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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;*

Based on the most recent census of 2011 (carried out by the Hungarian Central Statistical Office, CSO and published in 2013), the largest ethnic group in Hungary is the Roma. In 2011 316,000 people declared themselves to be Roma, approximately one and a half times as many as in 2001. However, according to reliable estimates, the Roma population in Hungary numbers around 750,000. The age composition of the Roma population is significantly younger than that of the non-Roma population. The proportion of children aged 0–14 is 34.5% among the Roma, while this proportion is a mere 16.3% within the non-Roma population. With age progression, ratios reverse; the poor state of health of the Roma population plays a determining role in this.

The Roma population has an uneven geographical distribution across the country. Geographical differences in concentration are significant both within the entire population and among the Roma. In several counties, the Roma form less than 3 per cent of the population, while in Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén and Heves Counties, this figure is nearly 15 per cent. Geographical differences emerge most markedly at the level of localities; the Roma form a majority in some localities or groups of localities.

Housing: the Roma primarily live in the provinces, in poorer regions; many of them live in segregated neighbourhoods (some 300,000 people live in 1,663 such neighbourhoods, 3% of Hungary's population!), in improving housing conditions. Disparities compared with the general population are still highly significant but there is increasing convergence.

Economic strata of Roma society: integrated – 31%; moving towards integration – 21%; stagnating but above the poverty line – 30%; below the poverty line – 18%;

Income: there is a 70% poverty rate among the Roma, and barely lower income inequalities compared with the general population (4.0 vs. 4.5). We may observe similar income inequalities compared with the whole of the population but on a much lower level: the 10% highest income Roma population only forms part of the 7th decile of the whole of Hungarian society (top 10% of the Roma: a monthly average income of HUF 80,200 per capita; non-Roma: HUF 190,400 Ft; bottom 10% of the Roma: HUF 11,500; non-Roma: HUF 26,300).

Employment (2011): the average rate among the Roma is 16% (12% for women and 21% for men), compared with 40% within the general population as a whole.

Qualifications (2011): 86.9% of Roma only completed elementary education, 4.2% completed secondary school, and 0.8% were graduates.



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State of health: 77.4 % of Roma smoke (in the entire population the corresponding figure is 31.4%); 87% suffer from high blood pressure (in the entire population the corresponding figure is 32%); average life expectancy is 8-10 years lower than that for the general population.

Roma women

The educational qualifications, level of employment and incomes of Roma women are significantly lower even compared with Roma men. Their state of health is poorer, and they also experience greater disadvantages in accessing the health care and social services systems. The risks to which they are exposed are at present not being tackled sufficiently: their vulnerable situation within the family, the fact that they are in some instances married off as children, human trafficking, and the risk of becoming victims of prostitution. Some problems are almost exclusively relevant to Roma women, and therefore these instances call for concentrated interventions.

The educational qualifications of women within the Roma population are extremely low. 81.4% of Roma women completed maximum the 8 grades of elementary school, while this percentage is 71.8% among Roma men. The ratio of those who only completed elementary school at most is two and a half times higher among Roma women than among non-Roma women. In the entire population, the employment rate of women is 2.6 times higher compared with Roma women, and Roma women are at a disadvantage even within their own population; they have half the chance of finding employment compared with Roma men. A Roma woman has a 3.4 times higher chance of being unemployed than a non-Roma woman. 26% of non-Roma women over the age of 25 years smoke; the corresponding figure among Roma women is 60%. Some 62% of Roma women continued smoking also during pregnancy, compared with 25% of non-Roma women. At the same time, only 1% of Roma adult women consume alcohol more than once a week (as opposed to 14% of the total Hungarian population aged over 18 years, and only 4% of the entire Roma population). Nonetheless, the life expectancy of Roma women at birth is – in contrast to that observed in the whole of the population – lower than that of Roma men.

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

According to the latest statistics, a total of 1.399 million (14.3%) people in Hungary (Eurostat, 2013) live in poverty. According to a small sample gained from the Household Monitor Survey of the TÁRKI Social Research Institute, the poverty rate among the Roma is estimated to be around 70-80%.

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.*

The operation of the coordination mechanism set up for the coordination of the policy tools and various policy areas of inclusion (ROK-T, TFCTB – Inter-Ministerial Committee for Social Inclusion and Roma Affairs, evaluation committees, see in detail below) duly continued also in 2013. In response to the needs that had arisen over time, the Anti-Segregation Roundtable emerged as a new player, and



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the Roma Coordination Council was also set up. Additionally, thanks to statutory changes, national minorities may for the first time obtain official parliamentary representation in 2014. Based on the new legislation, the Roma – as other nationalities – were given the opportunity to obtain a mandate in Parliament in the 2014 parliamentary elections. (See detailed description in the next Section and in Section 6.)

- *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.*

It is the duty of the State Secretariat for Social Inclusion of the Ministry of Human Resources – that also acts as Decade Focal Point – to take part in the work of the above-mentioned bodies and to coordinate and support their work.

a) Roma Coordination Council

The Roma Coordination Council (ROK-T) established by Government Decree 1102/2011. (IV.15.) was designed to keep track of the progress of the inclusion policy and of the implementation of the framework agreement between the Government and the National Roma Self-Government (ORÖ). It offers a platform for dialogue and cooperation for the benefit of effective Roma inclusion. The co-chair of ROK-T is the President of ORÖ; members are representatives of Roma NGOs, churches, local government associations, national and regional Roma nationality self-governments, the National Economic and Social Council, the Fundamental Rights Commissioner and experts appointed by the President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Invited permanent members are the presidents of the Equal Treatment Authority and the Central Statistical Office, and representatives of the parliamentary committees for human rights, minority, civil and religious affairs and employment and labour affairs. ROK-T held 2 meetings in 2013.

b) 'Let it be better for our Children' National Strategy Evaluation Committee

The "Let it be better for our Children" National Strategy Evaluation Committee established by Government Decree 1053/2008. (VIII.4.) as amended in May 2011 is responsible for monitoring the "Let it be better for our Children" National Strategy 2007-2032 passed by Parliament in 2007. The new Evaluation Committee established in 2011 is comprised of 12 government representatives and 12 representatives of civil organizations, churches and professional organisations, plus additional permanent invitees. The Minister of State for Social Inclusion proceeds as Chair of the Committee, which is co-chaired by a member elected by non-governmental members. The Committee met 4 times in 2013.

c) Inter-Ministerial Committee for Social Inclusion and Roma Affairs

The Inter-Ministerial Committee for Social Inclusion and Roma Affairs (TFCTB) was established by Government Resolution No. 1199/2010 (IX.29.), and ensures the continuous coordination of government activities with the aim of improving the living conditions and social situation and promoting the social integration of people living in extreme poverty. The working groups of TFCTB hold consultations with the government on topics such as regional development, employment policy, education policy, social policy and health care. Members: representatives of the relevant ministries,



