



## **PROGRESS REPORT 2014**

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

#### **Activities carried out by the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy within the Strategy for the Roma in the Republic of Macedonia and the Decade of Roma Inclusion**

##### **Roma Information Centers (RICs) within the local municipalities in 12 cities**

Project "Roma Information Centers" began to be implemented in January 2007 and up to date, within the frames of this project, 12 Roma Information centers are opened and operate in: Chair, Topansko Pole, Tetovo, Gostivar, Bitola, Prilep, Stip, Kumanovo, Delcevo, Vinica, Kocani and Berovo.

The project is implemented in cooperation with the local self-government units and non-governmental Roma associations, with main task of the Roma Information Centers to be in constant communication with the citizens of Roma population and to timely inform, advise, direct and provide logistical support to exercise their rights and obligations (in the areas of social protection, employment, health, housing and education, issuance of personal documents, etc.).

During the period January - December 2014 a total of 7099 people came in the 12 RICs, seeking help for a variety of needs and services that are mostly about getting information, logistical support, advice on exercise of certain rights and obligations related to education, housing, employment, health, social protection and issuance of personal documentation.

During 2014, RICs staff continuously and intensively worked on the collection and submission of documentation for action, writing off debts in cooperation with the local self-government units, in order to implement the action of identifying persons not registered in the Registry Books.

In December RICs participated in two workshops held in Skopje (the First workshop reviewed the current activities and issues focused on persons with no documents, while the Second workshop addressed the information and opportunities to improve the rights of Roma children.

In cooperation with UNDP, with a joint initiative of UNDP and the MLSP to improve the work and efficiency of the Roma Information Centers, implementation of 3 innovative projects started. Within the cooperation with UNDP for innovative initiatives to improve the work and efficiency of the Roma Information Centers, 4 thematic modules were realized for 20 participants from Skopje - Topaana and Kumanovo for young people to build capacity for communication with the Roma community. The purpose of the training was to train young volunteers to be contact persons in RICs and the Roma community and the public to share information related to youth. Information portal was prepared with basic information and documents that are available to NGOs and institutions.



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### **Project for provision of legal aid to the Roma community**

Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and the OSCE Mission in Skopje are implementing the project "Legal Aid for the Roma community" since 2011 to provide free legal assistance, advice and references to people from the Roma community in Macedonia.

Mobile legal offices were opened within the project, which are functioning and are housed in Roma non-governmental organizations in Skopje, Stip, Delcevo, Kocani, Vinica, Tetovo and Gostivar. The offices in the city of Skopje are opened in neighborhoods with higher concentration of Roma population: Suto Orizari, Topansko Pole and Zlokukani.

MLSP in June 2014 signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the OSCE to extend the implementation of the project. Pursuant to the established dynamics of project implementation, open mobile legal office was also opened in Bitola.

### **Action of identifying persons not registered in the Register Book of Births**

In 2011, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior and the **Office for Management of Registers of Births, Marriages and Deaths** started to implement the action of identifying persons not registered in the Register Book of Births

In December 2014, the total number of persons not registered in the the Register Book of Births was 550, 281 of which males and 269 females. The total number of persons enrolled in the Register Book of Births from the action start to December 2014 amounted to 130 subjects.

In December 2014, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, within the action of registering persons in the Register Book of Births, financially supported the conduct of 30 DNA analyses to help the unregistered persons register in the Register Book of Births.

During 2014, two workshops were held, one for preparing the Operational Plan for the implementation of measures and activities of AP - Operational Plan was prepared (participants - NGOs, RICs and representatives of the line ministries and institutions, members of the Working Group) and a workshop for preparation and amendment of a Questionnaire to identify the persons with no documents.

OSCE prepared a Handbook to inform persons of Roma communities on the process of registering in the Register Book of Births.

### **Project for Improvement of the implementation of the Strategy for Roma and NAP**

In the course of 2014 ToRs for National Coordination Body was prepared, which is used to develop the Rules of NCB. To strengthen the capacity of the NCB, as well as improve cooperation with NGOs, 4 two-day trainings/workshops were organized in March/April 2014: Project Cycle Management; Preparation of Project Applications for EU Grants/Projects;



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Implementation of relevant documents aimed at development and social inclusion of the Roma community in Macedonia; Strategic control of the implementation of strategic documents aimed at development and social inclusion of the Roma community in Macedonia, and Lobbying and Advocacy Training.

