemented yet. The results of these policies and programmes aren't purposely measured and evaluated in relation to the Roma.

It is possible to negatively assess the delay in the fulfilment of the measures of the Concept of Housing 2020, which should have led to a complex solution of social housing with the use of the “housing shortage” institute. There is a lack of success in making social housing more available by using the state budget subsidy, which is low and unavailable for a number of applicants, as there is a condition of financial participation, which is regrettably high.

- *Please describe how these policies and programs impact the Decade cross-cutting issues. In particular, how did they promote gender equality, combating discrimination and reducing poverty?*

The influence and impact of the measures and policies are very difficult to evaluate at this stage as many of the measures are currently being prepared and haven't been implemented yet. The results of these policies and programmes aren't purposely measured and evaluated in relation to the Roma.

It is possible to negatively assess the delay in the fulfilment of the measures of the Concept of Housing 2020, which should have led to a complex solution of social housing with the use of the “housing shortage” institute. There is a lack of success in making social housing more available by using the state budget subsidy, which is low and unavailable for a number of applicants, as there is a condition of financial participation, which is regrettably high.



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- *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 goal to be reached, and the indicative number and share of Roma beneficiaries.*

I. ERDF

The MLD as the managing authority of the Integrated Operational Programme implements several measures, which help with the integration of excluded Roma communities. This programme includes many intervention areas, whereas priority 5.2 c) is targeted at the problematic zones² in towns with more than 20 thousand inhabitants with the aim to help prevent social exclusion of their inhabitants.

The condition for receiving financial support was to prepare an Integrated Plan of Town Development (IPTD), including a set of action interconnected in time (projects or integrated projects) aimed at social inclusion of excluded inhabitants. The minimum amount of finances for IPRM in towns with more than 50 000 inhabitants has been set to 3 million EUR; the minimum amount for IPRM in towns with 20-50 000 inhabitants has been set to 2 million EUR. Support in this field is provided for three types of activities:

- 5.2a) Revitalization of public spaces;
- 5.2b) Regeneration of apartment houses;
- 5.2c) Pilot projects aimed at solving Roma communities endangered by social exclusion

II. Housing subsidy from the state budget

The MLD provides annual subsidies for construction of social flats within the programme *Support of the Construction of Subsidized Flats*, which sets conditions for subsidies for the construction of supported flats designated for housing of persons with special housing needs.

The table shows the number of flats, the construction of which was subsidized in 2012 from the MLD budget chapter, subprogram Support of the Construction of Subsidized Flats:

Tab. No. 14

Subsidy		Number of flats where construction started in 2012	Total funding for flats under construction in million CZK
Supported flats	Total	459	257, 359
	Nursing flats	280	161, 694
	Entry flats	179	95, 665

Information about the use of entry flats by Roma households isn't registered by the Ministry.

² A problematic housing development is a compact part of the municipality built-up with apartment houses; this housing development must have at least 500 apartments.



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Another subsidy is the Programme of Rural Support, within which a subprogram *Support of the Participation of the Roma Community in the Life of the Municipality* and Society has been created. In 2012 its activities were supported by an amount of 896 000 CZK.

The MLD also supports *NGOs providing legal counsel in the field of housing*. In 2012 it supported 9 organizations with 7 900 000 CZK.

Activities to support the socially excluded Roma in the field of housing are also supported by the Office of the Government within its subsidy programmes *Prevention of Social Exclusion and Support of Community Work* and *Support of Field Work*. Finances from these programmes are used to fund soft programmes – social services provided to Roma households, whose housing need is endangered. Social work focuses on support while searching for and maintaining housing.

The programme Support of Field Work is aimed at municipalities, which have excluded Roma localities or communities in their territory, In 2012 40 municipalities were supported by a total of 9 972 088 CZK.

The programme Prevention of Social Exclusion and Community Work is designated for NGOs to execute non-investment projects, which provide support and aid to members of the Roma communities and inhabitants of the excluded localities with the aim to prevent social exclusion and remove its effects. In 2012 31 projects were supported by a total amount of 10 055 000 CZK.

Social services focusing on solving housing shortage or getting and maintaining housing are also funded from MLSA grants. The subsidy programme is designated for social services for socially excluded persons. The tool most frequently used by Roma households in relation to housing shortage were asylum houses, which were supported by the MLSA by a total amount of 294 000 000 CZK in 2012.

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?*

There has been no survey conducted at the national level, which would enable to determine the number of Roma beneficiaries, who used the programmes of revitalization of excluded localities and infrastructural development..

- *Number of Roma affected by urban social restoration programs*

The towns focused on the solution of the unfavourable housing situation via the Integrated Plans of Town Development. Towns with more than 20 000 inhabitants could draw funds from the ESF for the execution of these Plans.