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Chair: Minister of Human Resources. The work of the TFCTB is coordinated by the State Secretariat for Social Inclusion.

d) Roma Affairs Council

At its meeting held on 29 January 2013, the Government decided on the establishment of the Roma Affairs Council (CET), which elevates the cause of inclusion to the highest level. The main task of the body is to identify proposals concerning the strategic directions of inclusion and Roma policy and to keep track of their implementation. The establishment of CET allows the evaluation of the implementation of the measures taken as part of a direct dialogue at the highest level of the government structure and in response to direct feedback with the involvement of the ministers and stakeholders concerned, while it also creates a forum for identifying further measures necessary for promoting the inclusion of Roma. The Council makes recommendations with respect to the Government's social inclusion and Roma policy, monitors the attainment of the targets in the framework agreement between the Government and the National Roma Self-Government, and reviews the reports prepared by ministers involved in the implementation of the framework agreement and the National Roma Self-Government. The Council is chaired by the Prime Minister and co-chaired by the President of the National Roma Self-Government. Other members include the Minister of Human Resources, the Minister for Internal Affairs, the Minister for National Economy and the Minister of State leading the Prime Minister's Office. The Council meets at least quarterly.

e) Anti-Segregation Roundtable

The Anti-Segregation Roundtable was established in June 2013. Both governmental and civil parties are involved. It aims to review the current issues of educational integration and segregation, to discuss the competencies of churches, civil sector as well as of state and local actors, to review current professional standards and, where relevant, to propose new ones.

f) Cooperation at the local level

There is ad hoc local cooperation between Roma civil society organisations and local governments based on local programmes and topics. The State Secretariat for Social Inclusion does not seek to oversee these relations but enhances their ongoing development, inter alia, by providing grants for the operation of civil organisations and training programmes with a view to helping the representation of local Roma communities.

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

In order to track the implementation of the NSIS, a separate monitoring system has been recently set up to monitor the implementation of programmes within a standardised framework. The practical application of the monitoring mechanism was piloted during the preparation of the second annual report on the implementation of the Strategy in 2013. The report was published and circulated to civil and governmental partners. Monitoring and evaluation are assisted by the Social Inclusion Indicator System (also published) developed by an independent research institute, with data regularly uploaded by the Central Statistical Office. Its purpose is to monitor the impacts of the measures of the Strategy.



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It is difficult to measure impacts as changes in the indicators cannot necessarily be attributed directly to governmental action. However, field visits, regular surveys (e.g. the Large Sample Roma Survey conducted every 10 years since 1971 – last one in 2013, population census every 10 years (2011) and mid-term micro-census) and regular independent evaluations commissioned by the Government also contribute to a detailed and thorough measurement of the impacts of Roma-related policies. Additionally, the Government proposed to include the Roma issue in most surveys of the CSO.

- *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?*

It is difficult to determine the total amount of funds that were dedicated to Roma integration in 2013. The reasons are as follows:

- The National Social Inclusion Strategy that is concerned with the social inclusion of the Roma does not look upon the Roma as the sole target group but focuses on those living in child poverty and extreme poverty as well, and therefore the programmes featured in the action plan of the National Social Inclusion Strategy for the years 2012-2014 also extend to these target groups. While there are targeted programmes, due to general data protection regulations, the Roma do not emerge in the programmes as a separate group, or do so only on the basis of voluntary declaration.
- The above-mentioned action plan identifies the resources dedicated to the measures that serve social inclusion in every instance – in many cases, the allocated funding is not determined in exact terms, and therefore it is impossible to tell exactly how much funding was used for a given measure. The amendments made to the programmes featured in the action plan and any interim changes, too, render the designation of funding in exact terms highly difficult.
- A methodological difficulty additionally stems from the fact that certain programmes cover more than one year, and it is hard to separate the funding that was used in a particular year, such as in 2013. At the same time, neither are the interim reports of the programmes tied to calendar years.

Upon the development of the action plan of the National Social Inclusion Strategy for the years 2012-2014, the amounts and sources of the funds necessary for interventions requiring funding for their implementation were identified. Based on this, the total budget of the action plan covering all measures' (and not only those concerning the Roma) amounts to some HUF 239 billion over a period of three years. This includes both EU and national funds.

- *What kinds of funding sources (local, national and international) are considered for the implementation of the Decade National Action Plan/National Roma Integration Strategy in 2014?*

Funding is provided from both national and EU sources and equity. Development projects are carried out primarily from EU funding, while long-term operation is funded from state and local sources.



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- *What has been done to ensure that EU Funds will be allocated for Roma inclusion in the 2014-2020 period? Please estimate the budget of planned measures in the context of the Decade Action Plan/National Roma Integration Strategy for 2014-2020 (please indicate which of the 4 key areas, or which other area, is planned to benefit from the referred funding) from EU funds, national funds, and other sources.*

The negotiation of the Partnership Agreement for the financial period between 2014 and 2020 is currently being negotiated by the Government and the European Commission. We shall be able to tell how much funding will be available for the implementation of the thematic goal 9. *Social Inclusion* that includes the issue of Roma inclusion, after the adoption of the Partnership Agreement. The targeted interventions planned to be implemented in the interest of social inclusion will primarily form part of the Human Resources Development Operational Programme; at the same time, we also enforce the criteria of social inclusion as a horizontal principle in the case of other operational programmes as well, in particular, in the regional operational programmes.

It is additionally important to note that the State Secretariat for Social Inclusion will start preparing the action plan for the period 2015-2017 in the autumn of 2014. In line with former practice, the funds necessary for implementation will be identified for each measure.

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

Sure Start Children's Centres

Sure Start Children's Centres represent a key starting point in the inclusion process by offering help to disadvantaged children and families. The goal is to help those living in extreme poverty, mostly Roma, and socially disadvantaged children with early development services essential for future integration into kindergarten and school. Sure Start Children's Centres were awarded some HUF 2.7 billion in funding between 2007 and 2010 through the SROP 5.2.2 programme. Since 2012, the Children's Centres have been financed from the national budget with aid worth HUF 293 million. By the end of 2013, 113 Sure Start Children's Centres operated in total. Since January 2013, Sure Start Children's Centres have formed part of the system of services described in Act XXXI of 1997 on the Protection of Children and Guardian Administration.