During June Chapter 2 of the Draft - Strategy on Roma 2014-2020 was completed, which refers to the analysis of the international legal framework and national legislation in the areas of education, employment, health care, housing and culture that imply creation and implementation of policies, strategies and programmes for social inclusion of Roma in the Republic of Macedonia.

This finalized the Strategy, which was adopted by the Government of the Republic of Macedonia as a strategic document on 29 July 2014. The Strategy is available on the MLSP website.

### **Roma Info Portal**

During February Roma Information Portal ([www.romainfo.mk](http://www.romainfo.mk)) was created, where it could be found more information from different areas of affirmation of Roma. There is also possibility to search the portal by activities, projects and services for various municipalities in Macedonia. The portal has been created with the support of UNDP. UNDP and the Department for the implementation of the Strategy and the Decade of Roma update the portal upon prior submission of information from line ministries and NGOs.

### **Strengthening the rights of socially disadvantaged groups in the Western Balkans (with focus on Macedonia)**

The project is implemented with the support of the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, through Roma Information Centers in the period October 2014 to June 2015. The project is expected to improve the decentralized advisory services for particularly disadvantaged groups and ethnic minorities (Roma) and to strengthen the capacities of Roma Information Centers regarding access to social services for the local Roma communities. The project was implemented in three pilot municipalities in Macedonia: Kumanovo, Tetovo and Kocani. This project is financially supported by GIZ in the amount of 250,000 Euros.

### **ROMED Programme**

ROMED Programme is the concept of mediation supported by the Council of Europe and the European Commission, which is implemented in 6 municipalities: Tetovo, Gostivar, Prilep, Bitola, Stip and Vinica. As of November 2014 4 new municipalities were included in the Programme: Berovo, Kocani, Debar and Kicevo.



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In the period from 18-22 April, the second phase of training for mediators within ROMED 1 Programme was organized in Tetovo. This training was attended by 27 mediators of the newly - involved 4 municipalities Kicevo, Debar, Kocani and Berovo. The training was opened on 19 April, attended by senior officials from the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Ministry of Education, Commission for Protection against Discrimination, Roma Education Fund (REF), the Center for International Migration and Development, and representative of the Council of Europe. Finally, the participants were officially awarded Certificates by which they officially become mediators in their communities.

### **Other activities**

On 13 November 2014, the Sixth Meeting of Roma Inclusion and Roma Refugees was organized in the Government of the Republic of Macedonia. At the meeting, relevant important topics were presented and discussed related to the current problems the Roma community in Macedonia is facing. The institutions presented measures and activities for socially vulnerable categories, with particular reference to: IPA components and EU policies on Roma, visa liberalization - recent changes in German legislation and the implications of the Roma in Macedonia, information about the future of the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015 and presenting the results of the action and contribution so far for registering the persons not registered in the Register Book of Births.

## **2. EDUCATION**

### **Inclusion of Roma children in public pre-school institutions in Macedonia**

Ministry of Labour and Social Policy implements the project "Inclusion of Roma children in public pre-schools (kindergartens)" in cooperation with the Roma Education Fund in Budapest, 18 local self-government units and 17 Roma NGO partners in order to meet part of the measures and actions arising from the Decade and the Strategy for Roma in Macedonia. The project is implemented in the municipalities of Cair, Gazi Baba, Karpos, Bitola, Kumanovo, Gostivar, Tetovo, Veles, Prilep, Vinica, Kocani, Delcevo, Berovo, Kicevo, Stip, Pehcevo, Suto Orizari and Centar.

The main objective of the project is to improve and support the integration of Roma children by increasing the number of Roma children in pre-school, a year before they start primary education, and in the last three years, increasing the number of Roma children in pre-school institutions, relating to children aged one to two years, prior to starting primary school education.

Also, efforts are made to improve the access, the attitude of parents of involved Roma children by strengthening and supporting the development and education of Roma children aged 4 years and 5 months up to 6 years, to improve social skills, improve the governance of



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the Macedonian language, as well as to increase the competence of educators and carers to work and overcoming prejudices and stereotypes about Roma in public kindergartens. For the needs of the project, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy approved special funds for hiring 17 Roma care takers.

In the academic year 2013/2014 a total number of 477 Roma children aged 3.8 to 5.7 years was encompassed. During the project implementation, 8 monitoring visits to kindergartens were carried out (the project team visited 6 kindergartens, and the monitoring team visited 2 kindergartens).

