



## PROGRESS REPORT 2013

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

*Please provide any updated data, including where possible disaggregated data (by age, sex, etc.), collected in 2013, concerning:*

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

According to the Census in 2011<sup>1</sup> there were 16,975 Roma in Croatia (0.40% of total population). At the same time 14,369 (0.34% of total population) persons are registered as having Romani as their mother tongue. While the average age of general population is 41, average age of Roma population in Croatia is 21.9<sup>2</sup>.

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

There is no update to data available in 2013. The last EU-SILC data produced by the Croatian Bureau of Statistics<sup>3</sup> notes 32.3 % of population at risk of poverty (less than 60 % of median income) in 2012, but without ethnically disaggregated data. At risk of poverty rare after social transfer in 2012 was 20.5 %, while material deprivation rate, as the most common result of living in poverty and at risk of poverty is also well above the EU-27 average. In 2012 the rate of severe material deprivation in Croatia was 15.4 % in comparison to 8.8 % registered in EU-27.<sup>4</sup>

UNDP survey suggests that 92.31 % Roma has income less than 60 % of the median, as opposed to 41.96 % non-Roma living in their vicinity. A World Bank criterion of absolute poverty rate (income of less than 2.15 USD/day) is met by 1.85 % Roma and 1.26 % non-Roma in their vicinity. Furthermore, when it comes to absolute poverty, where household income stands below the defined poverty line of HRK 25 (4.30 USD/day) per day, the survey showed that this group included 8.9% of the Roma households compared to 5.47% of non-Roma households. The material deprivation index suggested that 86.35% of the Roma were materially deprived as compared to 41.59% of the non-Roma population, with 66.01% of the Roma and 22.24% of non-Roma living in extreme material deprivation.<sup>5</sup>

It is estimated that 76% of Roma and 20% non-Roma who live near the Roma settlements are living in poverty. In addition, their poverty is often deep and permanent, affecting almost all aspects of life, including housing, education, health, employment.<sup>6</sup>

### 1. INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT AND FUNDING FOR ROMA INCLUSION

- *Please describe (if any) changes in 2013 in the participation of Roma in decision-making processes/arrangements and public administration structures.*

<sup>1</sup> See <http://www.dzs.hr/Hrv/censuses/census2011/results/censustabsh.htm>

<sup>2</sup> See Annex 1 for a detailed statistics on the basis of Census 2011.

<sup>3</sup> See [http://www.dzs.hr/Hrv\\_Eng/publication/2013/14-01-02\\_01\\_2013.htm](http://www.dzs.hr/Hrv_Eng/publication/2013/14-01-02_01_2013.htm)

<sup>4</sup> See also Draft Partnership Agreement, submitted to the EC on April 22, 2014.

<http://www.mrrfeu.hr/default.aspx?id=3020>

<sup>5</sup> See [http://issuu.com/undp\\_in\\_europe\\_cis/docs/integrated\\_roma.web\\_1\\_](http://issuu.com/undp_in_europe_cis/docs/integrated_roma.web_1_)

<sup>6</sup> Bejaković, Predrag, Vodič za socijalnu uključenost, Institut za javne financije, 2009.



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- *Please describe how and to what extent you have been cooperating with Roma civil society organizations, including the Decade Focal Point in your country, regarding the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of your Decade Action Plan or National Roma Integration Strategy.*

Key participation structure ensuring involvement of Roma national minority in the decision making process remained the same, and the following were most important developments in 2013.

As regards Roma participation in representative and executive bodies of local and regional self-governments, following local elections in May 2013, Roma were entitled to elect 13 persons to representative bodies (municipal councils). However, in 4 municipalities Roma representatives were not elected and the Government organised byelections in September 2013, but a single representative has been elected (Podturen), while in three municipalities (Kotoriba, Peteranec and Petrijanec) there were no candidates and therefore elections were not held. For the first time in 2 municipalities Roma population has reached the threshold entitling them to elect deputy mayors and both were elected (municipalities of Orehovica and Pribislavec). Participation of Roma women remains low.

Following elections for councils of Roma national minority (CNMs) and individual representatives (IRs) as advisory bodies to local self-governments on local and regional level in 2011, 17 Roma CNMs and 11 IRs were elected. According to the incomplete data available to MoPA<sup>7</sup>, local and regional CNMs and IRs were funded with almost 20 MHRK (2.65 MEUR). Though the report does not disaggregate according to ethnicity and it is not known at the moment how much of these funds reached Roma CNMs and IRs, some local reports do mention funds provided. Examples of support provided to local Roma CNMs in reports from the local level are Pula (38,000 HRK), Sisak (9,500 HRK), Rijeka (50,459.17 HRK), and Zagreb (854,539.32 HRK). Since their work is mostly dependent on the funds provided by their respective regional/local self-governments, councils and representatives in underdeveloped municipalities are usually in a particularly difficult financial position. Therefore, the Government of RoC again in 2013 directly financed work of CNMs and IRs in underdeveloped local/regional self-government units, according to their development index. Support of 3,700 HRK (500 EUR) each was thus provided to 2 Roma CNMs and 1,200 HRK (160 EUR) each to 2 IRs.

Roma were also targeted through other activities addressing all national minorities in Croatia: GOHRRNM, in the framework of the implementation of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities (CARNM), organised, with the support of the National Council for National Minorities (NCNM), three seminars on the role and enhancement of the work of councils and representatives of national minorities, including one in Međimurje, the county with the largest number of Roma minority. The seminars covered topics such as present role and work of councils and representatives of national minorities, problems encountered by councils and best practice examples in the work of councils. Special focus was put on strengthening the role of councils and representatives and fostering better coordination with representatives of local/regional self-government units.

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<sup>7</sup> Several counties have not provided any data on financing CNMs and IRs.



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In April 2013, Government has adopted Action Plan 2013-2015, accompanying the National Roma Inclusion Strategy 2013 – 2020. National Roma Inclusion Strategy 2013 – 2020<sup>8</sup> and the Action plan for the Implementation of the National Strategy for Roma Inclusion for Period 2013-2015<sup>9</sup>, replaced the National Program for Roma adopted in 2003, and the Action Plan of the Decade for Roma Inclusion 2005-2015 adopted in 2005.

AP follows the structure of NRIS and has the following chapters:

- 1. Education
- 2. Employment and inclusion in economic life
- 3. Health-care
- 4. Social welfare
- 5. Physical planning, housing and environmental protection
- 6. Inclusion in social and cultural life, associations
- 7. Status solutions, prevention of discrimination and assistance in the exercise of rights.

In order to monitor the implementation of all operational components of the National Roma Inclusion Strategy 2013 – 2020, the Croatian Government set up the Commission for Monitoring of the Implementation of the National Roma Inclusion Strategy 2013 – 2020. The tasks of the Monitoring Commission include systematic monitoring and coordination of the implementation of the NRIS, proposing measures for the advancement of the NRIS and preparing recommendations, opinions, and reports related to the NRIS implementation. Following local elections in May 2013 and constitution of local and regional self-governments, the Commission was appointed in October 2013. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Social Policy and Youth, Ms Milanka Opačić has been appointed the President of the Monitoring Commission and the Coordinator for Decade for Roma Inclusion, and Mr. Veljko Kajtazi, a representative of the Roma national minority (and 11 other minorities) in Croatian Parliament was appointed Vice-president of the Monitoring Commission. Other members are seven representatives, usually of the rank of Assistant Ministers, from key line ministries (Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds (MRDEUF), Ministry of Social Policy and Youth (MoSPY), Ministry of Construction and Physical Planning (MoCPP), Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Science, Education and Sport (MoSES), Ministry of Labour and Pension System (MoLPS), Government Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities (GOHRRNM)) as well as seven representatives of Roma national minority.

