



DECADE OF
ROMA
INCLUSION
2005-2015

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I. INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT AND FUNDING FOR ROMA INCLUSION

- *Please describe (if any) changes in 2014 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.*
- *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.)?*
- *What is the total amount and percentage of the 2014 national budget dedicated to the implementation of the Decade Action Plan or National Roma Integration Strategy in your country?*
- *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 2015?*
- *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.)?*

Key participation structure ensuring involvement of Roma national minority in the decision making process remained the same. In representative and executive bodies of local and regional self-governments, Roma representation remained at the same level as in 2013, i.e. 10 persons (9m, 1f) in representative bodies (municipal councils), and 2 deputy mayors, while three remain unelected due to lack of interest of candidates even after repeated elections (Kotoriba, Peteranec, Petrijanec). Participation of Roma women remains low. Roma also remain underrepresented in local administration.

Following elections for councils of Roma national minority (CNMs) and individual representatives (IRs) as advisory bodies to local self-governments on local and regional level in 2011, 17 Roma CNMs and 11 IRs were elected. Elections held in May 2015 brought further increase in number of CNMs (29) and individual representatives (9), turn-out and representation of Roma women. Regretfully, again at 4 LSGs there were no candidates for individual representatives (Domašinec, Osijek, Popovača and Vinkovci),

According to the incomplete data available to MoPA¹, local and regional CNMs and IRs were funded with almost 25 MHRK (3 MEUR), though the report does not disaggregate according to ethnicity and it is not known at the moment how much of these funds reached Roma CNMs and IRs. Since their work is mostly dependent on the funds provided by their respective regional/local self-governments,

1 Several counties have not provided any data on financing CNMs and IRs.



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councils and representatives in underdeveloped municipalities are usually in a particularly difficult financial position. Therefore, the Government of RoC again in 2014 directly financed work of CNMs and IRs in underdeveloped local/regional self-government units, according to their development index. Support of 2,200 HRK (290 EUR) each was thus provided to 3 Roma CNMs (Darda, Orehovica, Pribislavec), and 800 HRK (105 EUR) each to 5 IRs (Belišće, Beli Manastir, Kotoriba, Mursko Središće and Podturen)..

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

In order to monitor the implementation of the National Roma Inclusion Strategy 2013 – 2020, the Croatian Government set up the Commission for Monitoring of the Implementation of the National Roma Inclusion Strategy 2013 – 2020. The tasks of the Monitoring Commission include systematic monitoring and coordination of the implementation of the NRIS, proposing measures for the advancement of the NRIS and preparing recommendations, opinions, and reports related to the NRIS implementation. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Social Policy and Youth, Ms Milanka Opačić is the President of the Monitoring Commission and the Coordinator for Decade for Roma Inclusion, and Mr. Veljko Kajtazi, a representative of the Roma national minority (and 11 other minorities) in Croatian Parliament is the Vice-president of the Monitoring Commission. Seven representatives of Roma national minority are members of the Commission, as well as seven representatives, usually of the rank of Assistant Ministers, from key line ministries (Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds (MRDEUF), Ministry of Social Policy and Youth (MoSPY), Ministry of Construction and Physical Planning (MoCPP), Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Science, Education and Sport (MoSES), Ministry of Labor and Pension System (MoLPS), Government Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities (GOHRRNM)), in 2014 the Commission has been expanded with a representative of the Ministry of Interiors, due to importance of status issues for a number of Roma. At its 4 sessions, the Commission has discussed various issues and decided to have topical sessions. Two such sessions were held in 2014 on areas of education and housing. The Commission has also continued to provide support to the most urgent needs of members of Roma communities and distributed 500,000 HRK (66,667 EUR) in 2014 for this purpose.

With the support of MtM and assistance of UNDP, GOHRRNM has conducted capacity building of the Commission. Two trainings for members of the Commission were organised as well as two trainings at local level (one in Zagreb and one in Čakovec). Particularly important in that respect was development of the *Framework for Monitoring and Evaluation of the NRIS and the accompanying Action Plan* with several recommendations for improvement of both NRIS and AP, as well as monitoring and evaluation process. In December 2014, GOHRRNM, in cooperation with the UNDP, started the process of an independent mid-term evaluation of the implementation of the National Strategy for Roma Inclusion, for the period from 2013 to 2020 and the Action Plan for the implementation of the National Strategy for Roma Inclusion, for the period 2013 – 2015. The overall objective of the evaluation was to assess the extent to which the National Strategy and Action Plan contribute or will contribute to the inclusion of the Roma minority in Croatia, and the results were published in June 2015. Some of key issues are frequent lack of baseline data, data collection,



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prioritisation of activities in certain sectors, vertical and horizontal coordination and the role of local level.

GOHRRNM has maintained regular contacts with the representatives of the Decade Focal Point, as well as with other Roma representatives and NGOs. For example, Roma National Council contributed to the successful thematic visit of CAHROM groups of experts on Roma language together with the Roma MP, and the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Zagreb.

On the local level, several counties have revised or adopted their own Action Plans for Roma Inclusion (Zagreb, Varaždin, Međimurje, Osijek-Baranja) and one city (Crikvenica). Probably most important in this respect is work of UNDP in Međimurje and Sisak-Moslavina County through MtM funded grant, also continued in 2015 and expanded through Norway and EEA grant in 4 more counties.

Centre for Peace Vukovar has been implementing an EU funded project (IPA IV) focusing on positive media coverage of Roma issues in Croatia and building capacities of the local Roma NGOs and CNMs to monitor the implementation of local Roma strategies in the period March 2014 – August 2015, with a total value of 94,907.42 EUR. The results of this project are laying a solid foundation for a follow-up and further development of the monitoring on the local level.

In 2014 several important studies have been published. A comprehensive national report on socio-economic conditions of Roma “*Everyday life of Roma in Croatia: challenges and possibilities for transformation*” coordinated by UNDP with UNICEF and UNHCR inputs, based on the EC-WB-UNDP survey² serves as an evidence for policy makers and source of information about possible interventions to bridge existing gaps in living conditions between Roma, non-Roma living in the proximity of Roma and general population. IOM has published, in the framework of the EU funded project *EQUIHEALTH: Fostering health provision for migrants, the Roma, and other vulnerable groups* an assessment of the progress in the AP NRIS implementation in the area of health³, UNICEF has published results of research on poverty and well-being of pre-school children with a special reference to Roma⁴, REYN published a survey on Roma early childhood inclusion (RECI +)⁵, and many valuable insights are also found in the Croatian civil society report for 2013-2014 published in the framework of the Roma Decade⁶.