In September 2014, REF approved a new application for the Project for a period spanning to two academic years (September 2014 - August 2016). During the year a Plan was prepared for implementation and monitoring of the project for 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 school year.

### **Policies and programs implemented in the primary education**

In accordance with the reforms of the Law on Primary Education and the Concept of a nine-year basic education, students - members of the Roma community got the opportunity to learn in their own language and culture by introducing the elective subject: Language and culture of the Roma. This subject begins to run from the third grade until the end of primary education. This community follows the teaching process in primary and secondary education in Macedonian language. In the past, the Roma studied their language in a facultative way, and from the academic year 2008/9 the same is studied as an elective subject, i.e. Language and culture of the Roma from the third grade with one hour weekly and in the IX grade with 2 hours weekly. For these purposes the Bureau for Education Development has developed curricula from third to sixth grade and announced a competition for third and fourth grade textbooks. The language and the culture of the Roma, in the 2013/2014 school year are represented in 9 schools from 5 municipalities (Cair, Suto Orizari, Stip, Kicevo, and Delchevo). The total number of students that attended the elected subject is 2354.

For the subject of choice Language and Culture of Roma teaching programs/curricula have been drafted from 3rd to 6th grade, currently the programs for 7th, 8th and 9th grade are in process of preparation. Textbooks from 3rd to 5th grade are prepared, providing textbooks for other grades is under process. From the academic year 2012/13 the Roma language was introduced as an optional subject at the Faculty of Philology in Skopje.

### **Project on scholarships, mentoring and tutoring for high school Roma students**

Department for Development and Promotion of Education in the Languages of the Communities is implementing the Project for scholarships, mentoring and tutoring for high school Roma students continually for six year. The overall objective of this project is through positive interventions to increase the transfer and the success of Roma students of first, second, third and fourth year of all public and private high schools in the country. This project



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includes scholarship students from about 84 schools and 28 municipalities throughout the Republic of Macedonia.

The project takes place in three phases: scholarships, mentoring and tutoring.

### **Mentoring**

The purpose of mentoring is to provide additional support for Roma secondary school students learning the subject matter in the subjects that students have difficulty with.

### **Tutoring**

The third phase of the project is engaging tutors to support graduate students, receiving scholarship by this project. By hiring these teachers / tutors, the students receive additional assistance to facilitate completing the matter/subjects for the state or school graduation, for easier learning of a selected external or internal subjects.

During the **school year 2013/14**, 623 students received scholarship and 102 mentors were engaged who worked with secondary school Roma students throughout the year. Of the total number of scholarship students (623) a total of 610 students (97, 91%) have successfully completed the school year 2013/14. 13 students dropped out, the dropout cause was the departure from the country. Of the total number of graduates with four year education, 78 (62,4%) continued their education in some of the state and private universities in the Republic of Macedonia. The tutoring phase was implemented during the month of May 2014. For this purpose additional 11 subject teachers were engaged as tutors for the Roma scholarship students in the final year.

### **3. EMPLOYMENT**

According to the data from the State Statistical Office, in 2014 in the Republic of Macedonia the unemployment rate is about 27.9% at national level. At the Employment Agency of Republic of Macedonia 6997 unemployed Roma are registered, of whom 2369 woman (as to 31.12.2014).

The qualification structure of many of them is unfavorable to the needs and demands of the employers, something that reduce their opportunities for employment, while the low level of education of a large number of them makes it more difficult to be included in some of the programmes and active employment measures and successful navigation on the labor market.



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### OVERVIEW of registered unemployed Roma by level of education (Status by 31 December 2014)

	With no education and with primary education	Uncompleted secondary education	Completed secondary education	High secondary education	Higher education	Master's degrees	Doctoral degrees	TOTAL
<b>Total</b>	6234	346	392	3	22	-	-	<b>6997</b>
<b>Women</b>	<b>2160</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	-	-	<b>2369</b>

#### Active Employment measures for the Roma

The Employment Agency conducts the active employment programs/measures from the Operational plan for active employment programs and measures 2014/2015. They are conducted in accordance with the determined timeframe and include the employers and unemployed Roma persons, apart from the other persons in the register of the Employment Agency.