Ombudsman report for 2013 notes that the studies about social situation of the Roma in Croatia largely correspond to the position of the Roma in Europe, with the exception of some of the most terrifying violent forms of racism, which are not encountered in Croatia. Report also notes that Ombudsman

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<sup>8</sup> Strategy adopted by the Government in November 2012  
<http://www.uljppnm.vlada.hr/images/nacionalna%20strategija%20za%20ukljucivanje%20roma%20za%20razdoblje%20od%202013-2020.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> The Action Plan has been adopted by the Government in April 2013:  
<http://www.uljppnm.vlada.hr/images/akcijski%20plan%20za%20provedbu%20nsur%20za%20razdoblje%2013-2015.pdf>



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office is probably not receiving complaints on discrimination from Roma, which can perhaps be attributed to the social exclusion of the Roma. Ombudsman also gave several recommendations which are related to: enhancement of involvement of the representatives and the councils of Roma national minority in the policy-making process and planning at the local level (units of local and regional self-government). The further strengthening and support to civil society organizations, as significant partners, is also important.

GOHRRNM has maintained regular contacts with the representatives of the Decade Focal Point, as well as with other Roma representatives and NGOs. The cooperation has not been limited to the NRIS and its implementation, but also to the issues such as the Decade Presidency (Roma National Council organised a conference on Roma historical experience, and antidiscrimination) and the discussion on the future of the Decade), and cooperation with international organisations and projects (e.g. MB IPA 2010 'Best Practices for Roma Integration').

It is also important to note developments on local level: several counties have revised or adopted their own Action Plans for Roma Inclusion (Zagreb, Varaždin, Međimurje, Osijek-Baranja), and particularly important in this respect is work of UNDP in Međimurje and Sisak-Moslavina County through MtM funded grant.

- *Please describe briefly the process of monitoring and evaluation of policies targeted towards Roma. How do you measure the impact of these policies (through field visits, surveys, independent evaluations etc.)?*

There are a few studies measuring the impact of relevant policies. Furthermore, many types of relevant data are still missing, and it is expected that evaluations and detailed analysis will be available from 2015 onward.

- *What is the total amount and percentage of the 2013 national budget dedicated to the implementation of the Decade Action Plan or National Roma Integration Strategy in your country?*

For implementation of the National Roma Inclusion Strategy 2013 – 2020 (and related Action Plan) financing is envisaged from the State budget, from the budget of local/regional authorities as well as from international and EU funds.

In the State Budget of the Republic of Croatia for the implementation of the Action Plan for the implementation of the National Roma Inclusion Strategy for the period 2013 – 2015 central authorities planned funds within the prescribed limits of the economic and fiscal policy for the three-year period, amounting to 45,942,870.00 HRK (6,069,071 EUR), broken down as follows: 14,999,530.00 HRK (1,981,500 EUR) for 2013, 15,330,829.00 HRK (2,025,220 EUR) for 2014, and 15,612,511.00 HRK (2,062,450 EUR) for 2015.

Data on usage of EU funds and other sources is not readily available, but the full operation of the MIS system should make available relevant information from 2014 onward. In the meantime, the best



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overview is provided by the PGF Croatia, which became operational in Croatia. Some details are available in respective chapters of this report.

As regards future usage of EU funds, Roma are explicitly mentioned in draft documents related to the programming 2014-2020, e.g. Partnership Agreement, Operational Programmes, Strategy on Fighting Poverty and Social Exclusion, National Strategy for Children Rights and others.

On October 4<sup>th</sup> 2013 in Zagreb Centre for Peace, Legal Advice and Psychosocial Assistance-Vukovar, which is implementing PGF program in Croatia, in cooperation with the Roma National Council and GOHRRNM, organized a conference promoting appropriate involvement of Roma issues in the operational programs 2014-2020 for cohesion and structural funds in the Republic of Croatia. Result of the conference was document Use of EU Funds for Roma in Croatia: Lessons Learned and Perspectives for the Period 2014-2020.<sup>10</sup>

Both PGF Croatia surveys and data provided by the Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs are indicating continuous weaknesses of Roma civil society in this respect. Thus, GOfNGOs notes that only 5 Roma NGOs applied and actually only 1 registered as attending (among more than 200 participants) INFO days held in January 2013 on all tenders financed from the state budget and lottery. At workshops for potential applicants to EU IPA and Europe for Citizens calls for proposals within GofNGOs portfolio not a single Roma NGO participated.

The data on projects and funds provided to NGOs from the state budget and lottery will be available in June 2014. However, the report also notes funding (including national contribution of 19,263.28 EUR) of an IPA 2008 project strengthening civil society monitoring of antidiscrimination policy in Croatia, and activities, inter alia, enabled legal aid to Roma in fighting various forms of discrimination. GOfNGO, through its regular call for co-financing of EU funded projects supported three other projects with the total amount of 12,622.74 EUR, and one of them explicitly addressed the capacity of Roma civil society.<sup>11</sup>

## 2. EDUCATION

- *Please list any mainstream and targeted policy measures that were designed and implemented at national or local level to support Roma education in 2013 with a special focus on the goals and implementation of the Decade National Action Plan/National Roma Integration Strategy (if applicable). Please include measures such as: improving early childhood education and care,*

<sup>10</sup> See <http://www.pgfhr.org/index.php/en/>

<sup>11</sup> PGP Sisak: Building Capacity of the Roma Civil Society Organisations in the Sisak-Moslavina County, (EIDHR) –cofinanced by GOfNGOs with 5,529.00 EUR.



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*reducing early school leaving, encouraging Roma participation in secondary and tertiary education, desegregation measures, inclusive education, teacher training etc.*

- *Please describe to the extent possible the impact of the measures your government implemented in 2013 (including quantitative and descriptive data). For the purpose of peer to peer learning, kindly consider to include also measures with negative impact on Roma inclusion and explain the process to minimize such negative impact.*

### **Preschool**

In 2013, a total of 3,131,967.31 HRK (257,214 EUR) was spent on preschool education and preschool programme from the State budget (1,202,859.25 HRK (158,900 EUR) more than in 2012). REF has also continued with support, particularly in Medjimurje County.

At the beginning of 2012/2013 school year, a total of 811 children were included, of which 455 (233 boys and 222 girls) in preschool education, and 356 (186 boys and 170 girls) in the preschool programme.

The number of Roma children for which co-financing of preschool education in the 2013 was approved was 390 (180m, 210f). There were 45 institutions that implement programs of preschool education in which children with ensured co-financing are involved in 2013. The number of children enrolled in programs of preschool education at the beginning of s.y. 2013/2014 was 769 (364m, 405f), of whom 390 (180m, 210f) in preschool education and 379 (184m, 195f) in preschool programs. A total of 21 preschool programs involving Roma children were implemented by institutions in 2013. MoSES estimate is that these programs are providing good results, remain necessary and suggests an obligation to organize preschool education for all Roma children as a preparation for inclusion into education system In upcoming period after-school stay and preschool programs are planned to be co-financed from the European Social Fund (ESF).

### **Primary Education**

The increase of number of Roma pupils covered by primary education has continued. In s.y. 2011/2012 there were 4 882 pupils (2 449m, 2 433f), at the beginning of 2012/2013 there were 5,173 pupils (2,612 m, 2,561f), at the end of s.y. 2012/2013 there were 5,311 pupils (2,671 m, 2,640f), and at the beginning of 2013/2014 there were 5,470 pupils (2 769m, 2 701f). Issue of concern remains the number of classes with Roma only pupils: in s.y. 2013/2014 there were 56 such classes. It is certainly worth noting that the City of Kutina, perceiving a possibility of a primary school enrolling disproportional number of Roma children, organized proportional enrollment of Roma children to other schools spending no more than 70,000 HRK for these activities. This case was also highlighted at the seminar on practical aspects of segregation, organised by ERRC in cooperation with GOHRRNM.

At the same time data on the number of pupils who left primary education after multiple repetitions shows that a completion of primary education is still at a low level. For example, in 2008/2009 136



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pupils quit their education (68m, 68f), in 2009/2010 144 pupils (69m, 75f) dropped out of school (including those who turned 15 years of age). In 2010/2011 173 pupils have left primary education (101m, 72f), in 2011/2012 189 pupils (102m, 87f) and in 2012/2013 153 (83m, 70f). It is frequently noted that increasing the age for obligatory education from 15 to 18 would substantially improve educational achievements of Roma pupils and decrease drop-out.

When it comes to repeating the grades, the data shows that in s.y. 2011/2012 there were 604 repeaters (331m, 273f), and at the beginning of 2012/2013 431 repeater (258m, 173f). At the end of 2012/2013 were 464 (250 m, 214 f) repeaters, and at the beginning 2013/2014 there was 428 (235m, 193f) repeaters. Data at the end of the school year show an increased number compared to the beginning of the school year.

