



Montenegro
Government of Montenegro
Ministry for Human and Minority Rights



REPORT
ON IMPROVED POSITION OF ROMA AND
EGYPTIANS IN MONTENEGRO IN 2013

Podgorica, March 2014

REPORT ON IMPROVED POSITION OF ROMA AND EGYPTIANS IN MONTENEGRO IN 2013

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE POSITION OF ROMA MINORITY

Unlike other minority peoples and minority national communities who are involved in the contemporary trends of Montenegrin society, Roma and Egyptians are the most disadvantaged and marginalized minority national communities in Montenegro. Low economic power, low level of education, a very small number of employed, inadequate housing conditions, social outliers with cuttings of ethnic stereotypes and prejudices, specific way of life and other characteristics, are just some of the causes of their difficult position in society

List any updated information, including also, where feasible, data (by age, sex, etc.), collected in 2013, in connection with:

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

ROMA AND EGYPTIAN POPULATIONS ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL OR ETHNIC AFFILIATION, IN PERCENTAGE, BY LANGUAGE AND BY MUNICIPALITIES IN 2011.¹

MUNICIPALITIES	TOTAL POPULATION	EGYPTIANS	%	ROMA	%	ROMA LANGUAGE	% BY MUNICIPALITIES
ANDRIJEVICA	5071	0		0		0	0,00
BAR	42048	33		203		197	0,47
BERANE	33970	170		531		526	1,55
BIJELO POLJE	46051	0		334		301	0,65
BUDVA	19216	144		33		29	0,15
CETINJE	16657	0		97		5	0,03
DANILOVGRAD	18472	2		28		15	0,08
HERCEG NOVI	30864	28		258		182	0,59
KOLAŠIN	8380	0		0		0	0,00
KOTOR	22601	63		74		31	0,14
MOJKOVAC	8622	0		16		17	0,20
NIKŠIĆ	72443	446		483		402	0,55
PLAV	13108	0		0		0	0,00
PLJEVLJA	30786	1		12		38	0,12
PLUŽINE	3246	0		0		0	0,00
PODGORICA	185937	685		3988		3367	1,81
ROŽAJE	22964	74		0		0	0,00
ŠAVNIK	2070	0		0		0	0,00
TIVAT	14031	335		35		17	0,12
ULCINJ	19921	73		159		42	0,21
ŽABLIJAK	3569	0		0		0	0,00
CRNA GORA	620029	2054	0,33	6251	1,01	5169	0,83

¹ Monsat – Census of 2011.

**ROMA AND EGYPTIAN POPULATIONS ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL OR ETHNIC AFFILIATION,
BY AGE AND SEX²**

Table 9: Roma and Egyptians by age and sex, Census 2011

five-year periods	total	mail	female
Total	8305	4276	4029
0-4	1390	735	655
5-9	1227	650	577
10-14	1114	581	533
15-19	958	490	468
20-24	722	378	344
25-29	616	310	306
30-34	534	270	264
35-39	408	196	212
40-44	408	210	198
45-49	272	137	135
50-54	238	119	119
55-59	148	73	75
60-64	123	53	70
65-69	59	29	30
70-74	41	21	20
75-79	24	11	13
80 and more	14	7	7
unknown	9	6	3

Table 9: Roma and Egyptians by age and sex in %, Census 2011

five-year periods	total	mail	female
Total	100	100	100
0-4	16,7	17,2	16,3
5-9	14,8	15,2	14,3
10-14	13,4	13,6	13,2
15-19	11,5	11,5	11,6
20-24	8,7	8,8	8,5
25-29	7,4	7,2	7,6
30-34	6,4	6,3	6,6
35-39	4,9	4,6	5,3
40-44	4,9	4,9	4,9
45-49	3,3	3,2	3,4
50-54	2,9	2,8	3,0
55-59	1,8	1,7	1,9
60-64	1,5	1,2	1,7
65-69	0,7	0,7	0,7
70-74	0,5	0,5	0,5
75-79	0,3	0,3	0,3
80 and more	0,2	0,2	0,2
unknown	0,1	0,1	0,1

Number of Roma living below minimum living standards, and in proportion with the total population living below the minimum living standards.

We do not have data that exclusively concerns the Roma population, please find enclosed the internet address that refers to the analysis of poverty in Montenegro for 2012.

[http://www.monstat.org/userfiles/file/analiza%20siromastva/ANALIZA%20SIROMA%C5%A0TVA%20U%20CRNOJ%20GORI%20U%202012_godini\(1\).pdf](http://www.monstat.org/userfiles/file/analiza%20siromastva/ANALIZA%20SIROMA%C5%A0TVA%20U%20CRNOJ%20GORI%20U%202012_godini(1).pdf)

² Monstat – Census of 2011.

1. INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT AND FUNDING FOR INCLUSION OF ROMA

Describe (if any) changes in 2013 in Roma participation in decision-making processes/arrangement and structures of public administration.