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

The purpose of these programmes is to guarantee the welfare of children and to break the poverty cycle of disadvantaged families within the framework of integrated micro-regional programmes implemented in the most disadvantaged micro regions (MDMR) areas. Most important areas of the



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complex programme: coordination of services, health prevention, launch of early childhood services, including Sure Start Children's Centres, communal, leisure-time and sports programmes, programmes assisting school integration, school-based social work, operation of youth information points, career orientation for young people. In the case of SROP-5.2.3-A-11/1, 6 micro-regions were awarded HUF 2,992 million (total allocation: HUF 3,400 million), while as part of SROP-5.2.3.A-12/1, 17 micro-regions were awarded aid worth HUF 6,987 million (the total allocation amounted to HUF 7,210 million).

The mentoring of Sure Start Children's Centres is assisted and professional and methodological support is provided for the development of local/regional programmes from the SROP 5.2.1 priority project which has been operational as of the 1st half of 2008. The allocation of this project for the period of 2012-2015 is HUF 1.86 billion. As a result of this measure, the number of operational integrated micro-regional child chance programmes has increased to 23.

Development of nurseries and kindergartens

The expansion of nursery capacity is carried out in the most disadvantaged micro-regions of the country with a significant Roma population. Funds worth HUF 2.2 billion have been allocated for refurbishing and modernising 8 existing institutions in Northern Hungary (586 places), while 4 institutions are being enlarged by 172 new places. Kindergartens are being refurbished and enlarged by 4,999 new places from total funding worth HUF 15.26 billion. The implementation of projects is in progress.

Offering free meals to disadvantaged students

The system of offering free summer meals to disadvantaged students was renewed in 2013; the situation (state of development) of the municipality, the number of children in need and the available equity were all taken into consideration upon the awarding of state aid. In 2013, fiscal resources allocated to offering free or discount meals in public youth institutions (nurseries, kindergartens, elementary schools) increased from HUF 29,764.4 million to HUF 44,799.3 million; consequently, the central budget was able to increase its contribution to free and discount meals. The number of municipalities providing summer meals for children in 2013 stood at 1,400 (500 in most disadvantaged micro-regions), and some 110,000 children benefited from the scheme (45,000 of whom live in localities in most disadvantaged micro-regions).

Integrated Pedagogical Programme

The **Integrated Pedagogical System** serves the successful advancement and social integration of students. The goal of this system is to minimise the role of the family's socio-economic status in the school progress of children, to encourage the use of effective and innovative teaching methods, and to promote the kindergarten participation and successful advancement in school of under-privileged and disadvantaged children. It also seeks to reduce segregation, to strengthen cooperation with other sectors and the parents of disadvantaged children, and to financially reward the teachers involved. In the 2013/2014 school year, 75,779 students and 25,260 disadvantaged children in kindergartens were involved and received mentoring services and scholarship grants.



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Alternative learning facilities and second chance programmes

The SROP 3.3.9 projects which support alternative learning facility and second chance programmes with funding worth HUF 7.5 billion started in 2013 and will finish in June 2015. 125 alternative learning facilities receive funding in total. Under the auspices of the programme, the number of alternative learning facilities will increase from 60 to 300, and the number of students involved will increase from the current 3-4,000 to approximately 5-6,000 in the case of alternative learning facilities and 1,200 in second chance programmes.

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

The programme was designed to promote successful advancement in school (e.g. reduced dropout rates) and the mobility of disadvantaged students from secondary school to higher education. It is therefore important to increase the percentage and number of disadvantaged students who pass their secondary school-leaving examinations and to improve their chances of gaining admission to higher education. Allocation: HUF 4 billion, HUF 1.5 billion to be used in the most disadvantaged micro-regions. The programmes that start between October 2013 and March 2014 will finish by June 2015 and will reach some 2,800 disadvantaged students, 2,200 of whom will have successfully completed their studies.

Targeted programmes to reduce early school-leaving

In order to develop a national strategy for reducing early school-leaving, the Educational Research and Development Institute, Tempus Public Foundation and Corvinus University of Budapest submitted a proposal in response to the 2012 LLP Call for Proposals KA1 Specific EACEA/20/2012 "Implementation of European Strategic Objectives in Education and Training (ET 2020)" programme to the European Commission. The main objective of the project is to formulate policy recommendations for the preparation of national strategies regarding early school-leaving. The implementation of the project started in March 2013. By the end of 2013, a medium-term strategy to combat early school-leaving was completed, and it is expected to be adopted in the first half of 2014. The strategy extends from early childhood care to upper secondary education, and contains measures from early childhood all the way to age groups beyond the compulsory school attendance age to induce young people to return to school. The document pays particular attention to student groups with a high risk of leaving school early, namely, disadvantaged and multiply disadvantaged students and students with special educational needs.

The development of specialised services is targeted in the SROP 3.4.2/11/B priority programme (HUF 2.3 billion) to be completed in 2014. The goal is to assess all services which children with special educational needs receive and to determine to what degree the educational and career service system meets the target group needs in certain counties.

Teacher training

Theoretical information and practical skills must be integrated into teacher training and the relevant output requirements for the purpose of facilitating the integrated education, personality development and the fostering of the skills and talents of disadvantaged children and young people, including Roma.

Several programmes serve the attainment of this goal. The "Development of Innovative Schools" (SROP 3.1.4) projects with funding worth HUF 20.02 billion started in 2013. The "Promotion of



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teacher training” (SROP 3.1.5.) project with an allocation of HUF 11.25 billion has also started and will extend to September 2015. The projects of the HUF 5 billion call for proposals “Kindergarten development” (SROP 3.11.1) started in 2013. As a result of the projects, 300 teachers will obtain certificates, 3,000 teachers will participate in e-learning training courses, 400 consultants will be trained, 4,000 vocational school teachers will receive training, and 450 schools and 800 kindergartens will be awarded funding for development.

Scholarship programmes

There are four scholarship programmes currently in progress within the framework of the ‘Road to...’ programmes which seek to enhance the integration of disadvantaged students, with the main focus on the Roma. 14,193 students receive scholarship grants in the 2013/2014 school year, and the percentage of Roma students is in excess of 50%.

Students awarded scholarship grants in the 2013/2014 school year

<i>Sub-programme</i>	<i>Total participants</i>	<i>Already in the system</i>	<i>New applicants</i>
Road to Secondary School	5,273	2,626	2,647
Road to Secondary School-Leaving Exam	5,557	1,837	3,720
Road to Vocation	3,033	1,123	1,910
Road to Higher Education	330		
Total	14,193		

The Arany János Talent Fostering Programme (AJTP) seeks to help disadvantaged students to pass their school-leaving examinations and to support the continuation of their studies in higher education through individual tutoring and talent fostering. Some 3,000 students participated in the programme in the 2012/2013 and 2013/2014 school years; over-subscription to the programme was 150-170%, 80% of the participating students gained admission to institutions of higher education, and there was a 10% drop-out rate. *The Arany János Boarding School Programme* is designed to help multiply disadvantaged and needy students to obtain their school-leaving examinations and to encourage the continuation of their studies in higher education through individual tutoring, career orientation and social support. 890 students took part in the programme in the 2012/2013 school year, and here, too, the drop-out rate was a mere 10 %. The averages of school grades of those participating in the programme were better than or equal to the average values of the given institutions. *The Arany János Boarding-Vocational School Programme* serves to help students qualifying as multiply disadvantaged and needy to obtain vocational qualifications, to reduce early school-leaving and to compensate for their social disadvantages by promoting the cooperation of the participating institutions and developing individualised development plans as well as with continuous feedback on the progress of students and career orientation. 600 students took part in the programme in the 2012/2013 school year. The dropout rate of the programme is well below the national average (30 %), just 13% over the course of four years.