From s.y. 2010/2011 data on the number of Roma students who are offered special assistance in learning Croatian language on the basis of Art. 43 of the Law on Education in Primary and Secondary Schools are collected. In 2012/2013 assistance in learning Croatian received a total of 681 pupils (345m, 336f) in the 6 counties, and at the beginning 2013/2014 assistance in learning Croatian received 511 pupils (251m, 260f) in 7 counties.

At the end of s.y. 2011/2012 extended stay was organized in 11 counties for 362 pupils (165m, 197f). At the end of 2012/2013 8 counties have ensured an extended stay for 362 pupils (190m, 172f), and at the beginning 2013/2014 in the extended day program is organized in 7 counties for 548 pupils (293m, 255f).

For educational programs, school trips, school in nature, after school activities, extended stay and salaries of Roma teaching assistants in 2013 an amount of 2,201,454.02HRK (290,820 EUR) was paid from the State budget. In most schools Roma assistants, 26 (15m, 11f) of them, are employed, and their work is financed from the State budget in the amount of 3,500.00 HRK (450 EUR) net per month for all 12 months, along with other add-ons that are provided to employees in schools. In the 2013 for salaries for 26 Roma assistants 1,608,757.91HRK (212,520 EUR) from the State budget were spent.

The City of Sisak reports on local financing of teaching assistant, while some municipalities employed for a shorter period through public works. Several municipalities also note involvement of teaching assistants which are not specially affiliated to Roma pupils, but to provide support to all pupils having difficulties in education. Thus Mursko Središće has employed 1 assistant in addition to a Roma teaching assistant, while the City of Rijeka has 36 general teaching assistants, also providing support to Roma pupils.

In addition, in 2013 from the State budget for educational programs, school trips, school in nature, after school activities, extended stay, etc., a sum 592,696.11 HRK (35,438 EUR) was paid.

### **Secondary Education**

Number of Roma pupils who are included in the secondary education system is increasing. A special section in the new *Decision on the elements and criteria for selection of candidates for admission to secondary school in s.y. 2013./2014*, enacted by the MoSES, is assisting the enrollment of Roma in a



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way that a candidate for admission who is living in conditions that could affect his/hers success in elementary school gets an extra point for the enrollment ranking.

A total number of high school students at the beginning of s.y. 2013/2014 was 588 (327m, 261f), while 542 students (247m, 295f) applied for scholarships in s.y. 2013/2014. In 2013 for scholarships in secondary school education was spent 2,429,656.96 HRK (299,912 EUR) from the State budget. Number of Roma students enrolled in the first grade in 3-years secondary schools in s.y. 2013/2014 was 204 (114m, 90f). Number of Roma students enrolled in the first grade of 4-years secondary schools in 2013/2014 was 27 (14m, 13f). Number of Roma students, enrolled in the second year of secondary school, in 2013/2014 was 178 (110 m, 68f). Number of Roma students, enrolled in the third year of secondary school, in 2013/2014 was 118 (63m, 55f). Number of Roma students, enrolled in the fourth year of secondary school, in 2013/2014 was 23 (11m, 12f). Number of students by program and in total, at the beginning of 2013/2014 was 588 students (327 m, 261f): high school 23 students (13m, 10f ); 4 - years vocational school 84 students (40m, 44 f); 3-years vocational school 403 students (235m, 168f); lower degree 6 students (6m); programs for students with disabilities 67 students (30m, 37f); Fine Arts and Design 2 students (2f); Music School (as a part of a secondary school) 3 students(3m). Number of students Roma with accommodation in dormitories in 2012-2013 was 9 (7m, 2f).

Although number of students who are continuing their education in a 3-years high school programs is increasing (in relation to the number of students in 4-years programs), there is also increase in the number of students enrolled in the first class of 4-years schools. Polls conducted by CES are showing the same: out of 170 pupils involved in a poll on professional intentions, 128 planned to enroll to vocational schools, while 28 pupils intended to enroll to 4-year programs and 15 to art schools.

It is also evident that students are dropping out of secondary education.

At the beginning of 2012/2013 there were 480 students (286 m, 294f), and at the end of 2012/2013 there were 446 students (257m, 189f), and at the beginning 2013/2014 there were 586 students (328m, 258f).

At the beginning of 2012/2013 there were 53 repeaters (38m, 15f). In 2011/2012 67 students (30m, 37f) dropped school and there were 45 repeaters (30m, 15f) of the total of 425 students (214m, 211f). In 2012/2013 63 students (34m, 29f) dropped the education and there were 68 (44m, 24f) repeaters among the total of 446 students at the end of the school year. At the beginning 2013/2014 there were 52 repeaters (35m, 17f) of the total of 586 students (328m, 258f).

MoSES provides scholarships to all regular high school students who are members of the Roma minority in the amount of 5,000 HRK (670 EUR) per year per student (or 500 HRK (70 EUR) per month during the school year), while scholarships are also provided for students who are repeating grades in amount of 3,000 HRK (400 EUR) per year (300 HRK (40 EUR) per month). To obtain scholarships, precondition is a statement on belonging to the Roma national minority, which is in fact not mandatory. In 2013 for scholarships from the State budget, was spent 2,429,656.96 HRK (320,960 EUR) (in 2011 1,598,820.00 HRK (211,210 EUR), and in 2012 2,125,000.00 HRK (280,720 EUR).





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### Higher Education

There were 23 Roma students (7m, 16f) enrolled in higher education in academic year 2012/2013. Ministry of Education has ensured for scholarships for regular Roma students in 2013 a total of 350,000.00 HRK (46,240 EUR), but only 23 students fulfilled the requirements, so for the purpose of scholarship 230,000.00HRK (38,670 EUR) were spent. The scholarship amounts to 10,000.00HRK (1,330 EUR) per year. Though some local authorities are also providing scholarships to Roma students (e.g; Zagreb 2 scholarships (20,000 HRK each), Varaždin County 1 (16,000 HRK), their number is still quite low.

### Adult Education

As regards Roma adults involved in literacy programs and training for the first vocation, in 2013 in total there were 495 participants (323m, 172f), of which for the literacy program 446 (297m, 149f), and for training for the first vocation 49 (26m, 23f), and the total amount spent was 984,700.00 HRK (93,330 EUR).

As a part of the Croatian presidency of the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005 – 2015, international conference “*Quality education for Roma: Sustainability of the Decades educational policy at the European level*“ was organized in Zagreb on April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2013. Conference contributed to the visibility of ways of dealing with Roma issues in the system education. Some of the best practices presented there are also noted in local reports. For example, the public library in Koprivnica has grown into a veritable education hub for the area. A local branch of a network of institutions, associations and individuals engaged, REYN, has been established.

**Education and Teacher Training Agency (ETTA)** in 2013 implemented two measures from NRIS. The first one relates to the professional development of teachers and assistants in primary schools with the aim of raising the quality and efficiency of education of the Roma minority. Professional development based on *Curriculum for Teaching Croatian Language* continued in 2013 in order to facilitate the learning of Croatian language as a foreign language (learning Croatian as *foreign language* – for pupils and students to whom Croatian is not a mother tongue) and to facilitate the inclusion of the students’ who are speaking a foreign language in the educational process. In this regard ETTA held, in the first half of 2013, 9 professional meetings and final conference in Čakovac. For work with pupils during extracurricular activities 2 professional meetings were held: Drama-educational workshop for work with Roma pupils in primary schools (March 1<sup>st</sup> 2013, in Orehovica) and drama-educational workshop for work with Roma pupils in primary schools (March 15<sup>th</sup> 2013, in Podturen).

ETTA, during 2013, also conducted:

- 4 days introductory seminar “Approach focused on the child in preschool”, with 12 participants (primary schools and kindergartens) from Međimurje County,
- Project “Getting Ready for School”, which was implemented from January to June 2013 in 3 primary schools in Međimurje County and 1 in Sisak-Moslavina County. Once a week, workshops for parents of pre-school Roma children were conducted. More than 100 parents participated in these workshops.