In the Operational plan for active employment programs and measures for 2014, a special Pilot program is introduced for employment of the Roma ethnic community representatives through mentor support in the process of preparation, inclusion and sustainability of the active employment measures. Within the framework of this Pilot program, in the active employment measures in four pilot municipalities (Shuto Orizari, Tetovo, Kumanovo and Prilep), the trainers had meetings with 777 Roma, out of which 302 were interested for further information about the employment programs. The mentors made analysis of the professional skills and educational level of all 302 candidates, out of which 124 undertook certain activities for improvement of the socio-economic status and quality of life. Out of 91 persons that applied in some of the measures, 43 persons successfully entered in some of the active employment measures (12 in training for occupations which are deficit on the labor market, 9 in self-employment/formalization/ 4 in training for D-license, 2 in subsidized employment and 16 in the community useful programs)

- As regards the Self Employment Programme, a total of 58 Roma persons submitted applications, 26 of them filled out a questionnaire. Eleven of these persons were referred to training, and grants (signed contracts) were approved for a total of eighteen Roma persons;



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- As regards the Programme for Employment Subsidizing, a total of 87 persons applied, while contracts were concluded with 11 Roma persons;
- As regards the Training Programme for meeting the needs for the demanded occupations in the labor market, a total of 61 Roma persons submitted applications, 25 persons underwent training, and 17 Roma were awarded certificates;
- As regards the measure Practical work (internships) a total of 12 Roma persons have applied, and there are no signed Agreements;
- As regards the measure Motivational Training, a total number of 352 Roma persons underwent the training;
- As regards the Self-Employment by Crediting Program, a total 33 Roma persons applied, out of which 12 have been approved by the Board, and contracts were concluded with 9 Roma persons.
- As regards the Municipal-useful Work Programme, a total of 29 Roma persons have applied, and contracts were concluded with 10 Roma persons.

In addition to the active employment measures, the Employment Centers, as part of their regular operations, also provide other types of services to the unemployed Roma persons, such as mediation in employment, services in the work/job clubs (information, counseling, various types of training), etc. The objectives of the activities in the work clubs within the Employment Centers are to encourage initiative and to strengthen the capacities of persons seeking employment, aimed at their successful presentation in the labor market, active job search and employment.

In the Employment Centers located in the cities with established Roma Information Centres, there are responsible persons-employees of the Employment Service Agency-who regularly collaborate with the Roma Information Centers in relation to the services that the Employment Centers provide.

The activities of the Employment Agency of the Republic of Macedonia that will be implemented in the forthcoming period, within the implementation of the Action and Operational Plans for the Decade of Roma Inclusion (2005 - 2015), as well as the Strategy for Roma in the Republic of Macedonia, will be constantly adjusted to the needs and priorities of the target group.





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### 4. HOUSING

The Budget of the Ministry of Transport and Communications for 2014 set out funds amounting to 10,000,000.00 denars to support the implementation of the Decade and the Strategy on Roma. The funds are used for the implementation of projects for communal infrastructure of places inhabited mainly by Roma population.

#### **Project burned houses in Topansko Pole, Municipality of Butel**

The planned funds from the Budget of the Republic of Macedonia for 2014 to support the Decade and the Strategy for Roma within the Ministry of Transport and Communications are used for the Project “Burned Houses in Topansko Pole, Municipality of Butel, for reconstruction of seventeen burned residential units in Topansko Pole.

#### **Housing for Socially Vulnerable Groups F/Q 1674**

The Project for housing of socially vulnerable groups - F / Q 1674 is in a process of implementation. The project is financed in a part with a loan from the Development Bank of the Council of Europe in amount of EUR 25,350,000.00 under the Loan Agreement F / P 1674 (2009), and with funds amounting up to EUR 25,350,000.00 from the budget of the Republic of Macedonia to build a total of 1 754 social apartments in 33 residential buildings in 26 cities in Republic of Macedonia. The project realization is in the period from 2007 to 2016.

The distribution of the constructed housings is done according to the Decision of the Government for allocation of social housing and the conditions for their use, built according to the Program for construction and maintenance of housing owned by the Republic of Macedonia ("Official Gazette" no. 96 / 09 and 122/10).

According to this decision, and on the initiative of NCIDSR, users of social housing can be 7 categories of citizens, people in social risk and other vulnerable groups who are without housing, including the category of people that are socially disadvantaged, members of the Roma community. From the apartments built and distributed, from total of 11 buildings with 559 apartments, the Roma families were given 102 apartments for rent in all seven categories of socially vulnerable groups, determined by the decision of the Government. For further allocations of the existing social housing, the number of flats allocated to the Roma community will depend on the number of registered applicants.

