



PROGRESS REPORT 2013

BASIC INFORMATION ON THE SITUATION OF THE ROMA MINORITY

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

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

Detailed data on the Roma population of Slovak Republic have been collected thanks to the Atlas of Roma Communities 2013 in Slovakia. This project was conducted by the Regional Centre UNDP for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States in Bratislava in collaboration with the Association of Towns and Villages of Slovakia (ZMOS), University of Prešov and Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Government for Roma Communities (hereinafter referred to as "OGPRC"). The project was financed from the funds of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family and UNDP.

Project aimed at mapping of Roma settlements and communities and socially excluded communities and sought to obtain data from the area of local self-governments. Methodology of data collection builds on the Atlas of Roma communities 2004 and allowed to carry out research without breaching human rights of individuals while accepting principles of protection and anonymity of data. Mapping of Roma communities is based on the supposition that the marginalised Roma communities (hereinafter referred to as "MRC") are living in certain spatial units- enclaves, either within residential area of municipality, on its side, or in segregated settlements, and therefore a monitoring and mapping of Roma communities is enabled to be made. This procedure is not in contradiction to the principles enacted by the Constitution of the Slovak Republic, and since the monitoring is not exploring the ethnic identity of individuals but is making just an "inventory" of the settlements, it is in compliance with standards for personal data protection.

On the basis of data from the mapping of Roma communities, OGPRC identified the most disadvantaged communities and the sites with the presence of MRC so that they could be specifically targeted for interventions and measures of the national Strategy of the Slovak Republic for Integration of Roma up to 2020 (hereinafter referred to as "Strategy").

- Data from 2011 census - approximately 106 thousand persons living in Slovakia declared themselves of Roma nationality.
- Data from Atlas of Roma communities 2013 – identified 402 840 Roma, that means persons who are considered to be Roma by their surrounding = 7,45 % of whole population of Slovakia;
- 187 285 lives spread among majority population = 46,5% of all Roma in Slovakia;
- 51 998 of Roma lives in concentrated settlements inside municipalities = 12,9% of all Roma in Slovakia;



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- 95 971 of Roma lives in concentrated settlements on the border of municipalities = 23,8% of all Roma in Slovakia;
 - 68 540 of Roma lives in segregated settlements = 17% of all Roma in Slovakia.
- *Number of Roma living under the poverty line and the proportion to the overall population living under the poverty line.*

The main source for statistics on income, social inclusion and living conditions is the EU-Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) instrument. It collects comparable multidimensional micro-data on: income, poverty, social exclusion and other living conditions.

According to this statistics, 13,2 % of Slovak population was threatened by poverty in 2012 (approximately 715.000 persons). However, this source does not provide specific data on Roma.

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.*
- *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.*

The Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Government for Roma Communities (hereinafter referred to as “Plenipotentiary”) creates, on the basis of his statute, its own advisory bodies. One of the most important is the Advisory body of the Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Government for Roma Communities, consisted by experts on the subject of national minorities and ethnic groups who are focusing mainly on Roma communities and have practical, professional and managerial experience in the relevant field. Representatives of Roma NGOs are also present in this advisory body.

Systematic cooperation with NGOs is realized at central and as well at regional level. At central level is this agenda carried out by the representative of the OGPRC, while the Plenipotentiary himself regularly and periodically meets in particular with leaders of Roma NGOs. At the local level, the cooperation is provided through the regional offices of the OGPRC located in Prešov, Spišská Nová Ves, Banská Bystrica, Rimavská Sobota, Košice and Nitra.



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In regard to the implementation of measures defined in the Strategy, OGPRC continues to apply multi-level form of cooperation and communication through existing platforms and working groups, which have been set up especially for the purpose of exchange of mutual information at the level of ministries, for the consultations aimed at finding common solutions and to intensify the process of implementation of objectives defined in the Strategy.

One of such platform is the Inter-Ministerial Commission for Roma Community Affairs. This commission acts to implement government's policies aimed at improvement of unfavorable status and integration of Roma communities and participates in the coordination of the tasks imposed by the Government of Slovak Republic to the ministries and to other state administration bodies by the strategic documents on Roma minority approved by the government.

Working Group of the Plenipotentiary for EU funds in the programming period 2014 - 2020 aims to assist in the preparation of programming documents on inclusion of MRC for the programming period 2014-2020. The members of the working group are representatives of non-governmental organizations, local governments and ministries. The ambition of the working group is to provide expertise and to prepare concrete and effective measures in the new programming period so that intervention carried out by the ministries will be addressing directly areas with the greatest concentration of separated and segregated communities and at the same time will create the optimum conditions for increasing participation of Roma NGOs in the new programming period.