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- Project “Quality education for Roma children” (EU funding - IPA) - Access to teaching with the focus on the child – 2 seminars (duration of each seminar was 5 days) with total of 73 participants (class teachers, subject teachers, professional associates) from 8 primary schools in Međimurje County.

Ministry of Science, Education and Sports (MoSES) issued a decision on the experimental implementation of the *Curriculum for Civic Education* in school years 2012 /13 and 2013/14 in 12 primary and secondary schools. The Curriculum is built for the active participation of children and youth in school life, local community and in Croatian and European society, as well as the **intercultural dimension** through which is anticipated that pupils would develop cultural identity and intercultural competence, that they would get acquainted with and respect the culture of minorities, and that minorities would understand and respect the culture of the majority. For the purpose of maintaining the aforementioned thematic meetings ETТА published a White Paper of the Council of Europe “Living Together Equal in Dignity”<sup>12</sup> which promotes intercultural dialogue as an instrument of coexistence between majority and minority in areas of common interest (increasing employment opportunities, access to health service, improving the situation of persons with disabilities, etc.).

ETТА, as regular activity, organized 4 professional meetings (3 day meetings) about Holocaust (teaching about the Holocaust is included in the regular and mandatory professional development for teachers: 3 day expert meeting, in Zagreb and Jasenovac, about the Holocaust and prevention of crimes against humanity, 27<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> January 2013, with 51 participants;

- Academy Šoa, seminar for teachers and education workers about the Holocaust, human rights and education, in Zagreb from 19<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> May 2013, with 40 participants; and 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> October 2013, in Zagreb, with 38 participants

- Seminar “Present Past - Education for the Future”, in Zagreb from September 17<sup>th</sup> to October 20<sup>th</sup> 2013, with 26 participants.

Second measure is related to training of teaching assistants and for that purpose, during 2013, ETТА conducted 4 activities: 2 expert meetings, on *Inclusion of Roma pupils and the role of Roma assistants* and on *Interculturalism as a dimension of school life and civic competencies*, in Koprivnica and Čakovec on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2013, with total of 57 participants; project (UNDP funding) “*Promoting Social Inclusion in Primary School in Kuršanec – To Live Diversity*”, and project “*Education for diversity*” in primary school Kuršanec.

MoSES also notes as particularly important international project ‘Educational Drama and Theater as a means to promote Roma inclusion’, supported by OSF, MoSES and ETТА, involving 161 participants through 18 workshops in Međimurje, Zagreb, Sisak and Slavonski Brod.

EU funds are having an increasing role in meeting needs. In the area of education they were mostly focused on Inclusion in educational system, preschool, extended stay, and mediators for the integration. A total of 14 projects with the total contracted amount of 2,198,678.95 EUR has been

<sup>12</sup> See [http://www.azoo.hr/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=3976:bijela-knjiga-o-meukulturnom-dijalogu-ivimo-zajedno-jednaki-u-dostojanstvu&catid=359:program-graanskog-odgoja-i-obrazovanja&Itemid=441](http://www.azoo.hr/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3976:bijela-knjiga-o-meukulturnom-dijalogu-ivimo-zajedno-jednaki-u-dostojanstvu&catid=359:program-graanskog-odgoja-i-obrazovanja&Itemid=441)



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implemented in 2013. However, some of these projects are being implemented in 2012 or 2014, and the information on eligible costs made in 2013 is not available.

Local reports are also noting relevant interventions on the local level. Particularly successful seems to be the program of peer support conducted in Koprivnica (20,000 HRK).



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### 3. EMPLOYMENT

- *Please list any mainstream and targeted policy measures that were designed and implemented to support Roma employment in 2013 with a special focus on the goals and implementation of the Decade National Action Plan or the National Roma Integration Strategy (if applicable). Please include measures such as: tailored job search assistance, first work experience programs, targeted activation measures, measures supporting self-employment and entrepreneurship, measures promoting employment of qualified Roma civil servants, eliminating barriers, including discrimination, to entering the labor market, etc.*

A survey conducted by the UNDP, the World Bank and DG Regio in 2011<sup>13</sup> indicated that the share of the employed within the working-age population (i.e. the employment rate) amounted to 34.91% for the Roma compared to 77.13% for non-Roma, while the share of the unemployed within the working-age population (i.e. the unemployment rate) reached 65, 09% for the Roma and 22.87% for non-Roma. With regard to the labour force activity rate, the figures showed that only 18.21% of the Roma were active in the labour market as compared to 58.41% of the non-Roma population.

According to the data provided by the Ministry of Public Administration, on Dec 31, 2013 there were 7 Roma persons employed in public administration (0.01 % of total number of employees) and 4 persons employed in local self-governments. However, the ban on employment in public administration is still in force.

EU funds are having an increasing role in meeting needs in the area of employment. Three projects with the total contracted amount of 379,538.40 has been implemented in 2013. However, some of these projects are being implemented in 2012 or 2014, and the information on eligible costs made in 2013 is not available. Particularly promising seems to be project implemented by ACT Čakovec and conducted in close collaboration with the MtM/UNDP community development program in Međimurje: Roma Social Inclusion and Biodynamic Agriculture (IPA IV) – with co-financing by GOfNGOs of 5,866.74 EUR. CES also notes a project aiming at young Roma, EU funded project of the Youth Centre: Sustainable Future through the Integration of Roma (IPA IV), with contracted value of 140,404.72 EUR.

In the forthcoming year CES plans to continue usage of ESF for improving access to labour market for disadvantaged persons.

According to the data provided by the Ministry of Public Administration, on Dec 31, 2013 there were 7 Roma persons employed in public administration (0.01 % of total number of employees) and 4 persons employed in local self-governments. It is also important to note that the ban of employment in public administration is still in force.

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**Croatian Employment Service(CES)** does not track the unemployed according to nationality. The number of unemployed and employed Roma from the records of the CES is estimated using proxy variables, such as place of residence and knowledge of a Romani language. Correctness of data is also affected the fact that Roma declare themselves differently.

The number of registered unemployed Roma at the end of December 2013 was 5,059, which makes 1.4 % of total number of unemployed in Croatia. Unemployed members of Roma minority are characterized by long -term unemployment (58.9%); and a high proportion of young people, up to 35 years (54, 1%). Of the total number of unemployed Roma the largest proportion are those within the following age groups: 20-25 years (17, 9%), 25-29 years (14, 6%) and 30-35 years (12, 9%). Also, members of Roma minority are characterized by the fact that they at very young age, often barely 15, are registering at CES as unemployed, and their share in the age group 15-20 years was 8.7%. The share of middle-aged and elderly is lower compared to other unemployed Roma, so the proportion of persons aged 45-50 years was 8.7%, those of 50-55 years was 6.2% and the proportion of those aged 55-60 years was 4.2% of the Roma registered as unemployed.

The level of education is a major factor for difficulties in employment of unemployed Roma. In unemployment register in 2013 there were 68.7% without any formal education or with unfinished elementary school, 23.9% with completed primary school, 6.3% with completed 3-years secondary school, and 1.04% of unemployed Roma with completed 4-years secondary school. Of the total number of unemployed Roma, 4 persons had completed college (2 year university education) and 2 persons have 4-year university education.

In order to create conditions for increasing the employment of Roma, all registered unemployed Roma are included in the mainstream activities of the CES and in activities targeting exclusively Roma national minority, facilitating their quick inclusion into the labour market.

### **Mainstream Activities:**

- Group informing - aims to provide information to unemployed people on their rights and obligations and the method of active job search.
- Individual counselling sessions - employment counsellors are determining a working, professional and personal potential of the unemployed, provide assistance in developing the Professional Employment Plan, and provide assistance in carrying out the activities from the Professional Plan and mediate in employment.
- Workshops (group counselling) - goal is to acquire the skills of active job search. Through the workshop, participants acquire the skills of writing a CV, an application, the successful presentation to employers.
- counselling on occupation/profession- to assess the possibilities, interests and motivation of the unemployed Roma for education, training and employment.
- Activities of evaluation of remaining working capacity - assistance in defining the jobs for persons with reduced working capacity, especially people over 45 years of age.
- Targeted visits of employment counsellor to employers – informing employers about the employment opportunities of the Roma minority. CES carries out activities that are aiming at creating



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a positive climate among employers, in order to increase employment of the Roma minority. They also held meetings with different partners in order to improve employment and education opportunities of Roma.