Still Roma are not politically organized, and still do not have registered any Roma political party which would deal with political engagement or presentation of the Roma community, nor there are any of them involved in commissions or committees in decision-making processes.

The basic objective of the Strategy, to improve the position of Roma and Egyptian populations and their involvement in the social development, cannot be achieved without adequate participation of Roma and Egyptians in public and political life, i.e. without political representation of the Roma community as a specific cultural and political entity and collectivity. This is important and necessary segment of the overall cultural and social emancipation of the Roma and Egyptian communities, but also very important and concrete element of the fight against discrimination and for equal and non-discriminatory treatment of Roma and Egyptians as citizens and as a collectivity. In this respect has been achieved certain progress which is reflected in the formation and operation of various non-governmental organizations, which are increasingly involved in solving previously mentioned existential issues of this group. Also, given the significant role and powers given by the Law on Minority Rights and Freedoms, of great importance is the constitution and operation of the Roma Council.

The OSCE/ODIHR launched a regional project "Best Practices for Roma Integration - BPRI, which is implemented in Montenegro. The main objective of the project is to contribute to the integration of Roma in countries of the region, and specific objective is related to increase of Roma participation in political and public life, better understanding of national policies and strategic documents, as well as active participation in their implementation.

Describe how and to what extent you cooperate with civil society organizations of Roma including the Network of the Decade of Roma in your country, in terms of implementation, monitoring and evaluation of your Action Plan of the Decade or national strategies for Roma integration.

The Ministry for Human and Minority Rights as part of its regular activities cooperates with Roma civil sector, in order to give and receive the information about all the activities undertaken in the current year, which are outlined in the curriculum of the Ministry. In order to implement the Strategy and Action Plans, the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights within the Commission formed from representatives of the relevant Ministries is monitoring the implementation of Strategy for Improving the Position of Roma and Egyptians and implementation of Action Plans and regularly each year reports to the Government of Montenegro and the civil sector on the progress of these minority communities. Also, with the Roma organizations from the civil sector involved in monitoring of the implementation of the "Decade of Roma Inclusion" further cooperates in the joint organization of conferences that have been organized in Montenegro during chairmanship over the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005 – 2015.

Describe the process of monitoring and evaluation of policies that are aimed towards Roma. How do you measure the impact of these policies (through site visits, surveys, independent evaluations, etc.)?

In order to implement the Strategy and Action Plans, the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights within the Commission formed from representatives of the relevant Ministries monitors the implementation of Strategy for Improving the Position of Roma and Egyptians and implementation of Action Plans and regularly each year reports to the Government of Montenegro and the civil sector on the progress of these minority communities.

So far undertaken measures and activities aimed at improving the position of Roma and Egyptians have resulted in a very significant and visible, but not entirely sufficient, positive changes. Although certain results were achieved in the implementation of the Action Plan of the Decade of Roma Inclusion in Montenegro and Strategy for Improving the Position of RE Population in Montenegro, the expected progress in terms of improving the overall situation of Roma and Egyptian communities as collectives are absent.

What is the total amount and percentage of the national budget of 2013 that was assigned to the implementation of the Action Plan of the Decade or national Strategy for Roma integration in your country?

To improve the position of RAE population in Montenegro in 2013 was allocated a total of 228,700.74€ - 19.6% of the total budget of the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights.

What types of funding sources (local, national and international) were reviewed during the implementation of the Action Plan of the Decade or national Strategy for Roma Integration in 2014?

National, Budget of the Government of Montenegro.

The Ministry for Human and Minority Rights, as part of its Budget allocated by the Government of Montenegro for mentioned Ministry, has set aside a special budget for each year separately for the implementation of the Strategy for Improving the Position of RE population of Montenegro 2012 -2016. In 2013 was allocated 228,700.74€, i.e. 19.6% of the total budget of the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights.

What has been done to ensure that EU funds will be allocated for the inclusion of Roma in the period 2014-2020? Please evaluate the budget for planned measures in the context of the Action Plan of the Decade or national Strategy for Roma Integration in the period 2014-2020 (please specify which of the four key areas, or other areas will benefit from funding from these sources) from EU funds, national funds and other sources.

Public discussion IPA 2014 - 2020 and the inclusion of Roma and Egyptians in Montenegro, was held on 27 September, in the Blue Hall of the Parliament of Montenegro, in order to encourage constructive debate on the effects of implementation of pre-accession funds for the current programming period 2007 - 2013 and a new approach in planning and implementation of pre-accession support for the period 2014-2020. In addition, this event was aimed to convey the message about the importance of political support for the process of integration of the Roma and Egyptian communities, and also to contribute to raising awareness about the importance of involving civil society in the process of programming, planning, implementation and monitoring of IPA funds. The public debate was organized by the Parliament's Committee for Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro, which was also the host of this conference, the Center for Democracy and Human Rights (CEDEM) and the Open Society Institute from Budapest.