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A total of 6 towns applied for the pilot projects and 14 other towns participated in the revitalization of excluded localities and implementation of social programmes funded from the ERDF within the IOP 5.2a and 5.2b. It is impossible to determine how many of beneficiaries, living in the excluded localities, were Roma.

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

There has been no survey conducted at the national level, which would provide the requested information.

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

Listed below is the information about housing ownership structure in relation to the Roma, which is based on the data from the survey “*The situation of Roma in 11 EU Member States*”, which was conducted in 2012 by the World Bank, FRA and UNDP.

Tab. No. 15

	Roma	Non-Roma
Dwelling ownership**		
Own household or family	13%	39%
Private ownership (not family)	21%	21%
Municipality	58%	32%
Unknown ownership	2%	0%
Other	6%	8%

- *Number of Roma affected by evictions*

There has been no survey conducted at the national level, which would provide the requested information. The most endangered group are naturally the low-income Roma households, which aren't able to pay the housing costs, which are increasing due to the on-going rent deregulation.

Another problem is that a specific segment has been created in the Czech housing market, which in a way compensates the lower availability of rental housing for poor Roma households and the absence of social forms of housing. The landlords in this segment are willing to offer housing to Roma families for prices, which are multiple times higher than the usual rent. The people living in these flats pay high prices for low-quality housing even though they could get standard housing for these prices under different circumstances. A large part of the exceedingly high payments is being paid from the welfare benefits for housing, which causes significant losses for the public budgets. The landlords in this segment are basically parasites who capitalize on poor households endangered by loss of housing and on the welfare benefit system.



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- *Number of Roma included in social housing programs*

These data aren't purposely gathered in relation to the Roma and therefore it isn't possible to provide the requested information for 2012.

The members of the Government Council for Roma Community Affairs therefore appealed to the representatives of the MLD at the Council meeting in 2013 that the department should begin research activities aimed at the access of the Roma to housing.

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

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



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5. HEALTH

- *Please list the policies and programs 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)*

No new measures for the improvement of the situation of the Roma have been implemented in 2012. This field is the focus of the national strategies:

- 1) *Concept of Roma Integration 2010–2013;*
- 2) *Action Plan of the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005–2015;*
- 3) *Principles of the Long-term Concept of Roma Integration up to 2025;*
- 4) *Strategy to Combat Social Exclusion 2011–2015.*

The key resort for the field of healthcare policies is the Ministry of Health (MH), which also oversees the fulfilment of the tasks listed in the Action Plan of the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015.

The long-term vision to improve the health condition of the Czech citizens is elaborated in the government document *Long-term Programme for Improving the Health of Czech Citizens Health for All in the 21st Century*. This document includes a large set of activities aimed at the gradual improvement of all indicators of the population's health. Socially excluded groups are the focus of the 2nd Objective of the document – *Fairness in Health*, which states that by 2020 the differences in health between socio-economic groups will decrease by ¼ of the improvement of the level of deprived population groups.

The Czech Republic is long criticized for the sterilizations performed in conflict with the law. A large share of the women, who faced this illegal action, was of Roma ethnicity. The Government Council for Human Rights, which is an advisory body to the government and is led by the Commissioner for Human Rights Mgr. Monika Šimůnková, looked into the possibility of *establishing a mechanism for compensation of the illegally sterilised women*. On 20th February 2012 this Council approved the motion to provide compensation. The document is currently being prepared for the government meeting. Also the Act on Specific Health Services entered into force in 2012, which deals with the issue of sterilization in a comprehensive manner.

There are also other educational programmes being executed in the Czech Republic, which focus on medical staff and their aim is to prepare them for work with patients from a different socio-cultural background (i.e. not only members of ethnic minorities, but foreigners as well). These courses are offered to medical staff by accredited medical facilities, which focus on ensuring professional and specialized capability for performing the profession of a doctor, dentist and pharmacist. An example of this is the course “Basics of Medical Ethics, Communication, Management and Legislative”, which includes these topics. The non-doctor medical staff is educated within the post gradual education in specialization programmes, which consist of a basic and expert module. The preparation for work with patients from different socio-cultural environments is a part of the subjects “Specialist’s



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Interpersonal Skills” and “Education”, which includes among others also the relationship between medical staff and patients from a socially excluded environment.

- **Specific programme Health and Social Aid**

The Czech Republic is aware of the practical problems of the Roma in their access to healthcare. The Support of the Roma in this field is provided via Roma counsellors operating at the level of municipalities with extended competences, through field workers or social workers of the NGOs.