- Organizing a group of informing on self-employment - for members of Roma national minority that have shown interest in self-employment (e.g. registering a company or craft).

### **Targeted Measures for facilitating the employment of Roma**

Measures within the jurisdiction of the CES are focused on education for raising the employability and self-employment, co-financing of employment in all sectors and co-financing of employment at public works, as well as ensuring the necessary work experience for a first job to educated young people without work experience. Co-financing the employment of Roma for 24 months is focused on improving the employability of the Roma minority, especially young persons and persons who have completed their education or have work experience. Public works measures aims at socially useful work to affirm social inclusion of unemployed Roma and to reduce social consequences of unemployment with the support of local governments and their organisations and civil society organizations. Financing education of Roma aims at improving employability, especially of young people and women, through participation in vocational training programs, and co-financing of education of the Roma in order to acquire skills at the workplace along with the employment. Co-financing of self-employment of Roma aims to provide technical and financial support for the implementation of business ideas of unemployed Roma, aiming to start and register businesses. The emphasis is on developing entrepreneurial activities and legalization of jobs that are the main source of their income. Measure of professional training for work without employment for young unemployed Roma is targeting young Roma who have completed their secondary education in 4-year secondary schools and universities. The aim of the measure is to enable unemployed young people without work experience to gain work experience necessary for longer employment.

In 2013, 6,719 persons (3,139 f) were involved in the process of empowerment for inclusion into the labour market (activities including group information, individual advisory services, group advisory services for gaining job searching skills).

In the 2013, in the activity of group informing 1,319 Roma (714m, 605f) was included. During the period 2005-2010 the majority of the unemployed Roma were involved in these activities, so in the following period this activity was focused on newly registered and those that are longer in the unemployment register.

In the activity of individual counselling 5,101 Roma (2 681m, 2 420f) were included, with the following age group distribution: 2,302 (15-29), 1,275 (30-40), 1,120 (40-50), 404 (50 and over).

In the activity of group counselling 299 Roma (185m, 114f) were included, and in the activity of professional/occupational counselling 517 Roma (299m, 218f) were included. In 2013 there was an increase in the number of people involved in vocational information and counselling, which resulted in a larger number of Roma involved in education programs. CES has financed further education of 15 persons.



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Professional information and counselling for persons in final years of primary and secondary schools have also continued. 70 students were involved in professional information and 19 in professional counselling, while 49 expert opinions were provided as professional guidance.

In the activities of evaluation of remaining working capacity 38 Roma (19m, 19f) were included. This activity is carried out continuously from the 2005, so over the years the majority of eligible persons were involved in this measure, which resulted in a smaller number in 2013.

During 2013 783 organized visits to employers were conducted and 81 joint meeting with stakeholders in the local labour market were held in order to improve employment opportunities for Roma. During the period 2011-2013 the number of visits to employers was reduced in the view of the current situation on the labour market and the lack of job posts.

Total of 757 (502m, 255f) persons were employed through National Plan for Employment Facilitation. In 2013 71 group informing and counselling on self-employment and business start-up opportunities were held, and 61 Roma (48m, 13f) were included. In 2013 the number of Roma involved in these activities has increased, which resulted with the inclusion of 7 people in a measure of co-financing for self-employment.

Total number of employed Roma in the open labour market (i.e. excluding those employed through specific incentive measures for employment) were 226 (112m, 114f), mostly persons who have not completed primary school, those with completed primary school and completed 3-years secondary school. Because of reduced total number of employed in 2012 and 2013, the number of employed Roma in the open labour market is also reduced.

Workshops for unemployed Roma women on active job search has continued, involving 114 participants. Within twelve months of workshops 45 women has found a job or continued their education.

In the period from January to December 2012 664 persons (448m, 216f) were involved in targeted measures for employment 664 Roma (448m, 216f).

Through the measure of co-financing of employment of Roma, in period of 24 months, was co-financed employment for 17 Roma (11m, 6f). Members of Roma national minority were employed on the following jobs: agricultural workers, nurses, workers on the classification of waste, farm workers, agricultural technicians, hairdressers, sellers, economists, auto mechanics and ceramists.

Through the measure of financing/co-financing of education for 15 Roma (10m, 5f), i.e. for seamstress (5f) and for masons (10m).

Through the measure of public works 717 Roma (476m, 241f) were employed.

Professional training for work without employment for young unemployed Roma included one person (1f).

Through the measure of co-financing of self-employment support was provided to 7 Roma (5m, 2f).

Additional data on employment provided by CES will be available in the Report on the Implementation of NRIS AP for 2013.



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**Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Crafts (MoEC)** adopted “Programme for Supporting of Entrepreneurship and Crafts - Entrepreneurship Impulse 2013”<sup>14</sup> (the same Programme is continuing in 2014.) which is aiming to initiate and propose a change of legislation related to self-employment and entrepreneurship as well as the legalization of crafts which are typically Roma’s, as well as to encourage and educate Roma women for inclusion in women’s entrepreneurship programs and other programs for women.

Programme criteria include a provision for up to 30% bonus points for entrepreneurs who are in socially disadvantaged position (such as members of the Roma community), increasing the the rate of success of proposals by applicants from these groups. In 2013, 4 Roma entrepreneurs applied for this Programme.

### 4. HOUSING

- *Please list any mainstream or targeted policy measures that were designed and implemented to support housing for Roma (or housing of marginalized people, including Roma) in 2013 with a special focus on the goals and implementation of the Decade National Action Plan and the National Roma Integration Strategy (if applicable). Please include measures such as: eliminating spatial segregation and promoting desegregation, promoting non-discriminatory access to social housing, etc.*
- *Please describe to the extent possible the impact of measures your government implemented in 2013 (including quantitative and descriptive data). For the purpose of peer to peer learning, kindly consider to include also measures with negative impact on Roma inclusion and explain the process to minimize such negative impact.*

Ministry of Construction and Space Planning (MCSP) has continued activities related to the legalisation of Roma settlements, in close cooperation with the Roma MP, Mr. Veljko Kajtazi. Thus, their efforts resulted in legalisation or partial legalisation in Đurđevac, Sveti Đurđ, Gornje and Donje Vratno, Karlovac Ludbreški, Ludbreg (total 135 houses, 80,000 HRK provided by the NCNM) Palanjak and Capraške poljane.

MCSP has allocated 100,000 HRK for each year during the implementation of the AP 2013-2015, and also participates in the Programming 2014-2020.

Some local reports are also noting relevant interventions: Varazdin County built 370 m water supply in Gornje and Donje Vratno, with the assistance of 95,000 HRK provided by the NCMI NRIS. The municipality of Darđa has continued activities regarding building of social housing objects. Osijek-Baranja County notes that out of total 26 locations with Roma settlements (mostly integrated), 11 have public water supply system, in 15 locations the system is being built, and it is expected that 4 locations will have the system built in 2014. In Petlovac municipality the road has been built to the village of

<sup>14</sup> See <http://www.minpo.hr/default.aspx?id=701>





## PROGRESS REPORT 2013

Torjanci (641,207.20 HRK), while Koprivnica has enabled access to water in two settlements, covering also the water bills.

Particularly valuable tool has been provided through UNDP project, An Atlas of Roma Communities in Međimurje County, setting an example for the planned Atlas for the whole Croatia.

Report for 2013 from **Ombudsman Office**<sup>15</sup> states that a particular problem is the fact that many Roma settlements were built illegally, mentioned also in the Ombudsman's report on discrimination in 2012, and local governments are again invited to intensify activities of making spatial plans and creating the necessary spatial planning preconditions for legalization of illegally constructed buildings and infrastructure improvements in locations where Roma live. The report also quoted good example of Roma settlement in Kutina with about 1000 residents, testifying about the involvement of the Roma population in the wider community.

The report also notes a positive example in regard to the legalization of illegally constructed buildings; since the Law on Residence prescribes that only addresses registered in the registry of spatial units may be used for registration of residence or domicile, while the process of legalizing nonregistered buildings is not completed, there is a possibility that some persons will not be able to register their residence. Good example is information that the PD Brod-Posavina assists Roma in regulating their residence, advising them to obtain a formal decision on the house number issued by relevant Cadastral Office, which grants temporary house numbers for previously unregistered objects.