Public debate has resulted in the following conclusions and recommendations, aimed at more effective planning of support for the social inclusion of Roma and Egyptian communities:

It is necessary to raise awareness of the Roma and Egyptian communities on the EU integration process, as well as the significance of the results of realized IPA projects, with an active role and support of the Roma and Egyptian civil sector. In addition to addressing the issues of displaced and internally displaced Roma and Egyptians, it is necessary to pay more attention to domicile population.

It is necessary to improve horizontal coordination between institutions and organizations and provide continuity in communication with the EU Delegation to Montenegro, especially when it comes to the possibilities of simplifying the procedure for applying, and greater use of sub-granting model to overcome the gap between the needs of the community and the real capacities of the Roma civil society.

Constant capacity building in the area of project preparation and project cycle management is one of the key priorities, especially when it comes to strengthening the capacity of disadvantaged Roma and Egyptian organizations.

The use of IPA II largely depends on timely and effective strategic planning of the support at the national level, and in this connection it is necessary to provide a higher level of support and participation of local self-governments and other local stakeholders, in the development and implementation of policies of inclusion and the National Strategic Document.

The use of IPA II largely depends on timely and effective strategic planning support at the national level, and in this connection it is necessary to provide a higher level of support and participation of local governments and other local stakeholders, in the development and implementation of policies of inclusion and the National Strategic.

It should provide a systematic collection of data pertaining to all segmental integration of Roma and Egyptians. This information must be made available to all institutions involved in the planning of programs for inclusion of Roma and Egyptians, including planning, programming and implementation of EU pre-accession assistance programs.

Roma NGOs should be more closely involved in the preparation, implementation and monitoring of programs and projects aimed at solving the problems of Roma. Good practices regarding the inclusion of Roma and Egyptians should be shared and replicated. Also, it is necessary to improve coordination within the Roma civil sector.

Effective coordination between the actors of the IPA process is essential for transparent and effective implementation of adopted strategies and action plans for solving the problems of Roma. In this context, the approved projects must be based on already adopted policies of inclusion and have a strong foothold in the strategies and local action plans. It must be ensured the evaluation of pilot projects.

In order to monitor progress in the implementation of action plans and approved projects, it is necessary to ensure greater participation of Roma civil society in monitoring and reporting system. In particular, it is necessary to appoint a representative of the Roma community in the composition of the Commission for the allocation of a portion of revenues from lottery games.

2. EDUCATION

Provide some measures of the mainstream and targeted policy measures that have been designed and implemented at the national or local level to support the education of Roma in 2013, with a special focus on the objectives and implementation of the Action Plan of the Decade/national Strategy for Roma Integration (if applicable). Please include measures such as: improving children's early education and care, reducing early school leaving, encouraging Roma to participate in secondary and higher education, desegregation measures, inclusive education, teacher training, etc.

The project "Inclusive Education Services" was about the prevention of school dropout through the development of mechanisms for detecting and case management in eight schools (four in Podgorica, two in Niksic, one in Tivat and one in Berane). There were done job description for RE mediators, 7 trainings for 168 directors, teachers and professional associates and Handbook for Professionals (teachers, professional associates, directors, RE assistants) and those interested in school dropout prevention.

In accordance with the activities defined by the structural reforms in the field of education, was conducted the evaluation of the programs for primary education, and based on the results and experiences on their current usage, was performed the revision in order to establish a lasting and applicable knowledge of the students. In particular, the principles of civic education, as well as humanitarian values in the spirit of tradition, culture and history of minorities are affirmed in teaching and educational curriculum in the first cycle, then the program of Civic education and other. National education council adopted them and the application will be from the school year 2014/15.

In the Public Preschool Institution (PPI) "Djina Vrbica" in regular groups were covered 97 children, and 60 with the activities of the so-called shorter programs. In accordance with the plans in the field of preschool education is implemented the activity of preparatory kindergartens for children of RE population during the last two weeks of June 2013. Preparatory kindergarten for children of Roma and Egyptian population was organized in PPI "Djina Vrbica" - Podgorica , PPI "Dragan Kovacevic" - Niksic, PPI "Radmila Nedic" - Berane, PPI "Bambi" – Tivat and PMU "Nasa radost" - Herceg Novi. The activities began in April when the institution carried out the preparatory work (made lists of the participating children, established communication with the family, Roma community, local government, municipal organizations, Red Cross, schools in which children will enroll, made procurement of hygiene packages, etc.). There was a training organized by the Bureau for Education Services. The Bureau for Education Services supported the engagement of RE mediators for the purposes of conducting preparatory kindergartens. In Podgorica was necessary to include 15 children in the preparatory kindergarten. In Niksic was included 36, in Berane 10, in Tivat 19 children of RE population, and in Herceg Novi seven children passed preparation for primary school.

Also, were developed gender-sensitive databases for students in vocational education by municipalities, schools, sections, teaching language and class.

The Ministry of Education within the MEIS, is updating data on students by sex structure of the students.

During 2013 the Bureau for Education Services in cooperation with the REF organized the following:

- Workshops with mothers from the camp:
 - Workshops on early child development are held once a week - 39 workshops – with an average of 20;

- Workshops on literacy, organized once a week - 41 workshops – with an average of 18 participants.