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

For implementation of the National Roma Inclusion Strategy 2013 – 2020 (and related Action Plan) financing is envisaged from the State budget, from the budget of local/regional authorities as well as from international and EU funds. In the State Budget of the Republic of Croatia for the implementation of the AP NRIS 2013 – 2015 central authorities planned funds within the prescribed

² <http://www.hr.undp.org/content/croatia/hr/home/presscenter/articles/2014/10/24/romi-u-hrvatskoj-u-vi-estruko-nepovoljnom-polo-aju/>

³ http://equi-health.eea.iom.int/images/NRIS_Croatia_final.pdf

⁴ <http://www.unicef.hr/show.jsp?newscontainer=201072&page=146930&singlenewsid=201117#news201117>

⁵ <http://reyn-hrvatska.net/resursi/istrazivanje-socijalno-ukljucivanje-romske-nacionalne-manjine-u-ranom-djetinjstvu-roma-early-childhood-inclusion-eci-za-hrvatsku>

⁶ <http://www.romadecade.org/civilsocietymonitoring>



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limits of the economic and fiscal policy, 15,330,829.00 HRK (2,025,220 EUR) for 2014, and 15,612,511.00 HRK (2,062,450 EUR) for 2015. Actual spending of the state administration, as per Annual Report on the Implementation of the AP NRIS for 2014 shows that financing was much higher: 24.590.345,85 HRK (3,257 MEUR). Furthermore, this figure does not include financing on the local level, funds of national and international organisations as well as EU funds. Some of these details, where available, are provided in respective chapters of this report.

Following the Croatian entry in EU, key documents related to the programming 2014-2020, e.g. Partnership Agreement, operational programmes on human resources and competition and cohesion, as well as a number of strategic documents, such as Strategy on Fighting Poverty and Social Exclusion, National Strategy for Children Rights and others have made extensive references to Roma, both in mainstream, and special, targeting measures.

Both PGF Croatia surveys and data provided by the Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs are indicating continuous weaknesses of Roma civil society (e.g. at Info-day events on all tenders financed from the state budget and lottery, attended regularly by more than 200 NGOs again only 1-2 Roma NGOs participated, at the Regional forum Europe for Citizens only 1 Roma NGO). Similar comments are received from the local level: e.g., the City of Slavonski Brod notes as key problems lack of communication and cooperation between Roma NGOs, poor capacities for project design (poorly written proposals, lack of documents), and non-transparent spending of allocated funds. However, there are also obvious signs of a larger involvement of Roma civil society. Thus Roma NGOs are among partners and Roma are beneficiaries of projects approved through 2007-2013 ESF grants 'Micro-projects of support to small CSOs for local development' as well as 'Strengthening CSOs capacities for provision of social services'. An IPA IV project strengthening (inclusive) volunteering in the local community in Belišće and cooperation with the local authorities, involving Osijek-Baranja Roma CNM has also been financed (120,371.38 EUR).

GofNGOs has also continued providing co-financing for EU funded projects and 3 projects involving Roma NGOs have been approved in 2014: REYN Croatia (implemented by Step by Step association), Roma Inclusion Advocacy Project (mentioned above) and a Youth at Work project implemented by the NGO Madara, with the total amount of 23,800 EUR.

In this respect very important is contribution provided by the program Project Generation Facility (PGF) Croatia 02/2014-04/2015, financed by MtM (100.626,80 EUR).

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 2014 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 2014 (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.*



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In 2014/2015, a total of 2,816,781.36 HRK (373,083 EUR) was spent on preschool education and preschool programme from the State budget (1,659,798.91 HRK for preschool education and 1,156,982.45 HRK for preschool programme). REF has also continued with support, particularly in Medjmurje County.

At the beginning of 2014/2015 school year, a total of 873 children were included (442 m, 431 f) in preschool education and in the preschool programme, an increase in comparison with s.y. 2013/2014 when there was a total of 769 children (364 m, 405 f). The number of Roma children for which co-financing of preschool education in the 2014 was approved also increased to 466 (235 m, 231 f), while in 2013 there were 390 Roma children (180 m, 210 f). There were 45 institutions implementing programs of preschool education in which children with ensured co-financing are involved in 2014. A total of 30 preschool programs involving Roma children were implemented by institutions in 2014, (21 in 2013). Ministry of Education, Science and Sports (MoSES) reports that these programs are providing good results, remain necessary and suggests an obligation to organize preschool education for all Roma children as a preparation for inclusion into education system. In upcoming period after-school stay and preschool programs are planned to be co-financed from the European Social Fund (ESF).

Primary Education

In s.y. 2013/2014 there were 5.470 pupils (2.769 m, 2.701 f) in primary education, while at the beginning of 2014/2015 there were 5.411 pupils (2.750 m, 2.661 f). The number of classes with Roma only pupils has increased in 2014: there were 61 classes with Roma only pupils at the beginning of s.y. 2014/2015 (56 in s.y. 2013/2014.). There are some notable local desegregation activities, such as in Kutina, where local authorities are regularly taking Roma children by bus to different primary schools in order to avoid concentration of Roma children in a single school.

At the same time data on the number of pupils who left primary education after multiple repetitions shows that a completion of primary education is still at a low level, although a certain progress can be seen. In s.y. 2013/2014 a total number of 140 pupils (69 m, 71 f) dropped out of school, while in 2012/2013 there were 153 drop-outs (83 m, 70 f).

Data on the number of Roma students who are offered special assistance in learning Croatian language on the basis of Art. 43 of the Law on Education in Primary and Secondary Schools show decrease: in 2013/2014 assistance in learning Croatian received a total of 511 pupils (251 m, 260 f), and at the beginning of 2014/2015 443 (225 m, 218 f). There is also a decrease of the number of pupils included in the program of extended stay: at the beginning of the s.y. 2014/2015 there were 343 pupils (179 m, 164 f), while at the beginning of the s.y. 2013/2014 there were 548 pupils (293 m, 255 f).

For educational programs, school trips, school in nature, after school activities, extended stay and salaries of Roma teaching assistants in 2014 an amount of 2,172,921.98 HRK (290,820 EUR) was used from the State budget. In most schools Roma assistants, are employed, and their work is financed from the State budget (25 (13 m, 12 f) of them), while additional assistants are employed by local authorities (e.g. Sisak, Varaždin).

Secondary Education

Number of Roma pupils who are included in the secondary education system is increasing. A special section in the new *Decision on the elements and criteria for selection of candidates for admission to secondary school in s.y. 2014/2015*, enacted by the MoSES, is assisting the enrollment of Roma



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through an additional point for the enrollment ranking for all candidates living in conditions that could affect his/her success in elementary school.