Further, OGPRC, under the Call for applications no. 1 ÚSVRK 2013 for the submission for subsidies from the budget of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, supported the cooperation with NGOs through the monitoring of the Strategy for Roma inclusion up to 2020. To strengthen the level of direct participation of non-governmental organizations, and in particular Roma NGOs on monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Strategy, the following projects were supported based on the decision of the Minister of Interior of the Slovak Republic:

- Škola dokorán n. o. – supported by the amount of 5,000 € for the project "Strategy for Roma inclusion up to 2020 - Where are we now?"
- SGI - Institute for Good Governance - 5,000 € for the project "External evaluation and monitoring of the Strategy of the Slovak Republic for Integration of Roma up to 2020,"
- Civic Association Sila pomoci - 4,000 € for the project "National Strategy to promote the preservation of the cultural heritage of the Roma minority in the area of culture, history and language up to 2020,"
- MECEM - Roma Media Center - 4,000 € for the project "Without information Roma are not full-fledged citizens - formation of a national strategy for Roma media."

Through the above-mentioned call, the OGPRC in cooperation with the Minister of Interior of the Slovak Republic supported also other projects of Roma NGOs fulfilling the objectives of the Strategy of the Slovak Republic for Integration of Roma up to 2020.



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From January 2013 to the end of 2014, OGPRC carries out the project “Early Childhood Investment – Support of Social Innovation and Integration of Roma” in collaboration with the Institute for Good Governance, the Roma Education Fund and the World Bank. Project is financially supported by the European Commission, programme Progress (DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion) and by the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic. This project is also a manifestation of cooperation with NGOs.

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

OGPRC in accordance to the Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic no. 522 of 10 August 2011 on a Revised National Action Plan of the Decade of Roma inclusion 2005 – 2015 for years 2011 - 2015 in cooperation with ministries / central state administration authorities prepared a monitoring report on the fulfillment of the action plans of the Decade. Report on implementation of the Strategy of the Slovak Republic for Integration of Roma up to 2020 for years 2012 and 2013 went through the approval process of the ministries and was forwarded to the Minister of the Interior for the submission to Slovak Government in February 2014.

For the purpose of monitoring of the fulfillment of the goals of the Strategy, an update of the Atlas of Roma communities was prepared by the UNDP at the end of 2013. Current data on the socio-economic conditions allow a revision of indicators of the Strategy in parallel with the operational programs and programming documents for the new reference framework for EU funds for 2014-2020.

In order to ensure continuity in the process of the mapping of the situation of Roma community through the collecting of statistical, analytical, and other data, the OGPRC, in process of development of the Operational Programme Human Resources 2014 - 2020 at the level of priority axis 5 - Integration of marginalized Roma communities, defined a cross-cutting measure to ensure a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation of living conditions of MRC for the period 2014 – 2020. The intention is to implement data collection through wide-spectral quantitative studies (e.g. Atlas of Roma Communities 2013, sample surveys in marginalized Roma households, etc.) as well as qualitative surveys and pilot research projects in the form of 7–years long national project. Part of the plan is to analyze the data and evaluate the effectiveness of different instruments, policies and their impact on MRC.

- *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?*



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Table with allocations for projects with direct and indirect support of horizontal priority MRC (hereinafter referred to as “HP MRC”) from the state budget in 2013 under operational programs:

Projects with direct support of HP MRC	
Operational Programme¹	Financial allocation - 2013 (€)
OP Edu	1 643 467,67
OP H	129 371,29
OP EaSI	1 516 735,28
OP Env	670,00
ROP	1 676 230,29
Total	4 966 474,53

Projects with indirect support of HP MRC	
Operational Programme	Financial allocation - 2013 (€)
OP BR	19 949,21
OP CaEG	981 459,04
OP Edu	4 909 228,01
OP RaD	417 437,64
OP H	4 127 401,66
OP EaSI	153 548,64
OP Env	11 375 429,33
ROP	8 430 059,14
Total	30 414 512,67

Projects from approved LSoCA – direct support of HP MRC	
Operational Programme	Financial allocation - 2013 (€)
OP Edu	162 606,37
OP H	129 371,29
OP EaSI	304 029,86
OP Env	670,00

¹ OP Edu (Operational Programme Education)
 OP H (Operational Programme Health)
 OP EaSI (Operational Programme Employment and Social Inclusion)
 OP Env (Operational Programme Environment)
 ROP (Regional Operational Programme)
 OP BR (Operational Programme Bratislava Region)
 OP CaEG (Operational Programme Competitiveness and Economic Growth)
 OP RaD (Operational Programme Research and Development)
 LSoCA (Local Strategies of Comprehensive Approach)



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ROP	0,00
Total	596 677,52

- **Subsidy scheme of the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of Slovak republic for Roma Communities for 2013**

Due to the transition of the OGPRC from the Government Office of the Slovak Republic to the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, the appropriation from the call for application in 2012 had been transferred to the resources available for the Call for application no. I. ÚSVRK 2013 for provision of grants to support of social and cultural needs and solutions for extremely disadvantageous situation of Roma community within the competence of Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.