- Workshops with girls:
 - Workshops on early child development - once a week - 39 workshops with an average of 15;
 - Workshops on literacy - once a week - 41 workshop – with an average of 15 participants.
 - Workshops with children aged 7-12 - once a week - 22 workshops - 34 participants (workshops with children are held once a week - while mothers are attending their workshops + children from the camp). (All activities are going to be organized in 2014 on the same basis of weekly workshops.)

47 workshops were held with children in care in 2013 (while the mothers were at their workshops) in average 15-18 children per workshop.

The program "Support to the Integration and Voluntary Return of Displaced and Internally Displaced People and residents of Konik Camp in Montenegro" is carried out with the support of the EU Delegation to Montenegro and the Montenegrin Government in partnership with the German organization HELP. Educational component of the program REF (Roma Education Fund) is carried out in partnership with the Ministry of Education. Programs of early child development and adult literacy programs are aimed at improving access to education and development during early childhood for children from RE population. From the beginning of the project was held around 50 workshops with two groups of mothers (twice a week) for optimal early childhood development and literacy.

Volunteers (72 students) of the Faculty of Philosophy in Niksic are helping in overcoming of language barriers and improvement of school achievements for 220 children who attend the District institution PI ES "Bozidar Vukovic Podgoričanin" and for 120 children who attend schools in the city.

Center for Vocational Education, in cooperation with the Institute for Social Inclusion prepared professions standards for occupations "associate in the social inclusion of Roma and Egyptians" and "organizer of social inclusion of Roma and Egyptians" as adopted on 20 December 2013 on XI session of the Council for qualifications and education programs for vocational training for occupations "associate in the social inclusion of Roma and Egyptian" and "organizer of social inclusion of Roma and Egyptians" which were adopted at the XXVI session of the National Council for Education on 24 December 2013.

Please describe, to the extent possible, the impact of measures taken by your Government in 2013 (including both quantitative and descriptive data). For the learning purposes, especially consider also inclusion of measures with negative impact on the inclusion of Roma and explain the process in order to minimize such negative impact.

In working with children of RE population in focus is their integration and improvement of school and social achievements. Regular program of preschool education is implemented for 224 children, half day program for approximately 80 children, and also the so-called preparatory kindergarten (piloted through the project "Inclusive Education Services" / IPA 2010, for 161 children - aged 4-7 years, self-administered in 2013 for 87 preschoolers who are eligible to enroll in elementary school in school year 2013/2014 and were not included in the system form of education).

In the past decade, the number of RE children in elementary education increased. Illustrative is the fact that in school year 2001/2002 were included 536, and in 2012/2013 1853 pupils.

Efforts are specifically oriented on quality elementary education for children from the camps Konik 1 and 2. The activities on the inclusion of these children in city elementary schools are in realization since school year 2008/2009, and from school year 2013/2014 the inclusion takes place in six elementary schools in Podgorica. Activities represent a gradual introduction to the closure of the district division of the school "Bozidar Vukovic Podgoricanin". There were provided 969 free sets of textbooks and transportation of children (140). Volunteers (72 students) are helping 220 children from the regional divisions of Elementary School "Bozidar Vukovic Podgoričanin" and 120 children from city schools to improve their school achievements.

The program "Support to the Integration and Voluntary Return of Displaced and Internally Displaced People and residents of Konik Camp in Montenegro" is carried out with the support of the EU Delegation to Montenegro and the Montenegrin Government in partnership with the German organization HELP. Educational component of the program REF (Roma Education Fund) is carried out in partnership with the Ministry of Education..

The Model Commission monitors drop out of Roma and Egyptian children (representatives of relevant ministries, the Red Cross of Montenegro and NGO sector are participating in this).

For RE high school students (91) are provided free textbooks, scholarships, they are recommended for free of charge testing for extracurricular passing of the grades, and are assisted in enrollment in vocational schools (total of 14) by the principle of affirmative action. The same measures apply for university education.

3. EMPLOYMENT

Provide some measures of the mainstream and targeted policy measures that have been designed and implemented to support the employment of Roma in 2013 with a special focus on the objectives and implementation of the Action Plan of the Decade / national Strategy for Roma integration (if applicable). Please include measures such as: customized job search assistance, programs for first work experience, targeted activation measures, measures of support for self-employment and entrepreneurship, measures to stimulate the employment of Roma as a qualified civil servants, eliminating barriers, including discrimination, entrance on the labor market, etc.

In the register of the Employment Agency of Montenegro were entered 1,012 persons who declared themselves as members of Roma and Egyptians, of whom 427 were women (42.19%). In total registered unemployed population this population, on the same day, accounts for 3.24%. In the structure of the members of RE population the largest share have persons without occupation and qualifications with 94% (percentage of women 42.4%), followed by persons who have completed III level of qualification with 3.16% (21.87% women), than persons with completed IV level of qualification with 1.38% (64.28% women), than persons with completed II level qualification with 1.08% (54.54% women), 0.19% or two persons who have completed VII level of qualification (50% women) and 0.09% or one person, man with V level of qualification.