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The Network of Christian Roma Specialisation Colleges

The 8 member institutions of the network support 171 Roma students in higher education with the help of aid from SROP 4.1.1/D (allocation: HUF 1.15 billion). The operation of the special colleges was funded from national resources worth HUF 120 million in 2013.

Mentoring in higher education

The participation of disadvantaged students in higher education must be supported with mentoring, coordination and consulting services in institutions of higher education. This goal is served by the programme "Promoting regional and sectoral cooperation in higher education and furthering integration in rural higher education" (SROP 4.1.1/C), which supports these services in higher education institutions with civil society partners. 15 projects with aid worth HUF 16.923 billion serve the underlying objective. After the development of services (deadline: 30 June 2014), 1,200 disadvantaged students are expected to receive mentoring, consulting and training services based on individual needs.

- *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.*

The implementation of the National Social Inclusion Strategy began in 2012, and social impacts cannot be assessed over such a short term. In the case of most measures, including the actions in education, we can only rely on output data.

It is important, nonetheless (even if not in the context of the assessment of the impact of the measures), that the figures of the 2013 large-sample Roma survey show a rise in the level of qualifications. However, this increase falls short of the educational expansion that may be observed in the entire country. For instance, in the last nine years (2003-12), while the percentage of degree-holders increased by 6 percentage points in the entire population, the percentage of degree-holders within the Roma population only increased by 0.6%. We may observe the most significant improvement in the educational qualifications of the Roma population in the field of the completion of the 8 grades of elementary education and vocational training.

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 programmes, targeted activation measures, measures supporting self-employment and entrepreneurship, measures promoting employment of qualified Roma civil servants, eliminating barriers, including discrimination, to entering the labour market, etc.*



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Public employment schemes

As part of the new type of public works projects, the state itself organises public employment, extends a helping hand in a responsible manner, and creates an opportunity for involvement in activities that create values and are useful for the public. Public employment is not a goal but an important means towards entry into the primary labour market and should be regarded as a temporary means.

During the period January–December 2013, 387,069 persons took part in public works, in one or several programmes. 210,126 persons from among the total number of participants only had elementary qualifications at most. 39,256 of the people joining the schemes were school-leavers for whom public works represented the first legal employment opportunity. Based on 20 December 2013 data, 17,725 persons from among those participating in public works declared themselves to be of Roma origin. The declaration of ethnic affiliation is voluntary. Based on the estimates of the Ministry for Internal Affairs, the Roma involved in public works up to 20 December 2013 accounted for some 20% of the total number of participants; that is, 77,000 persons. 8.3% of public works participants found jobs on the primary labour market 6 months after the completion of the programme, while 19.2% found subsidised employment on the secondary labour market. In total, 27.6 per cent of them succeeded in finding work by the 180th day following the completion of their public works employment.

In the autumn of 2013, the Government decided that 100,000 individuals out of the 200,000 people involved in the winter public works programme launched in November must be offered training under the auspices of the SROP 2.1.6 program between December 2013 and March 2014. As part of this, accredited training courses, training courses providing basic instruction or aimed at the development of basic skills, and inclusion training were eligible for funding. Between 1 December 2013 and 10 March 2014 98,885 people were involved in the training provided as part of the winter public works programme, 21,224 of whom declared themselves to be Roma. The National Office for Labour undertook to involve 10,000 Roma in training out of the target indicator of 37,000 persons. Upon enrolment in the training courses, the individuals concerned had the opportunity to make a declaration regarding their ethnic affiliation. From among the total 127,206 persons involved in the programme, 26,457 persons declared themselves to be Roma.

Improving the labour market chances of the most disadvantaged groups

In the interest of improving the labour market chances of the most disadvantaged groups, it is necessary to provide training and support services which improve employability. The implementation of this measure is served by the priority programme SROP 5.3.8/B „Motivating training and support services in the interest of increasing the labour market chances of the most disadvantaged groups” with an allocation of HUF 7.31 billion. The expected result of the project is the involvement of 30,000 persons; results achieved by February 2014: number of individuals involved in programme: 14,330 persons.

The priority project SROP 5.3.10 Development of the lifestyle competencies of the most disadvantaged groups is closely related to the above project. In harmony with the objectives of the priority project SROP 5.3.8/B, the purpose of this project is to improve the situation of those living in



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disadvantaged localities, to develop their self-sustaining skills and self-appraisal, to reduce the extent and impacts of the gap, to eliminate ethnic and social segregation, and to promote the labour market integration of groups with multiple disadvantages. The programme is planning to reach some 13,000 persons; number of individuals participating in training: 6,000 persons; individuals successfully completing training: 4,500 persons; number of individuals involved in training and employment programme: 1,800 persons. Number of individuals reached by programme by February 2014: number of individuals attending training: 1,611 persons; number of people having successfully completed training: 1,323 persons.

Improvement of the employability of the disadvantaged (decentralised programmes in the convergence regions)

The SROP 1.1.2 “Improvement of the employability of the disadvantaged (Decentralised programmes in the convergence regions)” project helps the entry of disadvantaged jobseekers into the labour market with complex, personalised benefits and services. This priority project started on 1 May 2011 in the country’s convergence regions under the auspices of the Ministry for National Economy and the labour centres of the county government offices. The available allocation increased to HUF 106 billion during the course of 2012 by virtue of a government decision.

From among the 110,000 individuals to be involved in the programme in total to the debit of the increased allocation, labour centres agreed to attempt to involve some 16,500 job-seekers of Roma origin. Additionally, according to plans, 57,980 persons will receive training, and 88,000 persons will successfully close their individual programmes as part of the project. Based on the relevant expectations, on the 180th day following the successful closing of the individual programmes, minimum 32,000 persons will be in employment. The county labour centres are succeeding in reaching their undertaken targets pro rata: from among the 108,152 persons involved by the end of February 2014, there are 15,326 Roma jobseekers. 50,325 individuals took part in training and 48,488 persons successfully completed their individual programmes. From among those completing their individual programmes, in cases where it was possible to conduct an impact analysis 6 months after closure, 15,411 persons were in employment. In the interest of ensuring the attainment of the Roma involvement target figures, the county labour centres are required to employ 2 Roma staff members per county on a mandatory basis, and we additionally supported the acquisition of work experience in the capacity of employment coordinator in the case of another 40 officers of Roma origin (2 persons per county) over a period of 3 months from September to November 2012 in cooperation with National Employment Nonprofit Ltd.