Budgetary resources in total amount of 1,682,583 € were provided by the OGPRC to secure financial arrangements for the implementation of the Strategy with the support for the following areas:

Area of support - educational and tutoring - 595 045 €

- Support for Roma pupils and students – A scholarship fund for students of secondary schools (mainly 3rd and 4th grade of secondary vocational schools) and universities
- Support for Roma pupils and students - Tutoring and mentoring for students of secondary schools
- Support for Roma pupils and students - Extracurricular spare-time and art activities, developing talent of Roma children and youth
- Reconstruction and construction of new kindergartens including material retrofitting
- Reconstruction, construction and material retrofitting of community centers

Area of support - employment and employability - 194 500 €

- Acquisition of technologies and technical equipment for creation of new jobs
- Support of missionary work in MRC

Area of support – project documentation and self-supporting construction - 252 469 €

- Project documentation for the construction of housing, infrastructure, community centers and school facilities
- Self-supporting construction of housing

Area of support - creation of strategic and developmental documents - 90 000 €

- Develop a national strategy for promotion of the preservation of cultural heritage of Roma minority in the area of culture, history and language
- Develop a national strategy for promotion and development of Roma media



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- External evaluation and monitoring of the Strategy of the Slovak Republic for Integration of Roma up to 2020
- Support to shape public opinion, reduction of stereotypes and prejudices against Roma population
- Support of activities aimed at financial inclusion

Area of support – culture and media - 40 000 €

- Technical support aimed at development and preservation of activities in the area of publicly known Roma media
- Support of activities aimed at development and preservation of culture, language and history of Roma organizations

Area of support – health prevention and health education 336 909 €(beyond the Call)

- Support within the project “Healthy Communities”

- *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?*

As we currently do not dispose of budgetary plans of respective Ministries, we are not able to provide comprehensive data on the projected funding.

Within the subsidy scheme of the OGPRC for 2014, call for application no. I. ÚSVRK 2014 for provision of grants to support of social and cultural needs and solutions for extremely disadvantageous situation of Roma community in the competence of Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic for the total amount of 620 000 € was announced on February 26, 2014.

- *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.*

Office of the Plenipotentiary participates since 2012 in the preparation of the 2014-2020 programming period and is a member of working group for preparation of PP 2014 -2020 under the auspices of the Ministry of Interior. Partnership Agreement and Operational Programmes for 2014-2020 are currently in the process of continued negotiations and approval. Therefor a definitive form and allocations intended for Roma inclusion is not available at this point. We will be possible to provide more precise and comprehensive information in the second half of 2014.



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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.*
- *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.*

- **MRK 1, national project “By education of the teaching staff towards inclusion of marginalized Roma communities“**

Allocation for the project presents 24 989 002 €(ESF 21 240 651,70 €a SB 3 748 353,30 €). The project is implemented by Methodical-Pedagogical Centre, a centrally managed organisation of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as “ME SR”) since October 2011. The most important outputs of the project are: analysis of educational needs of teaching staff and professional staff; 8 programmes of continuous education for teachers and professional staff; development of teaching sources and educational programmes; all-day educational system.

All day educational system permits effective development of MRC pupils out of education process including free-time care and provides with a possibility to supplement general education under specific educational programmes for pupils who have not completed primary school.

During the school year 2012/2013 and 2013/2014, national project is realized in 200 primary schools that are attended by at least 20 % of pupils from socially disadvantaged backgrounds. Currently 512 teaching assistants, of which 400 with the support of the national project, is working in schools involved in the project. In school year 2012/2013 - 2 461 free time activities for 15 790 pupils from socially disadvantaged environment were supported.

Part of the Pedagogical model of school with CVS (All- day educational system) is also a proposal for legislative changes to enable the sustainability of those jobs even after the conclusion of activities of the project through the non-normative funds.

- **MRK 2 - national project “Inclusive Model for Pre-primary Education”**

Allocation for the project presents 5 065 310,80 €(ESF 4 305 514,18 €and SB 759 796,62 €).

During 2013 a national project „Inclusive model of education at pre-primary stage of school system“(Operational Programme Education, priority axis 3, measure 3.1 Raising the



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Educational Level of Members of the Marginalised Roma Communities) was put into practice. The project is aimed at improving educational level of children coming from MRC via tuition provided by teaching and professional staff and development of necessary competences of pupils for their entrance in primary schools. The project is implemented by Methodical-Pedagogical Centre, while OGPRC acts as a key partner. The project is intended for kindergarten in Trnava, Trenčín, Nitra, Žilina, Banská Bystrica, Prešov and Košice region, which educate pupils from socially disadvantaged backgrounds. Main activities of this project are: training of teaching staff to obtain professional skills needed for work with children from the MRC and an introduction of inclusive education in kindergartens. As part of this project, 110 working positions of assistants of teacher have been created. Activity of assistants of teacher in kindergarten is an essential tool in overcoming barriers associated with educated of children from MRC. Eighty % of the total 110 assistants are of Roma origin. The institute of the assistant of teacher was previously implemented only in primary schools. The implementation of the project started on February 1st, 2013 and will be finished on November 30th, 2015.