- The public work "Keep It Clean" included 23 persons who declare themselves as Roma and Egyptians (21.69% of the total number of participants).
- The program of education and vocational training for occupation "ladies hairdresser", which is implemented in Podgorica, included eight participants of RE population, of which five women. All participants successfully completed the program.
- Two local public works "Assistant in teaching Roma children", which were implemented in Podgorica and Niksic, included four persons of Roma nationality (one woman).
- During the last year, 53 persons of RE population were engaged in seasonal jobs (20 women).
- On seasonal jobs are engaged 17 members of RE population, of which 5 were women (29.41%).

The Employment Bureau of Montenegro in cooperation with the Radio-Television of Montenegro is realizing the TV show "Start moving", and in cooperation with the daily newspaper "Pobjeda" are published the newspaper articles. Topics of the above mentioned are the problems on the labor market. Topics of TV shows and newspaper articles, among other things, are aiming at the public awareness raising the and its informing so to facilitate the removal of cultural and social barriers and achievement of equal work opportunities in all sectors and equal access to the Montenegrin labor market for all categories of unemployed persons.

Please describe, to the extent possible, the impact of measures taken by your Government in 2013 (including both quantitative and descriptive data). For the learning purposes, especially consider also inclusion of measures with negative impact on the inclusion of Roma and explain the process in order to minimize such negative impact.

Number of employees in 2013. There were no programs of education and training for a specific employer which involved members of the RE population

In the vocational training program for persons with acquired higher education, during the 2013, was including one person of male sex, aged 24, from the records of the Local Unit Herceg Novi.

In the period from 1 January to 30 September 2013 on seasonal jobs were engaged 31 person (12 women or 38.70%).

REGIONAL STRUCTURE:

- FROM THE RECORDS OF THE BUREAU OF WORK PODGORICA - TEN PERSONS OF MALE SEX
- FROM THE RECORDS OF THE BUREAU OF WORK HERCEG NOVI – NINE PERSONS (29%) FROM WHICH SIX WOMEN (66,66%)
- FROM THE RECORDS OF THE BUREAU OF WORK BAR – SIX PERSONS (19,35%) FROM WHICH THREE WOMEN (50%)
- FROM THE RECORDS OF THE BUREAU OF WORK NIKŠIĆ – THREE PERSONS OF MALE SEX
- FROM THE RECORDS OF THE BUREAU OF WORK BIJELO POLJE – THREE PERSONS OF FEMALE SEX

AGE STRUCTURE:

- From 15-24 – 16 persons (six women or 37,5%)
- From 25-35 – 10 persons (four women or 40%)
- From 36-45 – two persons of male sex
- From 46-55 – three persons (two women or 66,66%)

4. HOUSING

Provide some measures of the mainstream and targeted policy measures that have been designed and implemented to support the housing of Roma (or housing of marginalized people, including Roma) in 2013 with a special focus on the objectives and implementation of the Action Plan of the Decade / national Strategy for Roma integration (if applicable). Please include measures such as: elimination of spatial segregation and promoting of desegregation, promoting of non-discriminatory access to social housing, etc.

Housing conditions are one of the most important benchmarks in living standards. There are no precise data on the facilities where are living Roma and Egyptian populations, whether there is about facilities with normal living conditions or those with poor conditions. General observation is that the living conditions of the majority of Roma and Egyptians in Montenegro are below the minimum of national and international standards of living.

The legal definition of the field of social housing

Until passing of the Law, the area of social housing has not been defined by any applicable regulations of Montenegro. The term social housing is an internationally accepted term and represents the broadest conception of the state support in housing. Social housing includes especially: meeting the housing needs of sensitive/vulnerable social groups and categories of poor households; encouraging the development of underdeveloped areas with housing offer and improving of living conditions of experts and other stakeholders of development programs in underdeveloped areas; and reduction of bad living conditions in urban areas and increase of housing offer with lower rent in comparison with the market offer. The Law on Social Housing should allow the Government and units of local self-governments to solve the housing needs of vulnerable groups, i.e. households that are unable to resolve housing problem in more quality and more efficient way. The Law is essential for elimination of the gap between income and housing prices. One of the most important issues dealt with in this Law is a definition of jurisdiction over the management and maintenance of housing fund, that is, of objects which are now designed for this purpose as well as the object that are going to be built or provided for this purpose in the future. The obligations of local governments to ensure the maintenance and management of the housing fund is clearly defined. The concept, policy and criteria for non-market housing are in accordance with the standards adopted by the European Union, defined and regulated at the state level, and the development and application of this policies is governed at the local level.