The *SROP 1.1.4 priority project* – similarly to SROP 1.1.2 – also serves to promote the entry of disadvantaged jobseekers into the labour market in the Central Hungary Region, and is being implemented in the labour centres integrated into the government offices as of 1 May 2011, divided into metropolitan and Pest County projects. In the first half of 2013, the funding available for implementation increased to HUF 7 billion and the time available for implementation increased to 3 years with the addition of one year (closing of project: 30 April 2014). The undertakings have to date been attained pro rata. By the end of February 2014, we succeeded in involving 10,012 persons in the programme (target: 7,000); from among the 5,654 (4,200) persons involved in training, 4,496 (3,500) successfully completed their training, and 4,536 (5,950) persons successfully closed their



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individual programmes. From among those having completed their individual programmes in whose case a period of 6 months elapsed after completion, 2,139 (2,250) persons were in employment. Neither the project, nor the action plan contains quantified expectations with respect to the number of Roma to be involved.

The purpose of the project *SROP 1.4.1 "Promotion of labour market programmes related to communal responsibilities"* is to support local initiatives, with the involvement of non-state organisations, with funding worth HUF 2.86 billion in total, which are designed to help disadvantaged jobseekers, to develop their skills and to employ them on a temporary basis in order to achieve their subsequent long-term employability even in the private sector. The number of Roma to participate in this programme emerges as a horizontal criterion, and the relevant projects are currently being implemented.

The call for proposals *SROP 1.4.3 „Promotion of innovative, experimental employment programmes"* contributes to the testing of innovative employment methods with a total allocation of HUF 5.1 billion. One of the main objectives of this call for proposals is to test employment and work organisation methods not previously used with respect to the given target group or organisation and to create adaptable models suitable for the purposes of policy recommendations and use by other organisations through the accurate recording of the relevant activities and results. The programme serves to promote employment in the open labour market of jobseekers of active age or inactive unemployed through innovative employment projects. In addition to the improvement of the labour market position of social groups, it is particularly important to promote model programmes which ensure the employment of unemployed youth and those with disabilities in the open labour market. The creation of „green jobs" and the development of digital tools and skills are breakthrough points that are also identified in the EU2020 Strategy, and therefore these areas are also promoted. The number of Roma involved in the project emerges as a horizontal criterion.

Employment of Roma people combined with training in the social and child welfare care system

This measure is implemented via the call for proposals released on 28 June 2012 SROP 5.3.1.-B-2. The fundamental purpose of this project is to improve the social inclusion and employment of unemployed Roma people (primarily Roma women) struggling with social prejudice and labour market discrimination by supporting their employment in the institutions of the social and child welfare care system. As part of the project currently under implementation, institutions providing core social and child welfare care services and specialised social and child protection care services may apply for wage supplements for the employment of Roma people over a period of 12 months. Within the framework of the project launched in the autumn of 2012, 1000 people will be trained on a subsidised basis, and 750 of them are expected to successfully complete their training. Number of persons participating in training: 984; number of persons successfully completing training programme: 579.

Vocational school scholarships

The vocational school study scholarship was introduced in 2010. Certain elements of the system underwent changes in 2012. The main purpose of the scholarship is to enhance the prestige of qualified workers, to arouse interest in occupations that are genuinely required by the economy, and



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to reduce early school-leaving. The funding allocated for vocational school scholarships amounted to HUF 2.9 billion in 2013. The Government Decree that defines the rules applicable to the vocational school scholarship programme was amended in 2012. The amendment permits the transfer of grants to the parents, and in the event of fail, it introduces competence development.

In 2013, 21,656 students were eligible for vocational school scholarship, while the actual number of scholarship recipients was 19,094. 5,109 students were eligible for competence development, and 4,768 students actually took part in such training.

In the interest of eliminating the dead-end nature of vocational training and allowing transfers between different forms of education, Parliament passed the new legislation on adult training in the first half of 2013, and all the provisions of the legislation entered into force as of 1 September 2013.

Programmes for the acquisition of elementary qualifications for unqualified adults and young school dropouts

This measure is implemented as part of the priority project SROP 2.1.6. „I am learning again”, the purpose of which is to permit adults with low educational qualifications or without vocational qualifications to attend training and thereby improve their position in the labour market.

Investment grants to develop the employment capacity of SMEs

Promoting the job creating projects of SMEs in regions with a negative labour market outlook: a tender of the Ministry for National Economy that seeks to promote the job creation of micro-businesses and small and medium-sized enterprises. During the course of 2013 1,139 businesses received HUF 13 billion in total in non-repayable aid from the National Employment Fund, 80% of which was awarded to projects implemented in disadvantaged regions. Businesses were awarded aid for the creation of 6,456 new jobs and the employment in these jobs of 5,028 jobseekers (amongst them some 400 Roma as expected) for a minimum term of 2 years.

The Ministry for National Economy announced another call for proposals in February 2013 for the promotion of the job creating projects of SMEs. *Favouring businesses agreeing to employ individuals with low educational qualifications, in particular, women and Roma, and to cooperate in their training upon the determination of the conditions attached to the availability of aid:* This measure serves the Job Protection Action Plan which was approved by the Government in the interest of the preservation of jobs and the expansion of employment on 4 July 2012. The primary purpose of the Job Protection Action Plan is to preserve jobs and to protect the employment of disadvantaged workers. To this end, the plan enhances the competitiveness of employers employing disadvantaged, less competitive work force through the reduction of the costs of employment. The Action Plan promotes the employment of workers under the age of 25 years and over 55, the long-term unemployed, those return to work from maternity care services, and people working in (simple) jobs requiring no qualifications through the reduction of the employer's burdens (social contribution tax and vocational training contribution). This measure permits the preferential employment of more than 1 million people. Based on November 2013 data, the measure made the preferential employment of some 720,000 people possible; this figure is 120,000 higher than it was in January 2013.