- **Pre-Primary Education** “Early Childhood Investment – Support of Social Innovation and Integration of Roma”

From January 2013 to the end of 2014, OGPRC in collaboration with the Institute for Good Governance, the Roma Education Fund and the World Bank, is carrying out a project “Early Childhood Investment – Support of Social Innovation and Integration of Roma”. Project is financially supported by the European Commission, programme Progress (DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion) and by the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic. The project aims to promote quality of childcare services, involvement of mothers in pre-school preparation of their children, reduce language barriers between pupils, parents and educational institution, improve cooperation of teachers and parents, develop cognitive abilities of mothers and children, make a change in the approach in education of children in segregated communities, create a support network of Roma mothers in communities and raise awareness of the Roma community about the importance of education.

The project involves 7 facilitators, 315 Roma mothers and 525 children aged 0-6 years in 21 locations in Slovakia. Seven facilitators of project, in addition to the targeted site, are active in 28 other municipalities in order to improve the cooperation between families and educational institutions. Activities will be evaluated by World Bank experts under the aegis of J - PAL and the final evaluation of the project will be offered to Slovak government as one of the possible solution for the educating of pre-primary pupils in the future.

- **Building of new schools** (construction of module primary schools)

In order to ensure the equal access to education, the OGPRC, Ministry of Interior in cooperation with ME SR and Ministry of Finances of the Slovak Republic (MF SR) started with the building of 5 new module (container) primary schools in municipalities with a two-shift-operation - Jarovnice, Stráne pod Tatrami, Krížová Ves, Podhorany and Kecerovce. The municipalities provided land, project documentation, infrastructure, construction of



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foundations, etc. and the state granted 200.000, - EUR for the construction of one module school and 20 000, - EUR for the class equipment (benches, chairs, black-boards, etc.). First module school in Jarovnice was ceremonially opened on October 21st, 2013.

- **The Norwegian financial mechanism**

Since 2011, ME SR together with the Government Office of the Slovak Republic had been elaborating the programme “Local and Regional Initiatives Aiming at the Reduction of National Inequalities and Social Inclusion Support“ within the financial mechanism of European Economic Area (EEA).

Primary schools and high schools which are interested in the development of inclusive education via intercultural education were called upon to apply until October 31st. 2013. All programme activities should had aimed at enhancing the social inclusion via intercultural education, the Roma language and culture, common lesson of Roma and Non-Roma pupils, cooperation between schools and families, etc.

In 2013, ME SR made a call for applications for grants for development projects „**Support education and tuition of disadvantaged pupils at primary schools**” aimed at the improvement of education and tuition of disadvantaged pupils and at the desegregation in educational system. Sixteen projects with the total amount of 52 500, - EUR were supported. Priorities of the support were activities ensuring full equality in practice consisting in encouraging disadvantaged pupil in education, activities enhancing the intercultural environment and activities aimed at the developing cooperation with parents.

A call for proposal OPV-2012/3.1/04-SORO „**Raising the Educational Level of Members of the Marginalised Roma Communities by raising the number of field offices of vocational schools**“, was launched on 31st October 2012 by the Agency of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic for the Structural Funds of EU (ASFEU) within the measure 3.1 Raising the Educational Level of Members of the Marginalised Roma Communities. The indicative allocation was 7M EUR. The following institutions were eligible applicants within this call for proposal: vocational schools in municipalities; religious vocational schools; private vocational schools. The closure date was on 31st January 2013. There were 16 applications received within the call for proposal. 13 applications were contracted by 31st December 2013 in a total amount of 1 837 743,45EUR and 1 project was early closed.

- **Inclusive education**

In 2013, a negotiation of a joint working group with the participation of the Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities and the State Secretary of the ME SR resulted in several commitments, such as to verify quality of providers of Centres of Pedagogical and Psychological Consultancy and Prevention (CPPPaP) and to unite advisory system of CPPPaP, especially of pedagogical centers.



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Preparation of NP PRINED

One of the results of the joint working group is the preparation of the National project of inclusive education - PRINED. NP will be implemented in the period 04/2014-11/2015 in 100 elementary schools and 50 kindergartens. The project aims to develop and validate a model of inclusive education in mainstream schools through the involvement of so-called “inclusive team” (special educator, psychologist, social educator, teacher assistant) for the support services of the educational process. Placement of children diagnosed with mild mental disability type-A into regular primary schools with strengthened personal capacity will strengthen an inclusive education of children from MRC environment.

At the same, there will be 50 kindergartens involved, where, in collaboration with parents, an intensive training program for the entry into regular schools will take place during the run of the project.