The programme “Medical and Social Aid” is running in the Czech Republic since 2006. It was launched within the pilot project “*SASTIPEN CZ – Medical and Social Assistants in Excluded Localities*”. The focus of this service shifted since the time of the pilot project from altering the attitudes towards health and related public services to the support of users in overcoming barriers and systemic disadvantages, which they have to face when using these services. This change has been caused by the discovery that ethnicity is a strong source of unequal and prejudicial actions within public services related to health and that the strengthening of motivation alone doesn’t ensure standard opportunities to use these services.

- *What are the outcomes of the initiatives (policy, program, activity) that your government implemented in 2012?*

The motion to provide compensation of illegally sterilized women should provide compensation to women, who were sterilized between 1972 and 1991 and who therefore have a rightful claim for financial compensation according to the law valid at that time. Compensation should also be provided to women who didn’t have a reasonable opportunity to demand compensation at the court due to the lapse of the three-year limitation period for filing an action for the protection of personal rights. The motion includes proposed tasks for departments leading to the revision of the three-year limitation period, establishment of a compensation mechanism, preservation of the medical records related to sterilizations since 1971, creation of a recommended procedure for performing sterilization including the indication for sterilization, creation and publishing of an analysis of the possibilities the women have to receive compensation.

The Act on Specific Health Services improves the legal protection of those, who should undergo this procedure. Sterilization can be performed only based on a free and informed consent of the patient. The patient must be informed about the nature of the procedure, its permanent effects and possible risks and reparability.

The educational programmes improved the readiness of medical staff to provide medical care to Roma patients.

The results in localities, where the specific programmes were conducted, are positive and aim towards prevention, easier treatment of illnesses and solution of other accompanying problems related to healthcare (unequal access to medical care, health insurance debts etc.). The problem lies in the fact that the specific programmes and the general attention to the health situation of the Roma varies at the regional level. In a number



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of regions this issue isn't given enough attention. One of the reasons is that the specific programmes in the Czech Republic aren't legally or financially embedded and have an interdepartmental character and are therefore demanding regarding the multidisciplinary cooperation from various departments and fields. These are barriers that hinder a nationwide spread of programmes and policies aimed at the improvement of the health situation of the Roma.

- *Please describe how these policies and programs impact the Decade cross-cutting issues. In particular, how did they promote gender equality, combating discrimination and reducing poverty?*

The knowledge and orientation of the Roma in dealing with social and health problems have improved. The health insurance companies were notified about the discriminatory practices of some medical personnel, who refused to register Roma patients. This way the equal access of the Roma to healthcare was promoted. The early solution of health insurance debts will contribute to not increasing the poverty of the Roma due to the growing debts. Measures aimed at the issue of sterilization will decrease the likelihood that Roma women will have to face illegal actions from medical staff.

- *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.*

In 2012 there have been 7 health and social assistants in 3 of the 14 regions of the Czech Republic, which is an insufficient number regarding the need for this programme and it would be beneficial to increase their number.

Table No. 16 Programme Health and Social Aid 2012

Localities covered by the service	
Region	Number of assistants
Olomoucký (localities Javornicko, Jeseník and Olomouc)	2
Jihomoravský (Brno)	2
Moravskoslezský (localities Bruntál, Karviná)	3
Total	7

The workers usually receive time-limited contracts and further education and supervision is provided by their employers.

The Drom organization, which runs a long-term Health and Social Aid programme, had the following results for 2012. In 2012 each assistant provided service to 70 users on average, in total it was 420 users, 70% of whom were women. The assistants worked with these users on 802 long-term actions. The breakdown of these actions is provided in the following table.

Table No. 17 Statistics of health and Social Assistants for 2012

Number and share of actions in individual localities
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Action type	Number of actions for all localities		Share of successful actions for all localities
	Number	Share	
Integration into the social care system	219	27%	78%
Registration at the doctor	144	18%	72%
Diagnostics	112	14%	83%
Treatment of illness	107	13%	73%
Insurance ID	56	7%	91%
Improvement of prevention	48	6%	79%
Health insurance debts	42	5%	83%
other	40	5%	83%
Change of health insurance company	10	1,2%	60%
Healthier lifestyle	9	1,1%	89%
Inoculation	6	0,7%	100%
Family planning	4	0,5%	50%
Improvement of hygienic conditions	3	0,4%	100%
Reduction of addictive substances	2	0,2%	50%
total	802	100%	79%

The largest share of the actions (27%) were “integrations into the social care system”, which focus on ensuring benefits for people with health disadvantages, such as compensation or prosthetic tools, welfare benefits for handicapped persons etc.