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Social cooperatives

Programmes for the employment of jobseekers and the inactive are also supported by virtue of the establishment of social cooperatives. The social cooperative may also represent an opportunity for those participating in public works schemes that may enter the labour market as self-employed, cooperative members or cooperative employees. The operation of this new type of social cooperative was made possible by the amendment of Act XLI of 2013 and other laws (duty law, social legislation, personal income tax legislation). The assets procured within the framework of public works and the theoretical knowledge and practical skills acquired through training may partially lay the foundations for the initial operation of social cooperatives. The Programme Coordination Office for Social Cooperatives (Office) was set up under the auspices of the Ministry for Internal Affairs on 19 December 2012 with a view to creating and improving the operating conditions of and providing legal support for the new type of social cooperatives. At present, the establishment of social cooperatives based on the foundations of public works schemes appears to be realistic in some 150 localities; 90 of these have already been registered by the Court of Registration. The Ministry for Internal Affairs provides supplementary aid for 37 localities for the implementation of further projects essential for the operation of social cooperatives during the term of the public works programmes. The SROP 2.4.3/D „Development of the social economy” arrangement offers initial funding for the newly established social cooperatives.

Employment cooperative

Launch of social economy-type programmes: the call for proposals SROP 2.4.3/D-3-13/1 “Promoting the social economy – Promoting the establishment of employment cooperatives” was published on 11 April 2013. The call for proposals had an allocation of HUF 4.995 billion for the establishment of a network of employment cooperatives as well as for promoting the preparation of prospective cooperative members for entering the labour market. Results of the development programme serving to promote the establishment of employment cooperatives: training of minimum 1000 disadvantaged unemployed individuals, providing competence and skills development related to the operation of the social economy for 1,800 target group members, and establishment of minimum one employment cooperative.

Applicants were invited to submit their proposals by 31 May 2013, and the program is implemented by the National Roma Self-Government in a consortium over the course of 12 to 24 months. Implementation started in March 2013.

Social Land Programme

The purpose of the 2013 social land programme with a national allocation of HUF 250 million was to promote the living of socially disadvantaged people, to improve the quality of their lives, and to enhance the chances of an independent living. The Programme extends from July 2013 to 30 June 2014; number of awarded applicants: 150. The range of potential applicants in respect of the 3 sub-projects (components A, B and C) has also been extended to social cooperatives; they were eligible to apply for aid for the procurement of assets that promote better access to the market. The programme improved the day-to-day living of 3,340 families, while it also provided employment for 799 persons. Typical composition of target group: long-term unemployed, low-income households, families with many children, elderly, individuals with disabilities, Roma.



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- *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.*

We should mention the public works programmes (some 77,000 Roma) and the employment figures (the number of people in employment increased above 4 million at the end of 2013 for the first time since 1990). The EU poverty indicators related to employment improved too – even if only very mildly – for the first time after a long period by 2013: we observed a slow decline in the number of households with low work intensity in 2013 (2009: 11.3%, 2010: 11.9%, 2011: 12.2%, 2012: 12.8%, 2013: 12.6%). A question relating to national ethnic affiliation has been incorporated into the Labour Survey of the Central Statistical Office.

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.*

At the beginning of 2013, there were a total of 1,663 segregated estates inhabited by the poor and the Roma embedded in 823 settlements and in ten Budapest districts, many of them in small villages or outside their administrative boundaries. Approximately 280,000 to 315,000 people – some 3 % of the population – live in segregated residential areas. The elimination of segregated housing requires local methods based on the type, size, geographical location, etc. of the given locality.

Housing support

By the fact that the income limit for eligibility of housing support was raised to 250% of the minimum old-age pension, the number of those eligible for this support has increased considerably (80 % up compared with 2011, to 377,398 persons in 2013). The abolition of the rule related to the ratio of housing maintenance expenses to the total income contributed to the extension of the eligible group too. Moreover, the introduction of wealth assessment ensures that the neediest households, that are least able to sustain themselves, receive support. In consequence of the fact that the support is increasingly provided in kind, it is possible to guarantee that it is used for the “designated purpose”, and the procedure for eligibility has also been simplified. Based on 2013 data, central fiscal funding worth HUF 19.5 billion was provided for the purposes of housing support.

Complex rehabilitation of segregated neighbourhoods

One of the target areas is housing estates built with industrial technologies where the goal is to avoid their gradual transformation into ghettos. The other target area includes more extensive, derelict urban districts with traditionally built housing and a mixed population where the objective is to stop further segregation. Social urban rehabilitation calls for proposals that serve the attainment of these goals: SGPOP-5.1.1.-12, NGPOP-5.1.1./A-12, NHOP-3.1.1.-12 (with a total allocation of HUF 5.016



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billion); CHOP-5.1.1/B-12 priority project (HUF 7,510 million), CTOP-3.1.1/D2-12 priority project (total allocation: HUF 4,620 million); STOP-4.1.2/B-12 (HUF 360 million), NGPOP-5.1.1/C-12 (HUF 500 million), NHOP-3.1.1/B-12 (HUF 500 million); WPOP-3.1.1/B2-12 priority project (total allocation: HUF 1,650 million). In consequence of the assessment of the proposals, 37 proposals were awarded HUF 26 billion in aid in 2012-13 for the rehabilitation of low-infrastructure urban estates and the promotion of the employment and social integration of residents. As part of the program “Implementation of local rehabilitation pilot projects modelling housing integration for social purposes” (STOP-4.1.2/B-13), 6 proposals were selected and placed in a project development phase; consequently, projects worth HUF 1,596 million in total were submitted by the 28 February 2014 deadline.

Complex Settlement Programme

The goal of the **Complex Settlement Programme (SROP 5.3.6-11/1, allocation: HUF 5.68 billion)** is to support the social inclusion and integration of disadvantaged people living in extreme poverty in segregated housing by ensuring access to a variety of complex social services. Programme components cover social aspects, community building, education, health, training and employment, and they promote the enhancement of the living conditions of people living in segregated housing. Through individual and communal developments, the entire population living in the given area is involved. As part of the programme, 22 applicants were awarded aid to the value of HUF 3.1 billion in total in 2012 in the first round (implementation is ongoing at present), while 62 proposals were submitted in response to the second round and 34 of them were awarded funding. The conclusion of aid contracts is currently in progress, and the projects are being launched continuously.

The call for proposals SIOP 3.2.3/A „Promotion of housing projects” (total allocation: HUF 2.6 billion) was invited for the purpose of supporting the housing component of the SROP 5.3.6 programmes. 8 proposals were received by the deadline with a total funding request of HUF 1.96 billion. As expected, we shall involve 2,520 persons in the programmes (current figure: 1,710 persons) 60% of whom, 1,512 persons (current figure: 700 persons) will also participate in training.