- ME SR through its Pedagogic and Organizational Instructions gives annually and regularly directives to schools and education centres. During the school year 2013/2014 in the part 1.6.4. *National minorities, disadvantaged people, foreigners, discrimination*, these directives were recommending e.g. following steps: *„In schools and education establishments, all forms of discrimination and segregation are to be strictly prohibited. Undesirable phenomena such as spatial, organizational, physical and symbolic exclusions or separation of Roma pupils due to their ethnic origin (often in combination with social disadvantage) from other pupils are to be eliminated. Problems of children and pupils coming from marginalized group, which hinder their acceptance into mainstream schools and school facilities, their placement in regular classes and the following education and tuition processes, are to be consequently solved. Create favourable conditions for their learning in schools and classrooms, together with the majority population. We don't recommend to make separate classes (except of the preschool facility) for disadvantaged children and pupils.”*
- With effect from January 1st, 2013 it is in the responsibility of municipalities to determine terms of allocation of funds for assistants of teacher in pre-primary education. This possibility arises from the new competencies gained by the municipalities in § 6 par. 12 point c) of Act no. 596/2003 Coll. on state administration in education and school self-government and on changes and amendments to certain laws, as amended. The municipality determines terms and conditions of financing of kindergartens established in their territory, not the ministry.



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3. EMPLOYMENT

- *Please list any mainstream and targeted policy measures that were designed and implemented to support Roma employment in 2013 with a special focus on the goals and implementation of the Decade National Action Plan or the National Roma Integration Strategy (if applicable). Please include measures such as: tailored job search assistance, first work experience programs, targeted activation measures, measures supporting self-employment and entrepreneurship, measures promoting employment of qualified Roma civil servants, eliminating barriers, including discrimination, to entering the labor market, etc.*
- Regarding Activity 1.1.1.1. Providing information and consultancy services to secondary-school pupils and their legal representatives of Revised National Action Plan of the Decade of Roma inclusion 2005 – 2015 for years 2011 - 2015 - According to § 42 Act No. 5/2004 Coll. on Employment Service and Amendment and Supplement of Certain Acts which Amend and Supplement Certain Acts as amended (hereinafter referred to as „Act on Employment Services“), the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (hereinafter referred to as “Agency“) provides job seekers, (hereinafter referred to as „JS“), job applicants (hereinafter referred to as „JA“) and employers with information and **advisory services** in the area of career choices, employment opportunities, the change of employment inclusive, selection of employees and their adoption in his/her new job. With effect from May 1st, 2013, the active labour market policy has undergone a significant reform by **amending the Act on Employment Services**. In order to improve the choice of profession in relationship to the requirements of the labour market, pupils and their guardians are provided with the services in career choices that are part of information and advisory services, which can be directly made in schools or school facilities of educational consultancy and prevention, which are classified as institutions according to the Act No. 245/2008 Coll. on Education and Tuition and Amendment and Supplement of Certain Acts which Amend and Supplement Certain Acts.
- Regarding Activity 1.1.2.2 Supporting further and second-chance education for people without finished elementary-school or secondary-school education of Revised National Action Plan - Pursuant to § 44 Employment Service Act, **education and training for the labour market** stands as theoretical or practical studies of job seeker or jobholder necessary to find a job and which allows to gain new professional knowledge, skills and abilities in order to find an appropriate job or in order to retain the jobholder in current job. Both the scope and the content of education and training for the labour market are determined by the current level of professional knowledge, skills and abilities of JS and jobholder and used for gaining new professional knowledge, skills and abilities. Agencies provide JA and JS with education and training for the labour marketing according to assessment of their abilities, work experience, professional skills, educational attainment and health condition for work. To increase the low level of skills of job seekers, agencies currently implement the following projects:
 - NP III-2/A “**Education and Training for the Labour Market**“



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- NP III-2/B „Enhancing the Employment and Employability of Disadvantaged Job Seekers“.

Both national projects have been designed for job seekers coming from socially excluded communities.

- Regarding Measure no. 1.2.1. To support the field social work in municipalities with MRC of Revised National Action Plan - the SDF supports the social inclusion of Roma through its support of the field social work which is set according to demand driven projects, as well as through the national project “**Field Social Work in Communities**”. The national project (NP) has been being implemented since January 1st, 2012 and continued through 2013. The allocation amounts to 30 Million EUR. Currently, the performance of the field social work is supported in 273 communities with 851 field social workers and their assistants.
- The Slovak Government makes further surveys and looks for both, the ways of activation of long-term unemployed persons and the motivation on the part of employers to employ such job seekers. One possible way of activation is the adoption of the government draft law which amends and supplements the Act No. 461/2003 Coll. on **Social Insurance** as amended, and which amends and supplements certain Acts approved by the National Council of the Slovak Republic on October 16th, 2013, (Resolution No. 829). The amending law which came into effect on November 1st, 2013, has laid down benefits for employers who employ long-term job seekers. Such employers are exempted from paying social security contributions for health insurance of employer as well as employee for the period of the first 12 month of employment. Social security contributions for such employees will be paid by the state. The purpose of this measure is to encourage employment of long-term job seekers and to support them to regain or acquire their working habits. An employer can only apply for the exemption of social security contributions if the employer has not dismissed his current employee in order to employ a long-term job seeker.
- In order to increase the active participation of long-term unemployed job seekers in the solution, the Government of the Slovak Republic forwarded to the National Council of the Slovak Republic (NR SR) a Government Draft **Law on Assistance in Material Need** and Amendment and Supplement of Certain Acts on August 15th, 2013, which came into effect on January 1st, 2014. The draft law sets the limits of material need to be dependent from the activities carried out by a member of household being both of legal age and employable through his or her participation in small community services, volunteering or working on the prevention of emergency situations, during the declaration of emergency and elimination of its consequences. Status of emergency is declared e.g. in the time of natural disaster, accident, catastrophe. The basic prerequisite, however, is that he or she will be offered such activities. The law also lays down the possibility for the agency to actively ensure participation of persons taking job seekers’ allowances in such activities.