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<http://www.ombudsman.hr/dodaci/Izvje%C5%A1%C4%87e%20pu%C4%8Dke%20pravobraniteljice%20%20za%202013..pdf>



## PROGRESS REPORT 2013

### 6. HEALTH

- *Please list any mainstream and targeted policy measures that were designed and implemented to support the improvement of health care services for the Roma population in 2013 with a special focus on the goals and implementation of the Decade National Action Plan/National Roma Integration Strategy (if applicable). Please include measures such as: ensuring equal access to quality healthcare, ensuring basic social security coverage and comprehensive health services to Roma, preventive measures such as medical check-ups, prenatal and postnatal care and family planning, targeted health awareness campaigns, etc.*

Within the National Roma Integration Strategy new activities are included which aim at increasing sensibilization of workers in the healthcare system for the work with the Roma population, and the improvement of communication between the Roma population on one side and family medicine physicians and other healthcare providers on the other. In order to realize the mentioned objective, specific education of healthcare providers is foreseen, especially in areas where there is a greater number of the Roma population, pertaining to more intensive cooperation with social services, especially in cases of suspected abuse and neglect of children health. However, for most activities actual data on Roma involvement is not available, since the ethnic background of persons is not collected in routine health statistics. Besides this, many Roma do not declare their ethnicity as Roma and it is another reason for lack of data in some surveys about Roma health.

Public health statistical researches are defined by the Annual Statistics Activities Programme of the Central Statistics Bureau and coordinated through public health institutes network. Some regional reports provide details of health related activities giving important insights into relevant figures. Thus the report of the Public Health Institute in Međimurje county, the county with highest proportion of Roma population, states that during 2013, active immunization activities have been performed continuously in Međimurje county, including 17 additional immunization sessions performed among Roma children which have been identified by active search for under-immunized children in four Roma settlements. Children were invited to pediatricians' offices for immunization and those who did not respond to invitations were approached in the Roma settlements by mobile immunization teams of the County Institute of Public Health. Through these immunization campaigns, 220 Roma children have been immunized. Based on the information collected, the vaccination coverage of Roma children in Međimurje county is estimated to be: DTP + POLIO primary vaccination 90 %; DTP I. Booster 85 %; DTP II. Booster dose 85 %; MPR primary vaccination 90 %; Hepatitis B primary vaccination 90 %. Međimurje report also notes activities regarding a few school-based outbreaks of head lice and scabies. Epidemiological investigation and chemoprophylaxis of exposed contacts has been performed following single instances of pertussis and pulmonary tuberculosis.

In Primorje-Gorski Kotar county (including Rijeka city), an assessment of immunization coverage of Roma children has been carried out in 2013. According to the assessment, 69.3% children have been fully immunized according to the national childhood immunization schedule; 20% children have been partially immunized, 3% children were not immunized and the information about immunization of 6.7% was unavailable/unknown.



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In Bjelovar-Bilogora county, an immunization coverage assessment of Roma children was carried out in 2013 on 17 locations. According to the assessment 79% (478/602) of Roma children have been fully immunized according to the national childhood immunization schedule, 13% children have been partially immunized and 8% children were not immunized. Roma children attending school had higher immunization rates compared to preschool children. In Bjelovar-Bilogora County, the assessment looked separately into children of migrating Roma families, which do not have permanent residence in the county, and found the immunization coverage to be substantially lower than in the resident Roma children. Only 19% of migrating Roma children were fully immunized, 29% partially immunized and 52% were not immunized, while many were inaccessible for the assessment. The mobile epidemiological teams have visited settlements of migrating Roma population, immunized children and provided individual counseling on immunization to parents.

Though limited, NGOs are also playing some role in health related activities. Thus, Roma NGO Kali Sara, organised workshops on health (particularly pregnancies and prevention of STDs) and fighting addictions involved more than 50 participants, mostly women in Sisak, Grubišno Polje, Zagreb, Kutina, Gračenica, Koprivnica, Čakovec and Varaždin. Ministry of Health provided 14,125.69 HRK for these activities.

Ministry of Interior in cooperation with the County Public Health Institutes has implemented a country wide campaign against various forms of addictions, involving Roma pupils into this mainstream measure.

International Organization for Migration (IOM) conducts between February 2013 and February 2016, the project Equi Health: Fostering health provision for migrants, the Roma, and other vulnerable groups. The project aims to improve access and quality of medical care services, health promotion and prevention to address the needs of migrants, Roma and other vulnerable ethnic minority groups, including the irregular migrants. The project also envisages drafting common EU strategies and lines of intervention concerning the provision of medical care and the support for the implementation of Roma National Inclusion Strategies. It is expected that the project component in Croatia will also contribute to the development of Roma health mediators program, and the Ministry of Health and the Public Health Institute closely cooperate with IOM.



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### 7. ANTI-DISCRIMINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY

- *Please list any measures that were designed to support the fight against anti-Roma discrimination and racism. Please describe to the extent possible the impact of these measures (including quantitative and descriptive data).*
- *Please list any measures that were designed to support gender equality between Roma women and men. Please describe to the extent possible the impact of these measures (including quantitative and descriptive data).*

In addition to antidiscrimination and gender, some emphasis is also given to **Roma youth** as a special topic. Croatia has introduced this topic as its Presidency priority into Roma Decade discussions (see below). Particularly important in this respect is the young Roma leaders training organised by PGF Croatia. GOfNGOs cofinanced EU funded project of the Youth Centre: Sustainable Future through the Integration of Roma (IPA IV) – with the amount of 1.227,00 EUR. CoE provided support, through its Education and Training Unit of Youth Department and Roma and Travellers Division, to the seminar *"Training and Integration for National Minorities Youth"* in Marija Bistrica (19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> December 2013). The seminar was attended by 16 participants, representatives of 9 different national minorities, including 4 Roma.

Relevant is also a project noted earlier, implemented by Centre for Peace Studies, *A Stronger Civil Society for Efficient Implementation and Monitoring of Antidiscrimination Policy in Croatia* (total amount of the two-year project is 192.632,79 EUR).

Several activities were conducted by GOHRRNM: education for police officials, state attorneys, judges and NGOs on hate crime, funded by the Embassy of UK; round tables on hate crime in sport; IPA 2009 project on establishing a comprehensive antidiscrimination system with workshops for minorities, including Roma on institutional and legal framework GOHRRNM also coordinated development of the National Program for Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, and priorities include combating racial and ethnic discrimination and rights of national minorities. GOHRRNM also puts emphasis on work of county coordinations for human rights and civil society.

Also CoE regularly cooperates in conducting the *"Dosta!"* campaign, which has been linked to the Human Rights Day. In 2013 GOHRRNM organized panel *"We talk about our experiences on the exercise of fundamental rights"* with representatives of the various vulnerable groups (persons with disabilities, asylum seekers, LGBTI and Roma minority), and screening of the film *„Episode in the Life of an Iron-picker"* by Oscar winner Danis Tanović (film discusses the right access to health-care from the perspective of the Roma minority). Croatia has also joined the No Hate Speech Movement Council of Europe campaign 'Dislike the Hate', against hate speech on Internet.



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In relation to the **gender**, GOHRRNM has co-funded a EU funded project on gender issues awareness raising (30,000 HRK) (3,970 EUR) by Roma Women NGO 'Roma Heart'. Important is also the European Parliament study 'Gender Aspects of the European Framework of National Roma Inclusion Strategies', and the visit of Roma EPM Ms. Livia Jaroka to Croatia, providing opportunity to discuss the gender issue with representatives of the Roma and non-Roma civil society, central and local authorities, as well as the Croatian Parliament in September 2013.

A Ministry of Interior project 'Living Life without Violence' has won the prize of the European Network for Crime prevention for the best project on primary prevention. The project implemented in cooperation with NGOs and a famous actor, through its interactive workshops, addressed also the issue of discrimination and violence against women. MoI was also involved in raising awareness on trafficking in cooperation with Roma NGOs, through a project 'I have a choice', and a campaign, which was also supported by the UK Embassy.