A total number of high school students at the beginning of s.y. 2014/2015 was 682 (368 m, 314 f), a significant and continuing increase, particularly of Roma girls. For comparison, in s.y. 2013/2014 there were 588 students in total (327 m, 258 f), while at the beginning of s.y. 2012/2013 there were 480 students (286 m, 194 f). Out of these, in gymnasiums there were 10 students (5 m, 5 f); in 4 - years vocational school 128 students (53 m, 75 f); in 3-years vocational school 446 students (259 m, 187 f); lower degree 21 students (15 m, 6 f); programs for students with disabilities 72 students (34 m, 38 f); Fine Arts and Design 3 students (3 f); Music School (as a part of a secondary school) 2 students (2 m).

Number of Roma students enrolled in the first grade in 3-years secondary schools in s.y. 2014/2015 was 196 (109 m, 87 f), while in s.y. 2013/2014 there were 204 (114 m, 90 f). Significantly, number of Roma students enrolled in the first grade of 4-years secondary schools in 2014/2015 though still relatively small, almost doubled to 52 (20 m, 32 f) in comparison to s.y. 2013/2014 when there were 27 (14 m, 13 f) Roma students enrolled in the first grade of 4-years secondary schools. Number of Roma students, enrolled in the second year of secondary school, in 2014/2015 was 208 (110 m, 98 f). Number of Roma students, enrolled in the third year of secondary school, in 2014/2015 was 154 (95 m, 59 f). Number of Roma students, enrolled in the fourth year of secondary school, in 2014/2015 was 35 (13 m, 22 f). Number of students Roma with accommodation in dormitories in 2014 was 9 (7 m, 2 f), the same as in 2013.

Students in the final grades of elementary school were provided with the necessary information related to secondary education and needs of the labor market with the aim to facilitate their choice of high school program and future occupation. In 2014, a total of 198 students were involved in vocational informing and 151 students participated in the activities of vocational counseling.

At the beginning of 2012/2013 there were 53 repeaters (38m, 15f). In 2011/2012 67 students (30m, 37f) dropped school and there were 45 repeaters (30m, 15f) of the total of 425 students (214m, 211f). In 2012/2013 63 students (34m, 29f) dropped the education and there were 68 (44m, 24f) repeaters among the total of 446 students at the end of the school year. At the beginning 2013/2014 there were 52 repeaters (35m, 17f) of the total of 586 students (328m, 258f). At the beginning of school year 2014/2015 there were 67 repeaters (45m, 22f) among the total of 682 (368m, 314f) students enrolled in the school year 2014/2015.

MoSES provides scholarships to all regular high school students who are members of the Roma minority in the amount of 5,000 HRK (670 EUR) per year per student (or 500 HRK (67 EUR) per month during the school year). In 2014 a total of 3,398,224.19 HRK (450,095 EUR) from the State budget was used for scholarships, in comparison to 2,429,656.96 HRK (320,960 EUR) in 2013 (in 2011 1,598,820.00 HRK (211,210 EUR), and in 2012 2,125,000.00 HRK (280,720 EUR)). Number of Roma students provided with scholarships at the beginning of s.y. 2014/2015 was 584 (322 m, 262 f) in comparison to 542 Roma students (247 m, 295 f) in s.y. 2013/2014. Some local authorities are also providing scholarships, such as the City of Zagreb (approximately 14,500 HRK (1,920 EUR) per year).

Higher Education

There were 23 Roma students (10 m, 13 f) enrolled in higher education in academic year 2013/2014. Ministry of Education has ensured for scholarships for regular Roma students in 2014 a total of



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230,000.00 HRK (30,463 EUR). The scholarship amounts to 10,000.00 HRK (1,330 EUR) per year per student. Some local authorities are also providing scholarships to Roma students (e.g; Zagreb 2 scholarships (23,500 HRK (3,112 EUR) each) in 2014 and 3 in 2015, Varaždin County 1 (10,000 HRK (1,324 EUR)), but their number is still quite low.

Adult Education

As regards Roma adults involved in literacy programs and training for the first vocation, in 2014 in total there were 327 participants (242 m, 85 f), out of which 320 participants in the literacy program, and 7 participants in the training for the first vocation. The total amount spent was 631.500,00 HRK (93,330 EUR).

In 2014 Education and Teacher Training Agency has continued with professional meetings for all national minorities and education models - A, B or C out of which 9 professional meetings for the members of Roma national minority were held in Čakovec, Osijek, Beli Manastir and Nuštar).

Education and Teacher Training Agency (ETTA) continued with the implementation of two measures from NRIS. The first one relates to the professional development of teachers and assistants in primary schools with the aim of raising the quality and efficiency of education of the Roma minority. Also, professional development based on *Curriculum for Teaching Croatian Language* continued in 2014 in order to facilitate the learning of Croatian language as a foreign language for pupils and students to whom Croatian is not a mother tongue, and to facilitate the inclusion of the students' who are speaking a foreign language in the educational process. In this regard ETTA held 27 professional trainings in 2014, in comparison to 21 professional training held in 2013. MoSES also notes as particularly important international project 'Educational Drama and Theater as a means to promote Roma inclusion', supported by OSF, MoSES and ETTA, involving 161 participants through 18 workshops in Međimurje, Zagreb, Sisak and Slavonski Brod.

There were three expert meetings held in Čakovec on the theme The Role of Roma assistants in the classroom - The social dimension of the curriculum in civic education / mediation as part of school life, with a total of 135 participants. These meetings are held for teachers who work in schools with a large number of Roma students as well as Roma assistants. Professional training of Roma assistants and assistants in primary schools aims to raise the quality and effectiveness of education of the Roma minority. Participants acquire core competencies for application modules for teachers mediators. There were also 3 professional conferences on Intercultural dialogue held for assistant teachers and subject teachers. Other meetings/conferences included: Improving the situation of Roma children in education in Baranja, in Beli Manastir with 38 participants. Romology, a conference intended for partners and associates on the project "Improvement of the situation of Roma children in education in Baranja", held on January 24, 2014 in Beli Manastir with 60 participants; The values and identity in the context of education in a multicultural community, held in Osijek with 60 participants; a conference designed for assistants, principals, educators in kindergartens, teachers, elementary school teachers in Beli Manastir and students-volunteers of the Faculty of Teacher Education in Osijek, and the partners and associates on the project "Improvement of the situation of Roma children in education in Baranja".

Education on Holocaust is included in a mandatory professional development of teachers and in 2014, there were two meetings held in this subject: Teaching about the Holocaust and prevention of crimes against humanity in Split, 51 participants; The double burden: Learning about National Socialism and the Holocaust in Europe in Zagreb, 80 participants.



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Social Welfare Centre Cakovec, the Family Center branch, in cooperation with kindergartens and primary schools which are attended by members of the Roma minority in 2014 conducted a series of educational workshops and lectures for parents and students of the Roma national minority.