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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.*
- The **national project NP III-2/A “Education and Training for the Labour Market“** was designed to support 230 job seekers from MRC. The number is observed by agencies through an anonymous questionnaire which is completed by all participants of educational courses and trainings for the labour market before the beginning of the courses. During the years of 2012 – 2013, there were 706 job seekers selected for the educational courses of NP III-2/A, 51 of them were Roma, i.e. 22, 17 % of the total number of persons selected for the project.
- The **national project NP III-2/B „Enhancing the Employment and Employability of Disadvantaged Job Seekers“**, which provides Professional Advisory Services (§ 43 of the Act on Employment Services) and Education and Training for the Labour Market (§ 46 of the Act on Employment Services), aims at the disadvantaged job seekers and plans to engage 1.500 persons from MRC. Selection of persons coming from MRC is made by agencies through the Atlas of Roma Communities. During the years of 2012 – 2013, there were 525 job seekers selected according to § 43 of the Act on Employment Services, 166 of them coming from MRC. According to § 46 of the Act on Employment Services, 1.145 job seekers participated at activities, 283 of them coming from MRC. Totals of 449 persons from MRC were selected for the NP III-2/B. The number represents approximately 30 % of the number of such citizens to be selected for the project.
- **National project “Field Social Work in Communities”** aims at municipalities with presence of MRC, 273 municipalities joined the project and 368 municipalities are benefiting from the services offered by the project. 399 field social workers (FSW) and 452 assistants of field social workers (AFSW) are employed in the project and 61 thousand clients are benefiting from the services. Average number of clients served by 1 FSW/AFSW is 72 and overall number of provided interventions is 562 000 (employment – 20 %, housing- 31%, health – 20%, socio-pathological issues – 18%, others – 11%).



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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.*

Pivotal document that sets the objectives for development of housing by the State is the **State Housing Policy Concept to 2015** Approved by the Slovak Government Resolution No. 96 of 3 February 2010. Still valid document, aimed at addressing the issue of housing for members of socially excluded Roma communities in urban and rural concentrations, spatially separated and segregated settlements, is the **Long-term Concept of Housing for Marginalised Population Groups and the Model of Financing for the Concept**, approved by the Government back in 2005.

Housing Development Program of Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as "MTCRD SR") in accordance to an Act No. 443/2010 Coll. on Subsidies for Housing Development and on Social Housing, subsidizes construction of rental housing, acquisition of technical equipment and the removal of system failures in residential buildings. Subsidies are provided to villages, towns and regional governments for the construction of rental flats of common and lower standard, which are intended mainly for the lower income groups, including citizens of socially excluded Roma communities. The Act ensures that the construction of rental flats meets all relevant standards.

As part of the implementary mechanism of the pilot approach of support of housing infrastructure from EU structural funds, approved by Government Resolution no. 526/2012 of 3.10.2012, OGPRC intensively cooperates with the Managing Authority for Regional Operational Programme. One matter to be resolved is a financing of the construction of rental houses for marginalized groups within the ROP through a call for applications for grants, Measure 4.1b. For this purpose allocation of 7 million EUR is reserved and construction of 180 housing units of the common standard (15 residential buildings with 12 residential units - max 60 m²) build in the broader centre of municipalities is projected. Maximum total authorized expenses are limited to 70 % of total expenditure; the remaining 30 %, respectively 30 +5 %, must be provided by recipient from his own resources or through the State Housing Development Fund loan (the purpose "building of rental houses").

In accordance with the Strategy of the Slovak Republic for Roma Integration up to 2020, a priority of OPGRC in housing policy is to tackle the **legalization of land** under dwellings of inhabitants of Roma communities. In this respect, there is an ongoing process of preparation of the **New Construction Act**, under which the legal instruments, that will enable **systematic**



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legalization of dwellings with reparation of ownership of the land on which the dwelling is built, are being planned.