This regulation particularly elaborates the institute of lease of apartments for social housing. Commitment to separately elaborate lease stems from the fact that our positive legislation does not closely define the lease except the general provisions of the Law on Obligations. The specificity of lease of housing objects that are the property of the state and local self-governments, stems from the fact that the collective objects are objects of great value. It is necessary to ensure their economic sustainability, on the one hand, and the legal security of citizens - tenants on the other side, so the above resulted in more precise formulation of this institute. The Law prescribes transparent process for the allocation of housing units for lease, the elements of the lease agreement, the minimum and maximum price of rent, given norms for protection of the family, i.e. possibility for members of family household to enter into a lease agreement in the event of death of the tenant, etc.

The lack of financial resources is one of the main challenges for the establishment of a sustainable system of social housing. Therefore, the Law provided a solution by which the

system of social housing will be elaborated through special programs, which will be formulated by the Montenegrin Government, or a unit of local self-government, which will allow flexibility in planning and implementing of activities.

The law on social housing is adopted in the Parliament of Montenegro and published in the Official Gazette of Montenegro, No. 35/13 of 23 July 2013.

Please describe, to the extent possible, the impact of measures taken by your Government in 2013 (including both quantitative and descriptive data). For the learning purposes, especially consider also inclusion of measures with negative impact on the inclusion of Roma and explain the process in order to minimize such negative impact.

Improving access to housing objects – building of housing object intended for RE population

Sarajevo Declaration Process, which was launched in 2005, is aimed at finding durable solutions for refugees and displaced persons from the conflict in the period 1991-1995 in the territory of the former Yugoslavia. The donors' conference was held in Sarajevo on 24 April 2012, under the auspices of the partner countries. Significant funds were raised. The project is going to be implemented until the end of 2015. Partner countries have established a range of housing solutions (models) which in the best way address the needs of the target user population. Such solutions reflect the three main situations of displaced persons dealt by Regional housing program: return, local integration and special solutions for the elderly and extremely vulnerable displaced individuals.

Montenegro nominated the Project for solving housing needs of displaced persons and refugees in Camp Konik II in Podgorica under the **National Housing Project for Displaced and Internally Displaced Persons**. All basic prerequisites in order to access realization for this project are met. The Project for solving the housing needs of displaced persons and refugees in Camp Konik II is in the process of selecting the winning bidder for performance of works. The beginning of construction of these objects is envisaged in the course of this year. Within this program is envisaged the construction of housing units in Niksic, Podgorica, as well as the Home for the elderly in Pljevlja.

Enabling legalization of illegally build objects

Vienna Declaration on Informal Settlements in South Eastern Europe, which was signed by Montenegro in September 2004, provides for signatory states to strive towards overall regional solving of informal settlements by 2015 and their obligation to perform the legalization of informal settlements and improvement to the maximum extent (but only in cases that do not impair the appropriate urban development, such as violation of rights, environmental protection, protection of cultural heritage).

The Proposal law on legalization of illegally build objects regulates the area of illegal construction. Most informal objects have been brought to the purpose and occupied, a considerable number has been incorporated into planning documents, and keeping in mind the fact that the removal of objects requires significant financial resources, which include the disposal of construction waste and addressing alternative accommodation for the owners of informal structures and members of their family households, we consider necessary the adoption of this law. However, should be beard in mind the fact that these houses were built without a building permit and the majority of them did not undergone the process of verifying the implementation of standards , both in design and during construction works, especially in

terms of seismic risk. For this reason, the Proposal law provides for testing of static and seismic stability of informal objects of area up to 500 m², and for objects with area over 500 m² there is obligation of delivering of technical documentation in accordance with this Law and testing of static and seismic security of the object in accordance with the law governing construction of objects. Proposal law on legalization of illegally build objects was submitted to the Parliament of Montenegro for consideration and adoption.

5. HEALTH

Provide some measures of the mainstream and targeted policy measures that have been designed and implemented to support the promotion of health care services Roma 2013 with a special focus on the objectives and implementation of the Action Plan of the Decade / national Strategy for Roma integration (if applicable). Please include measures such as: ensuring equal access to quality health care, providing comprehensiveness of social security and health services for Roma, preventive measures, such as medical examinations, prenatal and postnatal care and family planning, targeted campaign to raise awareness about health, etc.

The Law on Health Insurance provides for socially vulnerable category, the unemployed, children up to elementary school, and if they go to school until the completion of secondary or higher education, women during pregnancy and one year after childbirth, persons over 65 and those suffering from infectious diseases to not participate in costs for treatment, what means they have free of charge health care. In this respect, the Regulation on the manner of exercising health care for foreigners provides the Roma and Egyptian populations with health care at the level of health care for all citizens of Montenegro both to the extent and substance of services. In case of any obstacle every case is solved individually in order to provide adequate health services.

The Ministry of Health conducts regular activities that are in line with PAPRR. The National Program for early detection of malignancy in women, 2013, provided the Plan for the implementation of screening for cervical cancer and is scheduled screening for breast cancer. Also, in order to improve the reproductive health of women, in June 2013 was adopted the Strategy to preserve and improve reproductive and sexual health in Montenegro 2013 - 2020 (with the Action Plan for 2014-2015). The Strategy was prepared by multi-sectorial working group with participation of the representative of Roma female population, by what were also incorporated vulnerable groups of women and their problems. As part of the regular activities the Institute of Public Health was conducting regular training programs on sexually transmitted diseases as well as on access to voluntary and confidential counseling and testing for HIV.