Also, in 2014 there were 193 state, county and inter-county professional meetings organized for principals, teachers and expert associates in primary and secondary schools, for the implementation of the Civic Education. In cross-curricular and interdisciplinary content of civic education for primary and secondary schools there are themes, key concepts and outcomes included, separately for each year of primary and secondary schools, which include six structural dimensions of civic competence - human rights, political, social, cultural, economic and environmental competence. The curriculum of civic education is seen as education for active participation of children and young people in the life of school, local community and the Croatian and European society as intercultural dimension in which it is anticipated that students will have developed a cultural identity and intercultural competence, will know and respect the culture of minority peoples and, from the position of minority, know and respect the culture of the majority nation.

For the implementation of measures in the field of national programs and civic education in 2014 from the regular program of the Agency for Education the funds in the amount of 210.422,47 HRK (27, 870 EUR) have been spent.

EU funds have continued to have an increasing role in meeting needs, mostly focused on Inclusion in educational system, preschool, extended stay, and mediators for the integration. 14 projects with the total contracted amount of 2,198,678.95 EUR ended in 2014.

REF has also continued support to education of activities (71,202 EUR), to the Roma NGO Sfera, Medjimurje County and NGO Oaza in Rijeka.

3. EMPLOYMENT

- *Please list any mainstream and targeted policy measures that were designed and implemented to support Roma employment in 2014 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.*
- *Please describe to the extent possible the impact of measures your government implemented in 2014 (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.*

According to the data provided by the Ministry of Public Administration, on Dec 31, 2014 there were 5 Roma persons employed in public administration (0.01 % of total number of employees) and 6 persons employed in local self-governments. In 2014 Ministry of Public Administration adopted a Plan of admission to civil service for the government bodies and professional services and offices of



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the Croatian Government in 2014, including specific provisions for employment of national minorities, according to the Plan of admission of national minorities in the civil service in the state administration for the period from 2011 to 2014. Because of the economic situation in Croatia in recent years, employment opportunities are generally reduced, including employment opportunities in the state administration, and employment of national minorities. The ban on employment in public administration is still in force limiting the possibilities for improvement in this area.

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

The number of registered unemployed Roma at the end of December 2014 was 4,511, which makes 1.4 % of total number of unemployed in Croatia.

In order to create conditions for increasing the employability of Roma, all of the Roma national minority in the CES are introduced into the mainstream measures of the CES while CES implements a series of specific measures aimed specifically at the Roma minority, including information / discussions, individual counseling, group counseling for acquiring job-seeking skills, preparatory workshops for self-employment and training, establishing a positive climate among employers for employment of Roma, with specific measures aimed at Roma women and young Roma.

In 2014 a total of 9,080 people (4,172 f) were involved in the process of empowerment for participation in the labor market (information activities / discussions, individual counseling, group counseling for acquiring job-seeking skills). The activity information / stands included 2,649 (1,152 f) members of the Roma national minority. Individual counseling with the aim of defining the job profile and the individual job search plans were included a total of 6,051 persons (2,860 f), while the activity of group consultation included 380 persons (160 f). Activities of group information on self-employment and counseling on starting work involved 41 persons (10 f). Professional information and counselling for persons in final years of primary and secondary schools have also continued. 198 students were involved in professional information and 151 in professional counselling.

During 2014 288 organized visits to employers were conducted and 141 joint meeting with stakeholders in the local labour market were held in order to improve employment opportunities for Roma. During the period 2011-2014 the number of visits to employers was reduced in the view of the current situation on the labour market and the lack of job posts.

As part of measures for stimulating employment in 2014 950 persons (368 f) were employed. Through the measure of co-financing employment of Roma, CES co-financed the employment of 19 members (7 f) of the Roma national minority and co-financed self-employment of Roma through awarded grants for self-employment of 16 persons (5 f). Through the measure of Public Works 914 persons (355 f) were employed. It is notable that some local authorities and Roma NGOs are using public works as a tool to retain the existing and gain new qualifications for Roma involved, as well as in areas which are not usually associated with this type of employment (e.g. education in Bjelovar, Koprivnica, Slavonski Brod, health mediation in Čakovec County hospital).

Total number of employed Roma in the open labour market (i.e. excluding those employed through specific incentive measures for employment) were 231 (124m, 107f). Workshops for unemployed Roma women on active job search has continued, involving 114 participants.

CES implemented a series of activities that are not directly attributable to the measures defined in the Action Plan, and the access to employment is also facilitated through EU funded projects. The projects are mostly not directed specifically only at the Roma minority, but rather target groups are disadvantaged persons, vulnerable and / or disadvantaged groups, including Roma. Thus, within the IPA IV program *Establishment of support in social integration and employment of disadvantaged and*



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marginalized groups, the CES Office Čakovec participated as a partner in implementing the project "Social inclusion and employment of the Roma through biodynamic agriculture" (132,818.57 EUR) by the Autonomous Center Čakovec - ACT. The project started in August 2013 and lasted until the end of July 2014. The aim of the project was to increase the employability of the Roma minority in Medjimurje County and their inclusion into society through the establishment of a model for social employment. In the framework of the Lifelong Learning Programme CES Karlovac, participates as a partner in the implementation of the Project "transversal program" - e-Roma Resource (398,639.00 EUR, of which 15,737.00 EUR is the CES co-financing), and the key partner is Slovenian Development and Education Centre Novo Mesto. The project aims to create a network of actors assisting Roma. Implementation of the project started in January 2014, and will be implemented by mid-December 2015.

Within the IPA IV. - Establishment of support in social integration and employment of disadvantaged and marginalized groups, the CES Osijek participated as a partner in the implementation of the project "Sustainable Future through the Integration of Roma" by the Center for Youth (140,404.72 EUR). The project started in August 2013 and lasted until the beginning of October 2014 with an aim to integrate the Roma national minority in the labor market.

Within the IPA IV - Establishment of support in social integration and employment of disadvantaged and marginalized groups, the CES Kutina, participated as a partner in implementing the project "The PRIMA-employment through the completion of primary education" by the Adult Education College Zvonimir. The project started in June 2013 and lasted until the end of November 2014.

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 2014 with a special focus on the goals and implementation of the Decade National Action Plan and the National Roma Integration Strategy (if applicable). Please include measures such as: eliminating spatial segregation and promoting desegregation, promoting non-discriminatory access to social housing, etc.*
- *Please describe to the extent possible the impact of measures your government implemented in 2014 (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.*

In the period under review, particular attention was paid to the legalization of illegally constructed buildings. The Ministry of Construction and Space Planning (MCSP), in close cooperation with the Roma MP, local authorities and local Roma CNMs/NGOs, assist the Roma population in 2014 continuing with the (co) financing development documentation (surveying and architectural records) required as preconditions for legalisation with a total of 77,125.50 Euro for 180 houses in the City of Slavonski Brod, and in Donja Gračenica (City of Popovača). In 2015, MCSP increased the funds for this purpose to 200,000 EUR.