As regards **media**, Agency for Electronic Media has conducted an analysis of the effectiveness and social impact of the Fund for the Promotion of Electronic Media for the period 2010 -2013 regarding the inclusion of the Roma minority in the cultural and social life, but results will be available after June 30<sup>th</sup> 2014, as well as data on funding of media broadcast in the category of national minorities directly dealing with Roma in Croatia. The agency has implemented measure from NRIS related to information about the Roma national minority as well as the affirmation of Roma culture in all public media (TV, radio, especially local radio stations in areas where the Roma minority is significantly represented). The Council for Electronic Media in 2013 issued a public tender for the allocation of funds from the Fund for the Promotion of Pluralism and Diversity in Electronic Media. One of the categories in which publishers can apply is the category for programs for the national minorities, and for that purpose Council awarded in 2013, 2,825,784.71 HRK (373,290.00 EUR). The Council for Electronic Media each year introduces new measures in order to improve evaluation and monitoring of applications to the Fund and for the monitoring of implementation and usage of the allocated funds. Thus, in 2013 Council introduced additional criteria and regular audits for beneficiaries financed by the Fund.

National Council for National Minorities, in 2013, have financed 37 programmes related to the **inclusion of Roma national minority in cultural and social life**, from 21 Roma organizations and associations, in total amount of 795.000 HRK (105,020 EUR). The Council also organized, educational workshop for members of the Roma minority on writing, implementation and reporting on programs for achieving cultural autonomy which are co-financed from the State budget (via the Council). Council also, in cooperation with the GOHRRNM during the 2013 organized workshops and seminars that addressed issues of gender equality, promotion of human rights of minority women, the mechanisms of protection against all kinds of discrimination, women's participation in politics and development of mechanisms for the improvement of status of women in society, especially members of the Roma minority.

Faculty of Philosophy in Zagreb, has continued with the **teaching of the Romani language and Roma literature** as an elective course at the Department of Indology and Far Eastern Studies.



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GOHRRNM has continued to support preservation of Roma tradition and culture through its grants to Roma NGOs. In 2013 16 programs have been provided with total of 150,000 HRK (20,000 EUR) for various performing and visual arts.

Relevant activities of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) in 2013 were focused on **status issues, combating of discrimination and assistance in exercising rights**.

Analysis of MoJ shows that in general numbers related to violations of the Anti-Discrimination Act (discrimination based on ethnic grounds and discrimination based on national origin), in relation to 2012, is decreasing. The database of court proceedings conducted pursuant to the Anti-Discrimination and Monitoring statistics on hate crimes have only entries made on the basis of discrimination (i.e. ethnicity or national origin), and data are not ethnically disaggregated. However, Ministry of Interior notes 4 **hate crimes** directed towards Roma, and three of them were solved. MoI has also continued with personnel trainings on hate crime. MoI also reports that there were 84 criminal acts with Roma victims; 136 within the Roma community, and 1006 committed by a Roma. At the same time there were 57 misdemeanour deeds with Roma victims, 326 within Roma communities and 1068 committed by Roma.

MoJ conducted education for providers of **free legal aid**, the competent authorities and the Roma minority through thematic roundtable on the Law on Free Legal Aid (June 12<sup>th</sup> 2013, with 30 participants). On this occasion, representatives of relevant institutions and NGO representatives presented their suggestions and opinions on the proposed bill. The MoJ, from June 4<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> June 2013, conducted consultations with the public on the Draft on Law on Free Legal Aid. On the basis of an analysis of then current Law, current situation, and financial data on funds directly used for free legal aid, it was concluded that it is possible to improve the free legal aid system from the point of view of target groups, particularly socially disadvantaged persons and their needs for legal information and advice (i.e. primary legal aid). The Ministry of Justice is not able to provide data on the proportion of the Roma who have requested and obtain free legal assistance in the 2013 since the information system of free legal aid does not keep statistics on minority status, but only by citizenship applicants. New Law on Free Legal Aid came into force on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2014. The new Law on Free Legal Aid largely simplified process of primary legal aid so that users can directly contact providers of primary legal aid (authorized associations, legal clinics or Offices of State Administration). The primary legal assistance includes providing general legal information, giving legal advice, compiling submissions to government agencies, as well as representation before government agencies and legal assistance in out of court settlements.

There are 36 associations registered at MoJ that are authorized to provide primary legal aid, several of which are focused on providing legal aid to Roma. MoJ is preparing the documentation for a tender in 2014 for the allocation of funds for projects of authorized associations and legal clinics, with special plans to evaluate those projects aimed at providing legal aid to vulnerable groups such as Roma.

Ombudsman Office, in 2013 report, welcomes positive changes in new Law on Free Legal Aid, however it also notes lack of appropriate funding for implementation of integral free legal aid system.



## PROGRESS REPORT 2013

**Ministry of Interior (MoI)** has employed one Roma in 2013 and held trainings on rights of national minorities regarding employment in the civil service for commission members for recruitment of new police personnel as well as those involved in enrollment process for the police training. MoI report also notes that candidates are rarely referring to their national minority background, and not invoking Art. 22 of the CARNM, missing the benefit of advantage under the same conditions for employment. MoI has **formed mobile teams** for the purpose of resolving the status of Roma in all areas where there have been reports that local Roma have the status issues, i.e. in 9 counties and the City of Zagreb. MoI requested from all Police Departments (PD) in 2013 to provide information's on needs for the establishment of new mobile teams or strengthening or expanding existing ones, data on members of the newly formed, expanded or existing mobile teams, stakeholders' representatives involved (police administration, offices of state administration, social welfare centres, councils and representatives of the Roma minority and bodies of local self-government); number of Roma population within each Police Department with unsolved status, along with the submission of data disaggregated by ethnicity, gender and age. MoI has also requested a report on the activities undertaken (e.g.-visiting Roma settlements, meetings held with mobile teams, numbers of people having various types of status issues, and statistics on the number of processed requests for temporary, permanent residence, citizenship and citizenship acquired by naturalization. Only Medjmurje County Mobile Team has expressed the need to expand the mobile team with a local Roma representative for each municipality concerned, local community policeman, and local authorities. In the reporting period, 344 claims have been opened to address status issues, out of which 228 were positively resolved.

In 2013. 271 procedures for issuing approval for temporary or permanent residence were opened. Out of this number, 156 applications for temporary residence and 24 applications for permanent residency were positively resolved, six requests for temporary residence and nine applications for permanent residence were rejected, and 73 requests are still in the procedure. In the same period 72 procedures for admission to Croatian citizenship were initiated; 48 requests were approved, 16 requests were rejected, and in 7 cases the procedure was suspended by the conclusion, and one application is still in the procedure. Many other details from this area will be available in the Report on the Implementation of NRIS AP.

According to MoI, at December 31<sup>st</sup> 2013, 159 foreign citizens of Roma nationality had been granted permanent residence, while 176 had been granted temporary residence (people who have the status of a foreigner with a temporary or permanent residence acquired in 2013 or earlier, keeping in mind the statutory period of validity of the authorization for temporary residence (1 year) or permanent resident (5 years). The biggest obstacle perhaps is still the issue of funds necessary to obtain their national passports (fees, travel costs etc), mostly of Kosovo and Serbia, since these countries require personal applications for passports.

Changes to the Law on Foreigners, adopted in June 2013, are also bringing some beneficial novelties, such as a passport for foreigners (under Law on Asylum), less conditions for temporary residence of those born in Croatia, permanent residence of children, and family members.



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According to the records, for a period January 01<sup>st</sup> 2013 to December 31<sup>st</sup> 2013, MoI received 20 requests for Croatian citizenship by naturalization from the members of Roma national minority. Croatian citizenship, in the reporting period, received 33 people (including requests from previous years). Of the total number of processed requests for Croatian citizenship for members of Roma national minority 6 are stateless. According to reports from mobile teams a number of people who were referred to the regularization of status didn't apply request.

Ombudsman report for 2013 recommends MoI to keep the records on the total number of applications for residence of members of the Roma national minority, in order to enable assessment to what extent they can meet the requirements for registration of residence required by law.