- *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.*

The figures of the estate programmes are important; however, the impacts can only be assessed on a long-term basis as it is yet unclear how the social environment of the housing programmes will develop. Nevertheless the housing conditions of the Roma population have improved as follows:

- while in 2003 one third of those registered lived in single-room homes, now only every fifth household lives in such conditions, and the percentage of those living in minimum two-room homes has increased considerably;
- while in 2003 the adjusted average ground space of homes was 58 square metres, this increased to 66 square metres by 2013;
- the ground space per household member, too, has improved (in 2003 it was 14 m², while in 2013 this indicator was 18 m²);



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- the availability of modern conveniences has likewise improved dramatically: while in 2003 only one half of homes had inside flushing toilets, two thirds of homes now have such amenities.

At the same time, this also conveys a risk of segregation as the occupation of homes in relatively good condition situated in declining localities may account for the improvement.

5. 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.*

Programme launched to reduce disadvantages arising from regional inequalities

The purpose of the sub-measure *Methodological improvement of development-related screening tests in early childhood* of the early childhood programme SROP 6.1.4 with funding worth HUF 2.5 billion is in particular to promote healthy early childhood and successful enrolment in school among children aged 0–7 requiring special care by keeping track of their development, allowing their skills to unfold, identifying any development-related risk factors, and screening children who may manifest abnormal development patterns. For these purposes a new standardised, local screening procedure has been developed. The project seeks to alleviate problems which arise from the deficiencies of the current institutional system and is planning to introduce novel, experimental developments which serve to improve the quality of current services.

Its purpose is to develop and test standard and sophisticated know-how and methods, and to share them with specialists working in basic child health care services (health visitor, local paediatrician, general practitioner with mixed practice) in order to improve the effectiveness of their work. The programme also seeks to provide support for parents with the full development of their children, the resolution of any educational problems, and the reinforcement of parental skills and competencies. Both the project and the sub-measure were launched on 1 October 2012. Anticipated results by the end of 2015: 6 sets of fully developed methodological guidelines with a „bio-psycho-social” approach for those involved in basic health care services, and 8 sets of professional guidelines submitted for approval.

Another sub-measure of the early childhood programme serves early intervention and the expansion of screening capacity by broadening the knowledge, horizons and practical skills of those working in basic child health care services. This is done by basic (graduate in the case of health visitors and post-graduate in the case of physicians) and advanced training courses. The materials developed by methodological experts will be distributed among training institutions in the form of curriculum modules. The project pays particular attention to refreshing the knowledge of staff returning to or re-starting work (e.g. coming back from maternity leave, working locally after a longer period in a



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hospital), formulating a qualification system for trainers, developing cooperation schemes for training institutions, and coordinating their concepts and ideas. Between September 2013 and February 2014 a supervision course began in 40 groups with 334 health visitors; the groups of 7 to 9 persons met monthly, and another 3 groups were launched as of March 2014.

Services for the management of mental problems in childhood and adolescence

In the case of child addictology, infrastructure projects will be implemented within the framework of SGPOP-4.1.2/B-11 and ETOP-5.2.1/C-11 with aid totalling HUF 596.3 million. In the case of child psychiatric services, infrastructure projects will be funded from STOP-3.1.3/C-11 and WPOP-5.2.1/C-11 with aid amounting to HUF 365 million. As of 1 September 2013 educational institutions are required to employ school or kindergarten psychologists. In 2014 an aid contract will be concluded as part of the Norway Grants in respect of a so-called methodological pre-defined project for the purpose of estimating the capacity and developing the infrastructure of the child psychiatric and child addictology health care system. Within the framework of the project, the needs-based capacity of child addictology services will be assessed and rules will be drafted with respect to the funding of services.

Education of disadvantaged parents

The purpose of the measure implemented as part of the SROP 6.1.4 project is to provide up-to-date child health care information via channels that are also accessible to disadvantaged parents in the interest of the improvement of their children's state of health via dissemination of information (websites, 15 publications, information packages and posters), education and the promotion of a change of paradigm. The project, including this specific measure, began on 1 October 2012. Since then the tasks planned as part of the communication sub-project have been going according to plan. Within the framework of the methodological sub-project, the parent information leaflets and newsletters relating to the 15 screening age groups have been completed and the content of a parent portal has been developed.

The Project is connected to the programmes SROP 3.1.1 „21st century public education – development and coordination”, SROP 5.2.1 „Laying the professional and methodological foundations for the nation-wide extension of the child chance programme and monitoring of the programme” and SROP 5.4.1 „Modernisation of social services, reinforcement of central and regional strategic planning capacity and laying the foundations for social policy decisions”.

National health care and health development campaigns for the disadvantaged population

As part of the priority project SROP 6.1.3/B/12/1 *Development of national health care communication* with an allocation of HUF 1.85 billion, as of 2013 the implementation of nation-wide communication events and local communication campaigns began under the auspices of the newly established Health Communication Centre (target value: 700). Topics: Why is health important and what factors have an impact on health? What can we do for the protection of our own health and that of others? Communication contents: smoking, nutrition, physical activity, alcohol consumption, responsible use of medicines, physician-patient relationship, psychological health, screening. In response to this measure, we may experience enhanced authenticity and wider acceptance in the context of state health communication.



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Within the framework of the SROP 6.1.2/11/3 (convergence regions) and the SROP 6.1.2/MDMR/11/B programmes (total allocation: HUF 5 billion and HUF 2.18 billion), preventive health development offices will be established as part of the health care system which will coordinate local health development programmes and will function as a link between basic health care, out-patient specialisation care (independent and operating in conjunction with in-patient care) and the organisations responsible for the implementation of health development programmes. People in need of a change of habits directed to the health development offices by general practitioners, out-patient institutions or after in-patient treatment or those who seek to find a new lifestyle voluntarily will be invited to take part in screening and change of lifestyle programmes based on risk assessments, and the offices will monitor their participation in programmes. The implementation of the health development office programmes – 58 beneficiaries (18 in most disadvantaged micro-regions + 40 in convergence regions) – began in the 1st quarter of 2014.

The implementation of the proposals submitted in response to the call for proposals SROP 6.1.2/11/MDMR/A “Health education and mentality changing lifestyle programmes in the most disadvantaged micro-regions” (total allocation: HUF 1.033 billion) is in progress. As part of the programme, almost all of the scene-specific health plans (27) have been completed (target: 30). The number of people involved in the programmes to date, some 23,000 people, represents more than one third of the 60,000 individuals planned. The aid contract of the priority project SROP 6.1.3/A (aid allocation: HUF 1 billion) that is designed to promote cervical screening by health visitors and bowel screening by general practitioners was signed on 26 February 2014, and the implementation of the programme is in progress.

Availability of physicians and health visitors in districts with long-term unfilled medical positions

An action plan was completed for the resolution of the availability of physicians, infant specialists, paediatricians and health visitors in districts with long-term unfilled medical positions which are mostly situated in the most disadvantaged regions. The implementation of the action plan is under way.