MCSP also provided financial assistance in 2014 of 13, 157,89 EUR for building "Roma Cultural Centre Baranja" in the municipality of Darda. Kneževi Vinogradi provided 10,000 HRK for legalization costs, while the town of Sisak provided 50,000 HRK for a parcelation study in Capraške Poljane, and legalization costs of some buildings under threat of demolition. Istria County reports on increased cooperation with stakeholders in order to resolve property issues.



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Some local reports are also noting relevant interventions: Varazdin County in 2014, in the second phase has built 537 m of water supply in Gornje and Donje Vratno, with the assistance of 104,493.03 HRK provided by the County and local water company. The municipality of Darda has continued activities regarding building of social housing objects and built a pilot house for two families (438,337.98 HRK) with designs for another 87 houses. The settlement Zrinski in Darda now has fully completed infrastructure (road network, water supply network, wastewater disposal, gas supply, electricity networks, public lighting and telecommunications networks). City of Belišće has obtained planning permission for reconstruction - upgrading of existing water supply and sewerage pipelines, and made parcelling survey for traffic areas. Municipality of Peteranec completed project documentation for sewage for settlements Sigetec. The preparation of an application for EU funds is in progress. Total value: for this project is 388,125.00 HRK. Slavonski Brod has provided housing support to 32 families to the value of 119,485.05 HRK.

5. HEALTH

- *Please list any mainstream and targeted policy measures that were designed and implemented to support the improvement of health care services for the Roma population in 2014 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.*
- *Please describe to the extent possible the impact of measures your government implemented in 2014 (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.*

In the field of health care systematic work on increasing the coverage of the Roma population with health insurance continued: increasing the availability of health services to the Roma population, improving the health of Roma infants and children, including vaccination rates, work to improve the health of Roma infants and children through health measures in relation to the most frequent causes of morbidity and death, with the implementation of the health education of parents and preventive and curative health care measures, and the implementation of other measures aimed at improving the health and health care of the Roma population. Progress in conducting health education of parents, aimed at improving health habits is visible. The Croatian Institute for Health Insurance for all persons insured in the framework of compulsory health insurance, has in its records details of all insured persons in compulsory health insurance, but not the ethnic background, therefore it is not possible to extract data for the Roma national minority. There are still problems in the the monitoring of the implementation of the AP NRIS, because the monitoring is not carried out along ethnic lines. However, this is compensated to some extent through special field epidemiological research and surveys.

Ministry of Health (MoH) closely cooperates with IOM in the EU funded project *Equi Health: Fostering health provision for migrants, the Roma, and other vulnerable groups*. MoH also expects



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improvements in disaggregated data collection on the basis of the project outputs, particularly those related to the health mediators. In that respect Ministry of Health prepared the tender documents for the project entitled "Capacity building in preparation for EU funds", implemented within the IPA program. The project aim is to create 20 application forms for ESF, and one intervention will deal with the piloting of development of health mediators in Roma communities. The project will be developed by the end of 2015, and the implementation is expected in 2016. IOM report notes the Međimurje County attempt to employ the health mediator in the County Hospital, following the 6 month successful trial period, providing important lessons for similar interventions in the future.

Croatian Health Insurance Institute regularly publishes instructions on access to public health services on its web site as well as through free telephone line. In 2015 Ministry of Health will re-print the booklet called "My Rights" in Croatian and Roma language in order to increase awareness on public health services for the Roma national minority.

MoH regularly carries out a program of prevention of breast cancer and its early detection, prevention program for early detection of cervical and colon cancer. The programs are implemented for all persons including those without health insurance.

MoH also cooperates with Roma NGOs: it financed the activities of "Kali Sara" entitled "Prevention of health and the fight against addiction." The aim of these activities is the education of Roma children and young Roma on health care, personal hygiene, proper nutrition, health care and prevention of addiction, as well as additional preventive work regarding chronic diseases. In addition to these activities, MoH supplied 21 blood pressure meters and 21 glucose meters to be used in the field work by the Kali Sara association in 2015. Also, 55,000 HRK were used by the Ministry for trainings on use of automatic external defibrillators.

Local reports also refer to some health related activities: Međimurje County, Varaždin County and the City of Zagreb note monthly vaccination drives, which is regularly reported to the Croatian Institute for Public Health. Mainstream workshops, involving Roma students as well, were conducted on vaccination against human papilloma virus. The City of Zagreb, on the occasion of an outbreak of measles thoroughly surveyed a large number of Roma families in which measles have occurred, and vaccinated unvaccinated family members wherever it was necessary. The town of Belišće notes positive role of the local Roma representatives, providing additional information to the Roma population on access to health care and related status issues.

Ministry of Social Policy and Youth (MoSPY) during 2014 has been implementing several measures from NRIS 2014 – 2020, but the data provided are related to 6 Centres for Social Welfare (CfSW) with the largest number of Roma population (Čakovec, Beli Manastir, Đurđevac, Rijeka, Sisak and Slavonski Brod). CfSW is monitoring the situation in the areas of social welfare through the cooperation of relevant local Centres, councils and representatives of the Roma minority and the relevant administrative bodies of local/regional self-government. In 2014, 3 new employees joined the CfSW Čakovec (to the total of 157 expert workers in these 6 CfSW). CfSWs conducted trainings on the topic of inclusion of socially disadvantaged groups in the labor market. A total of 20 social workers participated in these trainings and 18 members of Roma national minority (13m, 5f) were mentored on the topic of the labor market inclusion.



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MoSPY in September 2014 has formed the Quality Management and Training Service that will in the future take into account the implementation of expert trainings that are planned in individual strategic documents, which will also include social mentoring. During 2014, according to the data obtained from these 6 CfSW there were a total of 483 cases of providing of services and support including counseling and help, lectures and workshops, entrusting for the nurture and custody, extra-marital relations between partners and placement due to domestic violence, and a total of 552 Roma families received such support in 2014. In relation to that, CfSWs provided psycho-social support, accommodation, assistance with school enrollment, individual and parental counseling and educational lectures on the responsible parenting including workshops for improvement of family relations.

Regarding the empowering of Roma families for quality and responsible parenthood, including raising awareness of the Roma population about the problems relating to the conclusion of early marriages, a total of 377 services were provided (advisory services, programs and workshops for empowering of Roma families and education of parents and children). A total of 37 Roma families were involved in programs for responsible parenthood and family empowerment. During 2014, according to data provided, 38 underage marriages were concluded.