Please describe, to the extent possible, the impact of measures taken by your Government in 2013 (including both quantitative and descriptive data). For the learning purposes, especially consider also inclusion of measures with negative impact on the inclusion of Roma and explain the process in order to minimize such negative impact.

On 11 March 2013, the Ministry of Health signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the German NGO HELP and NGO Roma Education Fund in order to help the implementation of the Program for the integration and return of RAE and other I/DP that live in Konik, defined in the accompanying Annex thereto. Memorandum was concluded for a period until 19 May 2014.

The aim of the signed Memorandum is teaching representatives of the RAE population, through engaging health mediators, how to use health and related services for their own benefit.

During 2013 was signed the Memorandum of Understanding with:

1. NGO Center for Roma Initiatives from Niksic and
2. NGO Women's Network "PRVA" from Niksic

The aim of the signed Memorandum is the improvement of health care of Roma and Egyptian women.

6. ANTI-DISCRIMINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY

Quote some measures designed to support the fight against discrimination of Roma and racism. Please describe, to the extent possible, the impact of these measures (including quantitative and descriptive data).

In the period 30-31 January the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights organized the international conference "Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015" on the subject of "Discrimination of Roma and challenges of antiziganism and multiple discrimination".

In the framework of the activities on social inclusion of Roma and Egyptians in Montenegrin society, the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights has provided vacations from 25 January to 2 February 2014, in the resort at Ivanova korita, for 15 Roma and Egyptian children, the best pupils from Podgorica, Niksic and Herceg Novi, of which 8 male students and 7 female students.

Also, the Ministry has organized a free of charge seven-day summer-holiday for 25 pupils from VII, VIII and IX grade of elementary schools from Berane, Bijelo Polje, Niksic and Podgorica and they stayed from 19 to 26 July in the children's resort "Lovcen" in Budva. Of the total number (25 students), 16 were female and eight male students.

Within the campaign "16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence", was filmed a documentary "Avoid my destiny", which talks about Roma contracted juvenile marriages. The documentary was promoted in Niksic, Berane and Podgorica with the participation of the representatives of the Police Directorate, Prosecution office, courts, centers for social work, NGOs.

Quote some measures designed to support gender equality among Roma women and men. Please describe, to the extent possible, the impact of these measures (including quantitative and descriptive data).

At the conference: "Education for ALL", held in Podgorica on 7-8 November 2013, participated more than 70 participants from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, Macedonia and Kosovo. The conference was organized by CARE International with the support of the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights of Montenegro and partner organizations involved in the project. During two-day work, 25 presentations were presented to the participants divided into three main themes:

- Implementation state of the Action Plans for Roma inclusion with the emphasis on the area of education;

- The role of various "stakeholders" in the promotion and enhancement of education of the Roma population, with a focus on the education of Roma women;
- The role of NGOs in promoting and increasing the level of education of Roma women.

After holding separate discussions, participants of the conference agreed on the following conclusions, divided by the following topics and areas:

1. ROLE OF INSTITUTIONS:

All participants agreed that institutions play an important role in increasing the level of education of minorities, with emphasis on the Roma population. On the one hand it is the responsibility of institutions in all countries, because all countries are committed by joining decade and signing of various conventions with which have taken on a commitment to increase the level of education of minorities. On the other hand, institutions can play a key role through engagement in the area of delivering laws and appropriate strategies. When it comes to the role of institutions, the following topics are defined:

- Research of existing institutional mechanisms (national councils, offices for inclusion of Roma, parliamentary committees, commissions, etc.):

It is necessary to adequately map the existing mechanisms which are already defined and established within or along the institutions. It is necessary to define their roles and models by which they were established and operates. These models and mechanisms can be used as examples of best practices in the region.

- Cooperation with civil society:

All participants agreed on the need to enhance cooperation between civil society and institutions. Current cooperation is not sufficient, and in the opinion of participants of the conference is not established on real partnership principles, therefore is necessary to strengthen this cooperation, but also to establish a "partnership" relationship with civil society through signing of a memorandum of cooperation and protocols.

- The formation of mobile teams:

As one of the initiatives arising from the conference, it was suggested to form with donor support the so-called mobile teams within the institution as one of the necessary mechanisms. These teams (existing only in certain cities) might be involved in the process of strengthening communication with stakeholders in the field as well as a good "tool" for monitoring processes.

In these teams could be included Roma men and women what will increase the degree of inclusion of Roma in decision-making processes.

- Improving the capacities of institutions to work with minority groups through education on civil society and cooperation with non-governmental organizations:

Although there is good will and the need for cooperation, it is necessary to increase the level of knowledge and skills of representatives of Institution for work and cooperation with civil society organizations, through specific initiatives and projects.