In the *Practice I Programme*, the National Institute for Basic Health Care (OALI) agrees to provide for the availability of medical staff in districts without a GP on a long-term basis through the employment as public servants of physicians who do not yet hold general practitioner qualifications. Based on Government Decree No. 43/1999. (III. 3.) on the detailed rules of the financing of health care services from the Health Insurance Fund, these districts are financed at 140% of the national monthly average financing through the National Basic Service Institution (OALI) as the operator of these practices. From among the 92 physicians that newly entered the system, 33 work in districts which were without a GP on a long-term basis in MDMR micro-regions.

In the *Practice II Programme*, physicians with the clinical qualifications referred to become eligible to engage in general practitioner activities. Some 145 physicians have entered the system to date; 27 of them work in MDMR micro-regions and 8 of them work in districts which did not have a GP on a long-term basis.

Both practice programmes also continued in 2013; they are funded from the general practitioner allocation of the health care fund.



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Prevention programmes in public education institutions

The implementation of the projects funded within the framework of the call for proposals SROP 3.1.4 “Development of innovative schools” is under way; some 200 educational institutions were awarded EU funding worth almost HUF 20 billion. The call for proposals in respect of the priority project and open tender that is designed to promote the implementation of SROP 6.1.2/13 “Implementation of complex health development and exercise programmes and related health development programmes” is currently being prepared.

- *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.*

It is not possible to determine impacts on health over such a short term. The agreement concluded by the Government and the National Roma Self-Government in 2011 targets the health screening of 150,000 individuals in the field of health care. At the same time, the question of measuring emerges as a methodological problem: in Hungary we use territorial estimates for demonstrating the number of Roma participants.

Measures with negative effects:

- The reduction of the state subsidies of the prices of medicines resulted in higher prices – a disadvantage for poor Roma families. At the same time, public health support schemes are available for those eligible to ensure the availability of medication.
- The centralisation and rationalisation of medical services resulted in changes in certain medical professions in rural regions and made it difficult, in some instances, for disadvantaged people to access these services. Some local governments offer discount support services to help the population in accessing medical services.

6. 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).*

National Curriculum (“NAT”)

Hungary was the first country to incorporate lessons in Roma culture and history in its National Curriculum. As a result, no member of future generations will complete his/her studies without having acquired some basic knowledge of Roma culture and traditions, and the Roma Holocaust.

Preferential mandates for nationalities

Legislators have granted nationalities the opportunity to obtain preferential mandates in Parliament. This is an historic opportunity, unprecedented in Hungarian history. National lists may now be drawn up not only by political parties but also by national minorities; to nominate a list, national minorities are only required to collect signatures from one per cent of people registered in the electoral register as wishing to cast their votes for the given nationality’s candidates.



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In order to obtain a preferential parliamentary mandate, ethnic nationality candidates need one quarter of the number of votes required for a mandate in the case of national party lists. As a result, nationalities have a significant (four-fold) advantage in the elections over other candidates (the Roma have the best chance): approximately 20,000 votes may be sufficient to win an ethnic nationality mandate. Should a nationality fail to achieve this number, they may delegate a nationality advocate or spokesperson to Parliament. A member of an ethnic nationality may naturally also decide to vote for a party list not associated with any nationality instead.

Supporting Roma culture

Roma cultural initiatives are funded from local fiscal resources. In 2013, 153 programmes concerning Roma were implemented from aid worth HUF 27.8 million. As part of the *Subsidisation of the operation of Roma civil organisations*, 117 Roma civil organisations were awarded HUF 35 million aid from the central budget in 2013. Based on individual aid decisions, 6 projects were awarded HUF 167 million in total in 2013, while in 2014 one applicant, the Centre for Education and Further Training (OTKA) will receive HUF 120 million for operation and investment.

Local equal opportunity plans

The Chapter of the Equal Treatment Act amended by Act LXXXVI of 2012 promotes the local implementation of the social inclusion strategy and the expectations concerning equal opportunities. Based on this, local governments may only obtain aid by way of tender on the basis of individual decisions from the national budget, EU funds or other programmes financed on the basis of international agreements after 1 July 2013 if they have a valid equal opportunities programme. As part of the local equal opportunities programmes, local governments are required to prepare an analysis of the social, educational, employment, health care and housing situation of disadvantaged social groups and to create an action plan for the complex management of the problems uncovered during the course of the analysis. In the interest of monitoring on a national level the measures taken for improving the situation of the target groups (people living in extreme poverty – Roma, children, the elderly, women, people with disabilities) and managing their problems, local governments are required to prepare their programmes on the basis of standard principles.

Training courses were held for local government workers regarding the preparation of local equal opportunities programmes with the assistance of 50 mentors and mentor assistants as part of the priority call for proposals StROP 1.1.16 implemented from an allocation of HUF 1,200 million. The programme will extend to 30 September 2014. With the aid of the network of mentors, 3,033 local equal opportunities programmes have been drafted to date.

Supporting Roma employment in the police and in the army

Upon publishing job advertisements and training opportunities, the Ministry for Internal Affairs pays particular attention to ensure that the information should also reach young Roma. To this end, they use the assistance of the Roma ethnic nationality self-governments and civil organisations. The Ministry's Roma affairs officer informs Roma youth of job opportunities offered by the law enforcement agencies at national forums, conferences and meetings, and regularly meeting with Roma ethnic nationality self-governments, foundations and the media.



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A set of preferential conditions has been developed to enable young Roma to gain admission to law enforcement secondary schools for the purpose of ensuring the continuous presence of the Roma in law enforcement. Additionally, the National Police Headquarters also operates an aid system to enhance the career of Roma youth intending police work, the foundations of which are laid down in a cooperation agreement entered into with the National Roma Self-Government in 1999. New contracts with 24 Roma secondary school students were concluded for the 2012/2013 school year; consequently, in the 2013/14 school year, the Ministry maintains contractual relations with 40 secondary school students and two students in higher education, not including those who finish their secondary studies in the interim.

The Ministry of Interior commissioned a survey in May 2013 regarding the personal experiences of Roma staff members in the context of their integration into the organisation and work. We may conclude that the majority of Roma staff members are satisfied with their jobs; at the same time, three quarters of them are not satisfied with their remuneration and career chances. Some 1/3 of the interviewees felt that they were discriminated against in their working conditions and promotion, and more than one half of those interviewed (52 %) believe that they were received with prejudice due to their ethnic origin at their work place. It is remarkable that the majority of those interviewed do not require any kind of positive treatment on account of their ethnic origin.

- *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).*

See the programme serving to enhance the employment of Roma women as well as other measures such as the Job Protection Action Plan (also helping the employment of women with young children), the extension of kindergarten capacity and the Sure Start Children's Centres.