Regarding the empowerment and support of biological family in order to prevent the separation of children from their families, during 2014, a total of 1182 support services were provided by following CfSWs: CfSW Slavonski Brod 46 (counseling, supervision), CfSW Zagreb 100 (counseling, improving housing and sanitary conditions, the continuation of regular education, measures of supervision of parental care), CfSW Pula 171 (written warnings, counseling, safe house placement, accommodation, extended expert school assistance, measures of intensified care and supervision, denying parents the right to live with a children and to raise them), CfSW Koprivnica 71 (counseling), CfSW Čakovec 567 (measures of family legal protection, consulting services and family support), CfSW Sisak 225, and CfSW Slatina 2 (counseling, warning about omissions and mistakes in child care, supervision of of parental care). At national level 296 children were allocated from biological families and a total of 348 individual plans that include assessment and monitoring of family resources were made by the mentioned CfSWs. Regarding the encouragement of the development of foster care and adoption of Roma children without adequate parental care, primarily in Roma families, in 2014 there were 129 families (Roma and non-Roma) who have foster children, of which there were 19 Roma families, and a total of 19 families have adopted the Roma children (among which there were no Roma families).

During 2014 there were a total of 262 foster children: 62 girls and 40 boys aged 0-7 years, 58 girls and 58 boys aged 8-14 years, and 24 girls and 20 boys aged 15-18 years, while a total of 21 children, 9 girls and 6 boys aged 0-7 years, and 3 girls and 3 boys between the age of 8-14, were adopted. In 2014 17 Roma families were involved in the education and programs for foster parents.

During 2014, 2 projects aimed at promoting the development of foster care were implemented (1 by CfSW Čakovec and 1 by CfSW Zaprešić). CfSW Čakovec was involved in UNICEF project for the development and improvement of foster care called “See them differently, love them equally”, which aimed to break down prejudice against foster of Roma children and to encourage Roma to become foster parents. Local CfSW conducted additional activities to promote foster care: CfSW Zaprešić organized a program with Centre for psychological counseling, educational training and research - Sirius.



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During 2014 CfSW implemented programs and activities for improving the social skills of children and youth with the aim of preventing behavioural problems, and the number of Roma children and youth who used some form of aid or measures from the Social Welfare Act was 6082 (995 girls and 1046 boys aged 0-7 years, 1332 girls and 1292 boys aged 8-14 years, 723 girls and 694 boys aged 15-18 years). In 2014 the number of Roma children and youth who have passed through the program and activities for improving social skills was 217 (11 girls and 15 boys aged 0-7 years, 77 girls and 106 boys aged 8-14 years, and 2 girls and 6 boys aged 15-18 years). Total number of programs and activities aimed to improve social skills in 2014 was 115, and they were organized by CfSW Zagreb (97), CfSW Pula (1), CfSW Koprivnica (1), CfSW Čakovec (12), CfSW Varaždin (3), CfSW Zaprešić (1).

Notable are also projects of NGO Adopta and a network supported by UNICEF, targeting foster-care of Roma children, particularly encouraging Roma families to participate as foster parents, by local NGOs.

6. ANTI-DISCRIMINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY

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

Ombudsman report for 2014 notes that (only) 18 complaints on discrimination received during 2014 include members of the Roma minority, and the areas concerned are labour relations, public information and media, education, science and sports, social security, access to goods and services, health care, judiciary and administration and housing. These data are generally consistent with the discrimination of Roma reported by NGOs that provide free legal and other forms of assistance to the Roma. For example the Informative Legal Centre in Slavonski Brod stated that Roma are discriminated in issues concerning the residence regulation, during education and job-search, in cases of public places where entry to Roma is implicitly denied, and that Roma are reluctant to go to court or other forms of protection against discrimination. The report also refers to UN agencies report and data indicating that almost all Roma are living in relative poverty, and 9% in absolute poverty. Report also notes that Ombudsman office is probably not receiving many complaints on discrimination from Roma, which can perhaps be attributed to the social exclusion of the Roma.

Ombudsman also gave several recommendations which are related to enhancement of involvement of the representatives and the councils of Roma national minority in the policy-making process and planning at the local level (units of local and regional self-government). The further strengthening and support to civil society organizations, as significant partners, is also important. Instead of sectoral approaches of individual bodies or levels of government, substantial harmonization of activities of various actors at different levels should be taken, as envisaged in the National Strategy for Roma Inclusion, at the national and local/regional level. Also, local self-governments should create the



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necessary conditions for physical planning of legalization of illegally constructed buildings, furnishing and equipping of locations where Roma settlements.

Judicial Academy organized six workshops on Anti-Discrimination Act and the Gender Equality Act in 2014, as well as one workshop regarding the Law on Prevention of Discrimination in Croatia. In cooperation with GOHRRNM, National School of Public Administration organized a workshop on these subjects as well; attended by 11 participants.

In 2014 GOHRRNM carried out the project activities within the project "Making the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights a Living Instrument" in collaboration with the Institute for Human Rights Ludwig Boltzmann (Austria), Istituto di Studi Giuridici (Italy), Università Statale di Milano - Facoltà di giurisprudenza (Italy) and Instytut Prawa and Społecznictwa (Poland). The aim of the project was to contribute to the visibility of the Charter of Fundamental Rights at the national level in order to strengthen its implementation and provide a platform for dialogue among key stakeholders on the implementation of the Charter. Accordingly, GOHRRNM organized two two-day workshops for the representatives of NGOs and trade unions in Zagreb and Split. Through these workshops the participants were acquainted with the terms and contents of the Charter of Fundamental Rights and the possibility of the Charter in strategic litigation and advocacy in the field of protection and promotion of human rights.

Croatia has continued to actively participate in the "Dosta!" campaign, which has been linked to the Human Rights Day: in 2014 GOHRRNM organized a presentation of the "Dosta!" campaign together with the No Hate Speech Movement Council of Europe campaign "Dislike the Hate", against hate speech on Internet. The event was held at Primary School Žitnjak in Zagreb which included pupils from primary school in Orehovica, Međimurje County, who have won the national prize for a short movie they have filmed regarding the "Dislike the Hate" campaign.

During the first half of 2014 the expert committee for preparing the implementation of the Civic Education in the school year 2014/2015 made draft amendments to the curriculum in civic education. After public debate on this subject was held, the minister of Science, Education and Sports issued a Decision on the program and program-curricular and interdisciplinary content of the Civic Education in primary and secondary schools, which was published on 28 August 2014. In s.y. 2014/15 began the mandatory implementation of the Civil education program in primary and secondary schools. During 2014 there were 193 state, county and inter-county professional meetings organized for principals, teachers and expert associates in primary and secondary schools, for the implementation of the Civic Education, and 5 national festivals were held in this field for the pupils of primary and secondary schools.

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

Analysis of MoJ shows that in general numbers related to violations of the Anti-Discrimination Act (discrimination based on ethnic grounds and discrimination based on national origin), in relation to 2013, is decreasing (3 vs 5). The database of court proceedings conducted pursuant to the Anti-



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Discrimination and Monitoring statistics on hate crimes (10 in 2014) have only entries made on the basis of discrimination (i.e. ethnicity or national origin), and data are not ethnically disaggregated.