It is necessary to include representatives of civil society from the very beginning of the process of decision-making up to public relations, reporting, etc.

- Definition and analysis of existing programs so to customize or enhance it for better education of the Roma population at all levels of education from pre-school to university education:

It is necessary to perform an adequate analysis of existing educational programs in order to be able to give appropriate recommendations for the improvement and bigger efficiency of formal education programs through inclusion of new trends and flows in education, as well as recommendations from the field;

Greater degree of involvement of schools, regular reporting on dropout from regular school system.

- Adoption of the official decision on the participation of Roma representatives in the implementation of the strategies for Roma men and women:

Although there is a declarative interest of institutions for greater inclusion of Roma men and women in the process of making decisions there is no formal obligation for any institution at any level for their inclusion. The adoption of formal decisions and defining of adequate communication models for inclusion of Roma men and women would make this cooperation formal and professional, and in this case it would not depend on the individual positions or representatives of institutions but would be some kind of requirement for all institutions, regardless of who holds the power.

2. ROMA MEDIATORS AND COORDINATORS:

In some countries in the region Roma mediators, facilitators or coordinators have proven to be a good model. Wherever this model was established (Republic of Serbia) has been shown to have achieved very positive and good results and different areas: education, health system, employment, etc.

Because the participants of the conference agreed that this model should be developed in other countries and regions and with the support of international and other donors, but with the commitment of the institutions when various projects reach the end and support of donors is over. For this purpose it is necessary to define this role by supporting decisions and budget items as a part of the process

3. INTER-SECTORIAL COOPERATION:

All participants of the conference agreed that it is necessary to initiate and enhance existing cooperation at all level, through the so-called inter-sectorial association of following actors:

- Relevant Roma representative/presentation bodies
- Centers for social work
- Non-governmental organizations
- Police Directorate
- Ministry of Interior
- Ministry of Education

Principles of work of inter-sectorial cooperation should become the official decisions, strategies or documents of government institutions - accompanied by certain budgetary resources.

- Different Monitoring processes can be provided through inter-sectorial cooperation in order to identify best practices and problems arising in the field of education;
- The institutions of civil society can provide control mechanisms;

- Start mechanisms and principles of networking of both representatives of non-governmental and governmental institutions;
- Commission for monitoring drop-out;
- Definition of positions of representatives within inter-sectorial through official decisions in order for such positions not to be affected by the change of government.

4. THE DISTRIBUTION OF LOCAL FUNDS:

As an important conclusion of participants of the conferences is the subject related to the distribution of existing funds intended to support of education of Roma population, with an emphasis on Roma women, and for this purpose it is necessary to:

- Define priorities on issues from certain areas through public discussions;
- Establish mechanisms for transparent spending of these funds (public advertisement, the Commission for the allocation of funds).

5. INITIATIVES OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL SECTOR:

Important role in increasing the level of education of Roma men and women have NGOs. Data presented at the conference showed that in all areas where projects of non-governmental organizations were realized stunning results were achieved, and therefore this work should be continued but with greater participation and taking commitment on the part of institutions. Participants defined following possible initiatives that could be implemented through a number of projects, and this conclusion can serve as guidelines in design new project proposals:

- Projects for employment of parents so to children could be educated;
- Campaigns of advocacy and information for Roma population (support to education, against drop out, etc);
- Political organization and participation of Roma in particular Roma women;
- Active work with parents: information, support;
- Establishment of the council of Roma parents or the inclusion of Roma in the parent councils;
- Monitoring - participation in monitoring of implementation conducted by Government and other institutions;
- Lobbying for Roma representatives in Government institutions;
- Analysis and identification of the situation on the ground in order to collect information for the work of authorities in decision-making processes;
- Contacting local community groups in order to provide information, education and mediation;
- Centers for provision of services within the community;
- Networking of non-governmental sector in achieving greater impact and efficiency in launching lobbying initiatives.

6. GOOD PRACTICE:

In order to develop appropriate strategies and projects, it is necessary to analyze examples of best practices in the region so that they can be used as positive role models at all levels.

7. USE OF THE MEDIA IN THE PROMOTION, INFORMATION AND EDUCATION:

All participants of the conference agreed that the role of the media in the promotion of various data, views and initiatives for education of Roma population is not sufficient and for this purpose it is necessary to (whether it's about starting an initiative through various projects or memoranda of cooperation with media):

- Propose, design various media informational and educational campaigns;
- Propose, design various lobbying campaigns.

The Department for Gender Equality Affairs in cooperation with the Center for Roma Initiatives organized in December 2013 a two-day seminar for representatives of Police Directorate, prosecution, court, social work centers, as well as representatives of non-governmental organizations dealing with the position of Roma and Egyptians in Montenegrin society on the topic of "Legal mechanisms to combat forced and contracted child marriages". The aim of the seminar was to strengthen inter-agency cooperation in the fight against forced and contracted child marriages, with special emphasis on RE population.