The assistants performed a total of 6 137 interventions while working on these actions. In December 2012 a survey was conducted aimed at the evaluation of the quality of the Health and Social Aid service by users and cooperating institutions. The survey was conducted via a questionnaire, which was given to 100 randomly chosen users and 27 representatives of cooperating institutions (doctors, municipal authorities and the Labour Authority).

The survey results show that the users subjectively perceive that the service has a positive effect on their situation, with 76% of users claimed that it caused at least a partial change. 64% of the users also declared that they learned something new during their cooperation with the assistant, which they can use in their daily life and 32% believe that in the future they will be able to solve such situation independently.

85% of the users were interested in further provision of this service and 62% of them provided a specific action, which they would like to solve. 49% of the users believe that in case that the service ceases to be provided they would have nowhere to turn to with their health problems.

91% of the users are happy with the way the service is provided in their natural environment. 61% of the users are happy with the intensity of the contact with the assistant and 38% would welcome an even more intensive cooperation. All users commend the way of communication with the assistant.

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

The Health and Social Aid programme is primarily financed from the grants provided by MLSA, which allocates grants to providers of registered social services. Similar support is provided to other counselling programmes aimed at this area. Listed below is the amount of subsidy for social services, within which the most frequently provided are services with health and social focus. However, it isn't possible to accurately determine the amount of the finances that go to Roma beneficiaries.

Tab. No. 18

Expert social counselling (19)	5 530 000
Field programmes (78)	39 477 666
Total	45.007.666

In some regions (e.g. the Olomouc region) the availability of the Health and Social Aid programme has been ensured also via the support from ESF (Operational Programme Human Resources and Employment).

Educational activities aimed at the healthy lifestyle, prevention of illnesses and risky behaviour are also supported from the grants of the Ministry of Health. Namely these are:

- National Health Programme – projects supporting health, with the priority to support healthy diet, physical activities and prevent of the consumption of alcohol and tobacco products;
- National Program for Solving the HIV/AIDS Issue, with the priority being to ensure free anonymous testing for HIV and targeted education, especially in minority groups and groups with risky behaviour patterns
- Programme of Care for Children and Youth, with the priority to improve their health;
- Crime Prevention – its priority is to support social aspects of health including the prevention of violence against children.

Please provide information about the following fields in 2012:

- *Number of Roma covered by the national health insurance system*

According to the estimates ca. 2% of the Roma don't have health insurance. Health insurance is compulsory in the Czech Republic; it is partially covered by the employee from his wage and partially by the employer. Unemployed persons have their insurance paid by the state. However, it is important that the unemployed are registered at the Labour Authority. If they are excluded from the Labour Authority registry due to their failure to fulfil the obligations of job applicants, then they have to pay their health insurance themselves. One of the problems related to the Roma is that they don't pay insurance after being excluded from the register and thus they accumulate debts.



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- ***Number of fully immunized Roma children***

The share of immunized Roma children is slightly lower (95%) than in the case of other children (98%); however the results in the Czech Republic remain very good in international comparison. Some of the immunizations in the Czech Republic are compulsory and covered by the health insurance. If the parents fail to arrange the immunization, the medical personnel turn to the employees of the body for social and legal protection of children to investigate the situation at the child's home. Education is very important in this regard and the programme of Health and Social Aid proved to be efficient in this matter.

- ***Rate of infant and maternal mortality among the Roma population compared to the population as a whole***

There has been no survey conducted at the national level, which would provide accurate information. In general the children born in the population of socially excluded Roma have lesser birth weight in comparison to the non-Roma population. The care for new born children and infants and children in general is well-developed in the Czech Republic. Children must attend compulsory medical check-ups, which are covered from the health insurance. The problem is that the excluded parents neglect prevention. In this regard the programme Health and Social Aid and the work of the field workers have proved to be positive factors.

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

There has been no survey conducted at the national level, which would provide the requested information. In international comparison the situation in the Czech Republic is good. The access of Roma women to obstetric care has been evaluated positively – 90% of Roma women gave birth in hospital (97% of non-Roma women), 7% gave birth outside of the birth centre with the assistance of medical staff (non-Roma 2%) and 3% gave birth at home without assistance (1% of the non-Roma). The problem lies with Roma women who are neglecting prevention; these women don't use the possibility of preventive check-ups covered by health insurance.

- ***Roma life expectancy***

There has been no survey conducted at the national level in 2012, which would provide the accurate information about the Roma life expectancy. Educated guesses of experts state that the life expectancy of socially excluded Roma is 10-15 shorter in comparison to the majority population (73.34 years for men/ 79.7 for women). The low socio-economic status of the Roma is related to a worse health condition. The group of socially excluded Roma shows a higher occurrence of chronic diseases.