Due to the objective necessity to solve the collision of fundamental rights, namely the right to adequate housing and the right to inviolability of the home on the one hand and the right to the inviolability of property on the other hand, under the forthcoming program document "The Right Way" (Roma Reform) it is an ambition of the Plenipotentiary in cooperation with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior to prepare and submit into legislative proceeding a generally binding regulation that will, postulated on the following principles, allow to resolve the collision of those rights:

- State compensates the landowners under illegal Roma settlements alternatively by purchasing of the land or by substitution of the land for land owned by the state.
- State will offer, within the prescribed period, to sell the land under the dwellings owned by the state to the inhabitants of Roma settlements in a form of feasible partial payments or alternatively by a lump sum payment.

In case of failure to conclude a purchase agreement, the dwelling built in breach of the laws of the Slovak Republic will be removed in accordance with the laws of the Slovak Republic.

OGPRC, in addition to the above mentioned legislative instrument in which preparation is actively involved, is developing also other initiatives in the sphere of improving of housing conditions. For the purpose of targeted support of local governments to improve the living conditions of the inhabitants of MRC with regard to the housing, OGPRC in 2013 under its subsidy scheme - Call for application no. I. ÚSVRK 2013 for provision of grants to support of social and cultural needs and solutions for extremely disadvantageous situation of Roma community within the competence of Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, provided 252 469 € for project documentation for the construction of housing, infrastructure, community centers and school facilities and for self-supporting construction of housing in the area of support – **project documentation and self-supporting construction**.

This year, OGPRC extended the support framework in the area of housing of its subsidy scheme by the following activities:

- a) Support of the construction of new municipal rental apartments in residential buildings and family houses in communities with Roma settlements, with the involvement of MRC in the construction (in the form of aid and self-aid). Appropriations within this activity will be directed to projects that promote the improvement of living standards of marginalized Roma communities, their social status and contribute to the achievement of equality and dignity of the living conditions of the inhabitants of Roma settlements, and part of which will include involvement of members of MRC in the construction in the form of aid and self-aid. Support is directed only in the purchase of materials and execution of construction supervision.
- b) Support for the settlement of property ownership of land on which the dwellings of MRC are located. Supported expenditure will be mainly on:
 - measuring and stabilization of circuit boundaries of land on which the dwellings of MRC are located;



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- measuring of the actual state of land on which the dwellings of MRC are located;
 - technical documentation of elementary land consolidation;
 - urban/planning study.
- c) Project documentation to the apartments of lower standard in order to support the construction of housing of lower-standard.

An increased rate of interventions in favor of socio-economic integration of the MRC through investments from ESIF in programming period 2014-2020 is taken into account especially by multi-fund draft of the Operational Programme Human Resources, within whose framework OGPRC set outline of measures and activities in two priority axes. Within the priority axis integration of MRC, which will be financed by the ESF, part of the measures consists of interventions aimed at improving access to health care and public health, including preventive health care, health education, and at improving the standards of the hygiene of housing. Standards of the hygiene of housing include the intention of providing technical assistance to municipalities with the presence of separated and segregated MRC in the area of settling and legalization of land under the dwellings of MRC.

The concept of measures under the priority axis Technical equipment in municipalities with the presence of MRC, receiving funding from ERDF funds, represent a broad spectrum of investments that will allow residents of MRC to ensure access to drinking water. Ambition is to contribute to improvement of the conditions for social integration of people from MRC through effective system of gradual housing but also by introducing of a system of financial mechanism (micro-loans) to promote self-aid building, including installation of utility lines, construction of access roads and removal of communal waste.

- *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.*

As part of the Housing Development Programme of MTCRD SR, funding for rental flats in the total amount of 16,743,680 euros was provided in 2013. That supported the acquisition of 1,399 flats in 81 residential buildings. For the acquisition of technical equipment related to the dwellings in question, funding in the amount of 1 051,960 euros was granted. Procurement of housing of lower standard and related technical facilities that are used mainly for housing of socially excluded communities are also supported. In 2013, funding in the amount of 2,836,740 euros was granted for that purpose that led to the acquisition of 202 flats.

- Within the Housing Development Programme, the MTCRD SR has provided the following funds for the construction of social rental flats in the periods:



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Year	Number of supported buildings	Number of rental flats of common standard	Provided grant in Euros
		Number of rental flats of lower standard	
2011	110	1 420	16 130 720, 00
	16	169	2 862 680, 00
2012	84	1 037	12 172 180, 00
	23	251	3 883 130, 00
2013	69	1 197	13 906 940, 00
	12	202	2 836 740, 00

Note: Although the measure is focused only on the construction of flats of lower standard, the table shows also the amounts of grants pertaining to the construction of rental flats of common standard, whereas none of the regulations stipulate that members of marginalized Roma communities can only be assigned flats of lower standard, just by contrary. It results from the praxis of the MTCRD SR that in many cases also the flats of common standard are allocated to the members of the Roma communities



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6. HEALTH

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

- **Program of health promotion of disadvantaged communities in Slovakia was realized since 2009** through community workers in the area of health education. Their task was to provide mediation between inhabitants of segregated and separated Roma settlements and medical personnel and to spread elementary health education and information in Roma communities. This program, planned to continue through 2015, was stopped in 2012, when Slovak government adopted austerity measures that led to lack of financial resources for realization of the program.