Ministry of Social Policy and Youth (MoSPY) during 2013 has been implementing several measures from NRIS 2014 – 2020, but the data provided are related to 6 Centres for Social Welfare (CfSW) with the largest number of Roma population (Čakovec, Beli Manastir, Đurđevac, Rijeka, Sisak i Slavonski Brod). CfSW is monitoring the situation in the areas of social welfare through the cooperation of relevant local Centres, councils and representatives of the Roma minority and the competent administrative bodies of local/regional self-government.

During 2013, according to data from CfSW there were a total of 22 reported cases of abuse and of children's health neglecting. Regarding this, CfSW conducted regular specific training of health workers, especially in areas with a large number of Roma population, and encourage health workers to intensify cooperation with social services especially in cases of suspected abuse and children's health neglecting. In those CfSW during 2013 a 9 new expert workers have been employed (to the total of 180 expert workers in these 6 CfSW). Further increase of staff is however not expected due to budgetary limitations.

MoSPY in September 2013 have formed the Quality Management and Training Service that will in the future take into account the implementation of expert trainings that are planned in individual strategic documents, which will also include social mentoring.

During 2013, according to the data obtained from these 6 CfSW there were a total of 310 cases of providing of services (counseling and help, entrusting for the nurture and custody, extra-marital relations between partners and placement due to domestic violence) and support (total 104 Roma families received support). In relation to mentioned, CfSW conducted several interactive lectures for parents on nurturing and punishing of children.

Regarding the empowering of Roma families for quality and responsible parenthood, including raising awareness of the Roma population about the problems relating to the conclusion of early marriages and disposition with financial resources during 2013 a total of 182 services were provided (9 workshops, 120 advisory services, information providing, support and accommodation and 53 other types of support). A total of 176 Roma families were engaged in programs for responsible parenthood and family empowerment. During 2013, according to data provided, a total of 14 underage marriages were concluded.

CfSW conducted several lectures on rising of awareness of parents of Roma children about the importance of education for their children, and their role in the education of their children, visible and invisible benefits of education and improvement of cooperation with educational institutions; for





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education of parents on ways to reduce stereotyping and prejudice and increase tolerance among parents and children of different ethnicities. Parents were also informed on the right on information and consultation about their rights, duties and obligations that they have in compliance with laws and regulations and on guidance and referral in order to take proceedings before the competent authorities and bodies.

Regarding the empowerment and support of biological family in order to prevent the separation of children from their families, during 2013, a total of 769 support services were provided (30 supporting consultation, 300 supports consisting of counseling services and support as well as measures of family legal protection, 224 supports consisting of monitoring, counseling, supervision over the exercise of parental care, help in overcoming difficulties, empowering families, parent education, etc., and 215 support counseling). . During 2013 a total of 196 individual plans that include assessment and monitoring of family resources was made by the mentioned CfSWs.

Regarding the encouragement of the development of foster care and adoption of Roma children without adequate parental care, primarily in Roma families, in 2013 there were 46 families (Roma and non-Roma) who have foster and adopted children, of which there were 11 Roma families, and a total of 11 families have adopted the Roma children (among which there were no Roma families).

During 2013 there were a total of 149 foster children: 29 girls and 17 boys aged 0-7 years, 31 girls and 40 boys aged 8-14 years, and 20 girls and 12 boys aged 15-18 years, while a total of 11 children, 6 girls and 4 boys aged 0-7 years and 1 girl between the ages of 8-14 years were adopted.

In 2013 5 Roma families were involved in the education and programs for foster parents.

During 2013 3 projects aimed at promoting the development of foster care were implemented (1 by CfSW Čakovec and 2 by CfSW Đurđevac). Goal of these projects was to inform the public with foster care for children and adults, and promoting a positive image of foster parents, foster children and adults as well as support to foster families, and plan of support to foster children and support to biological parents.

During 2013 CfSW implemented programs and activities for improving the social skills of children and youth with the aim of preventing behavioural problems, and the number of Roma children and youth who used some form of aid or measures from the Social Welfare Act was 4292 (693 girls and 688 boys aged 0-7 years, 907 girls and 837 boys aged 8-14 years, 606 561 girls and a boy aged 15-18 years).

In 2013 the number of Roma children and youth who have pass through the program and activities for improving social skills was 46 (24 girls and 21 boys aged 8-14 years and 1 boy aged 15-18 years). Only CfSW Čakovec implemented the program named "*Small creative socialization groups*" in two schools (Kuršanec and Držimurec-Strelec). Through the program CfSW Čakovec conducted workshops with the aim of reducing the risk of behavioural disorder, and eventually dropping out of education system. Workshops were held four times a month in schools and with parents once a month and, when necessary, individually and more often.

During 2013 there were 14 494 Roma recipients of respective rights under the social care system: 8 759 persons received subsistence allowance, 594 beneficiaries for housing costs, 1 679 one-time aid users, 2 454 users of support for education, 120 recipients of personal disability fee, 460 recipients of



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the allowance for assistance and care, 11 parents with the status of nurse parent or with status nurse provider, 15 people receiving benefits till employment, 3 persons received services of help and care at home, 137 persons who received professional help in the family, 13 children who received early intervention services, 5 children who received integration services, 33 persons who have received service of residence and 211 persons who received accommodation services.

Special reference should also be made to other initiatives in Croatia, such as those by UNHCR and UNICEF, and various OSF supported activities in Croatia, particularly through MtM and REF. MtM has provided support to three programs/projects in Croatia: earlier referred to PGF and UNDP project, and GOHRRNM project involving development of the NRIS 2013-2020; and capacity building of the National Commission for the Monitoring of the implementation of NRIS and GOHRRNM.

Republic of Croatia has continued to actively provide support to promotion, implementation, and monitoring of international standards on human rights and inclusion of Roma national minority in international fora as well, such as UN, EU, Council of Europe, and OSCE.

On July 1<sup>st</sup> 2012 Republic of Croatia took over the one-year presidency of the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005 – 2015. The overall objective of the Croatian presidency of the Decade was to promote the Decade and its convergence to international initiatives, in particular the EU framework on national strategies for Roma integration. Specific objectives were: connecting the Decade of Roma Inclusion with the EU Framework; connecting the major success of the Decade in Education with the educational policy of the EU and the position of the Romani language; linking the historical experience of the Roma in Europe to promote tolerance and non-discrimination; Young Roma in action for tolerance and recognition. Four conferences were organised "Perspectives of EU Funding for the Roma Inclusion", "Quality Education for Roma: Sustainability of Education Policy developed within the Decade on European Level", "Linkage of the Historical Experience of Roma in Europe with the Promotion of Tolerance and Non - Discrimination of Roma", International Conference on Roma Youth activism and participation, and 24<sup>th</sup> International Steering Committee Meeting of the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005 – 2015.

### **Annex 1**

#### **ROMA POPULATION BY GENDER AND AGE<sup>16</sup>**

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*Table 1. Roma population by gender*

<b>GENDER</b>	
M	8,542
F	8,433
<b>TOTAL (M/F)</b>	<b>16,975</b>

*Table 2. Roma population by gender and age - from 0 to 29 years*

<b>GENDER</b>	<b>0 - 4</b>	<b>5 - 9</b>	<b>10 -14</b>	<b>15-19</b>	<b>20-24</b>	<b>25-29</b>
M	1,367	1,234	1,220	906	680	651
F	1,339	1,221	1,199	919	717	588
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,706</b>	<b>2,455</b>	<b>2,419</b>	<b>1,825</b>	<b>1,397</b>	<b>1,239</b>

*Table 3. Roma population by gender and age - from 30 to 59 years*

<b>GENDER</b>	<b>30-34</b>	<b>35-39</b>	<b>40-44</b>	<b>45-49</b>	<b>50-54</b>	<b>55-59</b>
M	578	493	390	356	251	181
F	535	474	388	344	266	185
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,113</b>	<b>967</b>	<b>778</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>366</b>

*Table 4. Roma population by gender and age - from 60 to 95 years and more*

<b>GENDER</b>	<b>60-64</b>	<b>65-69</b>	<b>70-74</b>	<b>75-79</b>	<b>80-84</b>	<b>85-89</b>	<b>90-94</b>	<b>95- more</b>
M	126	46	35	22	3	2	1	-
F	117	70	42	15	9	5	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>



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