MoI continued with personnel trainings on hate crime. MoI also reports that there were 97 criminal acts with Roma victims; 189 within the Roma community, and 1124 committed by a Roma. At the same time there were 47 misdemeanour deeds with Roma victims, 429 within Roma communities and 1199 committed by Roma.

MoJ conducted education for providers of free legal aid, relevant authorities and the Roma minority through two thematic roundtables on the Law on Free Legal Aid (with 80 participants). On this occasion, representatives of relevant institutions and NGO representatives presented their suggestions and opinions on the proposed bill. The Ministry of Justice is not able to provide data on the proportion of the Roma who have requested and obtain free legal assistance in the 2014 since the information system of free legal aid does not keep statistics on minority status, but only on citizenship of applicants.

New Law on Free Legal Aid came into force on January 1st 2014. The new Law on Free Legal Aid largely simplified process of primary legal aid so that users can directly contact providers of primary legal aid (authorized associations, legal clinics or Offices of State Administration). The primary legal assistance includes providing general legal information, giving legal advice, compiling submissions to government agencies, as well as representation before government agencies and legal assistance in out of court settlements. During 2014 MoJ also simplified financing procedure for projects of associations authorized to provide primary legal aid and distributed info materials about the possibilities of legal aid system. There are 36 associations registered at MoJ that are authorized to provide primary legal aid, several of which are focused on providing legal aid to Roma.

Ministry of Interior has formed mobile teams for the purpose of resolving the status issues of Roma in all areas where there have been reports that local Roma have the status issues, i.e. in 9 counties and the City of Zagreb. Mobile teams in cooperation with the local councils of the Roma national minority, the employees of the Centre for Social Welfare, local representatives and civil society organizations organized three public forums with topics related to status issues. They participated in coordination meetings and forums organized by civil society organizations in Sisak – Moslavina and Osijek – Baranja County and organized direct field visits to individual beneficiaries. UNHCR has also continued activities in this respect, particularly focused on the implementation of the '*Zagreb Declaration*'.

Representative of MoI participated in the meeting of expert thematic group dedicated to the status issues of Roma held at the Ministry of Interior in Rome, Italy, in April 2014. The meeting was organized in the framework of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts on Roma Issues (CAHROM) of the Council of Europe. A representative of MoI also attended the conference: "Do the Roma women the right to a safe life?", held in October 2014 in Sarajevo in the framework of the Decade for Roma Inclusion 2005-2015.

In 2014. 395 procedures for issuing approval for temporary or permanent residence were opened. Out of this number, 225 applications for temporary residence and 82 applications for permanent residency were positively resolved, 82 requests for temporary residence or permanent residence were rejected, while 82 requests are still in the procedure. In the same period 25 procedures for admission to Croatian citizenship were initiated; 39 requests were approved (including requests from previous years) 6



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requests were rejected. In 2 cases orders for registration of parties in the books of Croatian citizens (acquisition of Croatian citizenship by origin) were made, while in 5 cases assurance guarantees of reception into Croatian citizenship were issued. Of the total number of claims resolved for Croatian citizenship for members of the Roma communities, 1 is a stateless person, and 4 persons of undetermined nationality.

MoI has also continued with activities on sensitization of police officers in terms of social inclusion of minority groups, particularly the Roma community in order to improve mutual understanding and respect and preventing all forms of discrimination. Education in this subject is continuously carried out for students of secondary education, policemen and police officers through specialization programs and professional training in the Police Academy, involving 247 police officers in 2014. In Medjmurje county, the Međimurje Police Department has continued implementation of the program of preventive measures aimed at increasing security and social inclusion of Roma 2013 -2015, including specific preventative measures implemented by the police in conjunction with other social actors and Roma communities with the aim of social inclusion of Roma in Medjmurje.

The implementation of the national prevention project "I have a choice," has also continued in the educational institution in Medjmurje with the coordination of the Police Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior. Through this project the police has established good cooperation with Roma associations, civil society organizations and educational institutions in order to prevent all forms of hate. The project also includes strengthening the social inclusion of the Roma minority in the community through a culture of tolerance, non-violence and non-discrimination. The target group of the project are children, aged between 10 and 11 years, their parents and teachers. In the school year 2013/2014 the project included 37 students, and during the school year 2014/2015 41 students.

National Strategy for Roma Inclusion 2013-2020 (NRIS) does not have a separate chapter on **gender issues**, but it strives to integrate them into all aspects of public policies. This approach has been commended by European Roma and Travellers Forum in their analysis of the gender issues in the national Roma integration strategies⁷, noting 204 references to Roma women, including whole chapters on the reproductive health as well as Roma women.

The National Commission for the Monitoring of the Implementation of the National Strategy for Roma Inclusion, out of 17 members has 8 Roma, including 3 Roma women. Elections for councils of national minorities (CNMs) and individual representatives (IRs) as advisory bodies to local self-governments on local and regional level in May 2015 brought further increase in representation of Roma women. According to preliminary and incomplete data 69 women candidates were elected in 2015 as opposed to 38 in 2011, reaching 60 % representation in some places (Darda), though it generally remains on a lower level than male representation.

⁷ European Roma and Travellers Forum (2015.): *National Roma Integration Strategies: Evaluating Gender*. Strasbourg: European Roma and Travellers Forum. Positive references are also found earlier in the European Parliament study 'Gender Aspects of the European Framework of National Roma Inclusion Strategies' as well as by Crowley et al. noting that in that respect Croatian NRIS can be considered a part of good practice in EU (Crowley, Niall; Genova, Angela and Sansonetti, Silvia (2013.): *Country Report on Croatia – Empowerment of Romani Women within the European Framework of National Roma Inclusion Strategies*. Brussels: European Union)- [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/etudes/join/2013/493020/IPOL-FEMM_ET\(2013\)493020_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/etudes/join/2013/493020/IPOL-FEMM_ET(2013)493020_EN.pdf)



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Some local initiatives are also recognised: e.g. project “Romona - Incubator for Roma women entrepreneurship” led by the City of Čakovec. This project received financial support of 20 000 EUR from Council of Europe, while UNDP supported professional training on social entrepreneurship. Project implementation has started in February 2015.

GOHRRNM has co-funded projects on gender issues awareness raising by the Informative Legal Center Slavonski Brod, and by Roma Women NGO ‘Better Future’ as well as a project on destigmatization activities by KUD Darda, with 20,000 HRK (2,646 EUR) each. Important are also references to Roma women made by Ombudswoman for Gender Equality annual report in 2014, noting that Roma women are the most susceptible to discrimination, which is frequently based on gender, ethnic background and social status, and that education remains the most important tool for improvement of their position.