In the years 2012 and 2013 series of working meetings of the **Platform for health promotion of disadvantaged communities** took place. Besides the OPGRC, part of the working group were: Association for culture, education and communication, Association of community centres of Slovakia, Association of field health assistants, Open Society foundation, Office of the WHO in Slovakia, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic, Union insurance company and GlaxoSmithKline.

As one of the outcomes of the working negotiations of Platform for Health promotion of disadvantaged communities may be regarded the start of the nationwide "**Healthy Communities**" project. This project is realized from October 2013 and is financially supported from the grants to support social and cultural needs and solutions of extremely disadvantaged situation of the Roma community in the competence of Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.

In 2013, the project was divided into two phases. The first phase consisted of the training of assistants of coordinators and assistants of health education through an accredited training program of the ME SR, provided by the Association for Culture, Education and Communication. The second phase consisted of field activities of assistants of health education in 108 locations. Their activities are coordinated by 12 employees. During the whole period of the implementation of the project, training and educational activities for the staff are provided on regular basis, what should provide not only preparation but also supervision and motivation during the realization of the project.



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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.*

The project is monitored by the Steering Committee on the basis of reports evaluating activities submitted by the head coordinator every two months and on the basis of reports submitted by cooperating doctors. Head coordinator is also required to do on-site monitoring (in the field) at least once per month. Field coordinators have the same monitoring duty once a week. Cooperating doctors carry out their monitoring once per month.

In 12 tributary areas in Eastern Slovakia (Bardejov, Gelnica, Kežmarok, Košice, Levoča, Michalovce, Poprad, Prešov, Sabinov, Snina, Veľké Kapušany, Vranov nad Topľou), project directly impacts 110 097 inhabitants of MRC and indirectly impacts 426 909 persons of majority population. In cooperation with more than 500 doctors, 19 026 interventions were carried out during 3 months of implementation of the project in 2013.



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7. ANTI-DISCRIMINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY

- *Please list any measures that were designed to support the fight against anti-Roma discrimination and racism. Please describe to the extent possible the impact of these measures (including quantitative and descriptive data).*
- In October 2012 the Ministry of Justice together with the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family and in cooperation with OGPRC prepared an amendment to the Act No. 365/2004 Coll. on equal treatment in some areas and protection against discrimination and about changes and amendments of some laws, as amended (**Anti-discrimination Act**). The amendment came into effect on the 1st of April 2013.

The amendment extended the definition of indirect discrimination so that, in accordance with the transposed directives of the European Union, it includes also the danger of the birth of discrimination. From outside, the indirect discrimination looks as a neutral regulation, decision, instruction or practice that disadvantages or could disadvantage one person compared to another person. It is not indirect discrimination if such regulation, decision, instruction or practice is objectively justified by monitoring the legitimate interest, whereas they are adequate, as well as inevitable to reach such an interest.

Key aspects of this amendment, with regard to chapter D point 2.6. – Field of Non-discrimination of the National Roma Integration Strategy up to 2020, are the changes made to the **temporary special (affirmative action) measures**. Temporary special (affirmative action) measures are positive action measures aimed at achieving equality in practice and seeking to eliminate existing disadvantages. In general these measures can be passed in all areas of the scope of the **Anti-discrimination Act** which prohibits discrimination in employment, education, social services, healthcare and access to goods and services including housing. Temporary special (affirmative action) measures should focus inter alia on achieving equality in practice in employment and education, increase interest in services, culture, healthcare, aim to disseminate information and etc. Previous text of the Anti-discrimination Act limited these measures on elimination of social and economic disadvantages and disadvantages based on age and disability. The amended text now excluded the social and economic disadvantages as is believed that social and economic disadvantage can be a result of discrimination but less commonly its cause. It was replaced with discrimination on grounds of racial or ethnic origin, national minority status or ethnic group and gender or sex to more precisely focus on the key groups. Further changes in the amendment, mentioned in the strategy, focused on the persons or bodies allowed to adopt these measures.

Previously only government bodies were allowed to adopt such measures. The amended text expands this option on all “legal persons” meaning also local government bodies, private entities such as business companies, but also schools, hospitals, NGOs and so on. Most of the measures from the National Strategy for the Integration of Roma up to 2020 could be legally and in substance qualified as affirmative action.



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Professional consultancy during decision-making, whether or not to adopt the temporary special (affirmative action) measures, what principles to apply therein and whether the proposed temporary special (affirmative action) measures do not exceed the fields of relationships regulated by the Anti-discrimination Act is performed by the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights.

In reference to the resolution of the Slovak Government's Council for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality No. 78 of 29 May 2013 on proposal of the amendment of Act No. 308/1993 Coll. on establishment of the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights, the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic prepared an amendment of the Act on the Centre.

- *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).*