In addition to antidiscrimination and gender, attention is also given to **Roma youth** as a special topic. In December 2014 GOHRRNM organized annual seminar for young members of ethnic minorities. The objectives of the seminar were to inform the young members of national minorities about the opportunities they have in the context of the development of their communities; strengthening the capacity of young members of ethnic minorities to participate actively in the development of their communities; to connect and create conditions for joint work of young members of national minorities in order to solve common problems. The seminar was attended by 12 young members of national minorities, 4 of which were Roma.

PGF Croatia program has also continued with their effort to build a capacity of Roma youth leaders and 2 workshops were held: „Leadership in nonprofit sector“ which included 12 young Roma leaders, and „Investment in community development“ which included 16 young Roma people that are active in Roma NGOs. Also, the first meeting of Young Roma Initiative was held in November 2014, which brought together 10 young Roma men and women from all parts of Croatia. The purpose of the meeting was to support and strengthen this informal initiative of young Roma and to define a common platform of action. Further capacity building of Roma youth is envisaged by joint efforts of PGF, GOHRRNM and Roma NGOs.

In 2013 and 2014 funds to support national minority media programs were allocated through the Fund for the Promotion of Pluralism and Diversity of Electronic Media (category national minorities) The agency has implemented measure from NRIS related to information about the Roma national minority as well as the affirmation of Roma culture in all public media (TV, radio, especially local radio stations in areas where the Roma minority is significantly represented). National Council for National Minorities considers minority right of access to the public media unsatisfactory, and states that radio program only mainly fulfilled obligations that Croatian Radiotelevision (HRT) has on the base of the laws and the Contract with the Croatian Government. Through seminars, workshops, round tables and other forms of cooperation with members of national minorities, National Council for National Minorities pointed out the obligation of the Croatian Radiotelevision (HRT) concerning production and publication of programs aimed at informing the members of national minorities in their minority languages. The possibility to participate in tenders of the Fund for the promotion of pluralism and



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diversity of media through minority associations was often pointed out to national minority members, and that source of funding shall be used to support various TV and radio programs on local and regional level. According to the Act on Electronic Media and the Act on Protection of National Minorities, activities related to the production and broadcasting of radio and /or television programs in minority languages are accessible to national minorities councils, representatives of national minorities and their associations, but not to the companies or individuals. It was emphasized that the local media has more programs in the language and script of national minorities than the public media at the national level, and the reason for that, in the opinion of the National Council for National Minorities, is the fact that local media are privately owned and active in submitting various proposals for programs related to national minorities.

National Council for National Minorities, in 2014 have financed 32 projects of 21 Roma NGOs related to the **inclusion of Roma national minority in cultural and social life**, in total amount of 666.000,00 HRK (88,800 EUR)..The Council also continued to organize educational workshop for members of the Roma minority on writing, implementation and reporting on programs for achieving cultural autonomy which are co-financed from the State budget (via the Council). Council, and the Ministry of Culture, supported commemoration of several important events, such as Porajmos on August 2 at the Roma graveyard Uštica at the Jasenovac concentration camp, World Day of Roma Language, and World Roma Day. Council also, in cooperation with the GOHRRNM during the 2014 organized several workshops and seminars that addressed issues such as functioning of CNMs, and media coverage of minority issues. Ministry of Culture has also continued financing of Roma NGOs (10 out of 12 applications) for international cultural cooperation, literary events and buying books with the amount of 100,000 HRK (13,250 EUR). GOHRRNM has continued to support preservation of Roma tradition and culture through its grants to Roma NGOs. In 2014 8 programs have been provided with total of 69,997.60 HRK (9,251 EUR) for various performing and visual arts.

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

At the initiative of the Roma MP, the Croatian Parliament proclaimed in 2014, August 2 as the day of remembrance of Roma WWII victims (Porajmos). Ministry of Science, Education and Sport co-financed a research conducted by the Institute for Social Research Ivo Pilar on the subject of Roma persecution in Croatia during the World War II with the amount of 172.325,00 HRK (22,920 EUR).

Republic of Croatia has continued to actively provide support to promotion, implementation, and monitoring of international standards on human rights and inclusion of Roma national minority in international fora as well, such as UN, Council of Europe, and OSCE. In addition to EU (e.g. NRCP, FRA Roma working party), Croatia has continued to participate in international initiatives relevant for Roma inclusion, such as, Decade for Roma Inclusion 2005-2015, Danube initiative, as well as MB IPA 2010, 2011 and 2012 projects targeting Roma and national minorities in general, respectively.



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7. THE DECADE IN A REVIEW

Approaching the end of the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015 initiative, we would appreciate your reflection on its overall implementation in your country. Therefore, please kindly consider to list up to five principal achievements and five shortcomings in the design and implementation of the Decade National Action Plans/National Roma Integration Strategies.

Such achievements and shortcomings might include policy design, policy implementation, budgeting, specific institutionalized practices, monitoring and evaluation processes, cooperation with key stakeholders. Please be as specific as possible.

In general, one may note that a lot has been done and achieved in most areas, but a lot remains to be done.

In regard to **policy design**, Croatia has a long tradition of minority policies, and structured efforts across all sectors in regard to Roma were introduced with the National Roma Program (2003), i.e. before the Roma Decade Action Plan (2005). NRIS has introduced further improvements, preserving the wide scope of NRP with some shortcomings as identified by a recent evaluation.

There is considerable improvement in **data collection** in some areas (e.g. education, welfare, security and hate crime), some improvement in others (employment), but some areas remain a serious challenge (e.g. health). Many valuable surveys and researches have been done, particularly in recent years, numerous useful references and recommendations scattered in various reports, but they are not yet sufficiently used in policy design or implementation.

Inconsistent implementation in almost all areas remains a challenge: e.g., there is a general consensus that most progress has been made in the area of education. However, a right approach in spite of all activities to abolish the segregation in some schools in Međimurje County or to increase an extremely low number of university students (never more than 30), is obviously still missing. In this context noticeable is also a **lack of integrated, cross-sectoral approach**, indicating also problems with horizontal and vertical coordination on all levels.

The situation with **the lack of (sectoral) evaluations** in all areas, except education might change, due to, among other things, a recent positive example of the evaluation of AP NRIS.

Strengthening of **Roma civil society/Roma participation** remains a serious challenge. Structural possibilities for Roma participation (National Commission for the Monitoring of the Implementation of NRIS, councils of Roma national minorities as advisory bodies to regional and local self-governments), in general are poorly used, due to, among other things, continuing weaknesses of Roma civil society. Civil society in general remains fragmented, or at best divided, frequently along the line of the country of immigration (e.g. BiH, Kosovo, Macedonia). Expertise also remains low, and involvement of youth and Roma women limited.