Pursuant to the policies of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, activities are ongoing regarding the launch of a project to build 100 houses for individual housing for socially vulnerable categories, respectively the Government of the Republic of Macedonia



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urges all municipalities to enable sites for that purpose to the Ministry of Transport and Communications and the Joint Stock Company for Housing and Business Premises of importance for the Republic of Macedonia, which shall be responsible for the construction of these facilities.

Regarding the issue of locations of housing or construction of housing in the Municipality of Suto Orizari, preparation of planning documentation - detailed Urban Plan is ongoing, which should be made as soon as possible by the Agency for Spatial Planning of the Republic of Macedonia.

### **Project "Water Supply and Disposal of Wastewater"**

This project is financed with a loan from the European Investment Bank in the amount of €50,000,000.00. In compliance with the project is envisaged implementation of sub-projects in the field of water supply and wastewater in all municipalities in Macedonia.

Part of the funds of the total of 100,000.00 Euros allocated by the Government of the Republic of Macedonia that remained unused (un-realized) for the settlement Shuto Orizari for the project: "Construction of Sewage Network F 400 mm on the street Pelagonija and street Brsjacka Buna" from RS 3 to RS 13 in the settlement of Suto Orizari", was implemented in 2013 as a sub-project. In this reporting period, implementation or continuation of the construction of another section of the sub-project: "Construction of Sewage Network F 400 mm on the street Pelagonija and street Brsjacka Buna" from RS 13 to RS 19 in the settlement of Suto Orizari, Municipality of Suto Orizari" is taking place.

## **5. HEALTH**

### **Programme for Roma Health Mediators**

Within the implementation of the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015 and the Strategy for Roma in Macedonia, in 2010 the Ministry of Health in cooperation with the civil society sector started implementation of the project "Roma Health Mediators." This project aims to overcome barriers to communication between Roma and health professionals, identifying individuals and families who do not have access to health care through field visits and inform them about access to health care and health insurance, and inform on the availability of free health services provided within the preventive and curative programmes of the Ministry of Health and the improvement of the Roma population health status.

Within the project, as of 16 May 2012, 15 health mediators started work in eight municipalities with a predominantly Roma population, including:

In 2014, Roma Health Mediators provided 1793 persons to realize their right to health insurance and to choose a primary care physician/gynecologist/dentist; in 794 families they had educational counseling to promote healthy life styles and assisted in detecting



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1216 irregularly immunized or unimmunized children. Also, they provide assistance to 407 persons in the realization of the right to financial social assistance and to 533 in the provision of personal documents.

### 6. ANTI-DISCRIMINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY

- *measures that were designed to support the fight against Roma discrimination and racism.*

At initiative of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, a Commission has been established for the revision of the medical documentation in the special schools in the Republic of Macedonia. The Commission is composed of the three line ministries: Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Ministry of Education and Science and Ministry of Health and an expert team of doctors. The purpose of this Commission is to inspect the documentation and to determine the actual situation of Roma children enrolled in schools for children with special needs. The Commission started with work in October 2014. All primary and secondary special schools in the country are included in the audit. Upon completion of the audit, recommendations shall be specified for taking appropriate measures to address the established/faced problems. The Commission intends to come up with recommendations in 2015.

#### *Activities of the Commission for protection against discrimination related to persons of Roma nationality*

##### **Project Segregation of Roma children in schools for children with special needs**

The Commission for Protection against Discrimination is committed to preventing and overcoming various forms of discrimination. Segregation of Roma children in the educational process proved to be one of the long-term complications and systemic problems that result in indirect discrimination against this population of citizens.

On 3 July 2014 the Commission, supported by the OSCE Mission to Skopje, held an **open debate** on the issue of representation of Roma children in schools for children with special needs, to discuss the challenges related to overcoming the segregation of Roma children. The debate was aimed at perceiving the current situation and the procedure for categorization of children from the Roma community in schools for children with special needs, exchanging past experiences related to this issue and giving recommendations to overcome problems with the representation of Roma children in schools for children with special needs. In the period July-November the Commission for Protection against Discrimination conducted a research in all municipalities in the Republic of Macedonia and all special schools, aimed at establishing the real situation and the number of Roma children in special classes.

The Second Focus Group was attended by representatives of the same institutions as in the



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First Focus Group and measures were discussed taken so far and to be taken by the institutions in order to overcome the problem. Draft recommendations were discussed that emerged from the conducted research, and there was a quite a lively discussion on the draft model assessment.

- *measures that were designed to support gender equality between Roma women and men.*

In order to **improve the status of Roma women** and their integration into the mainstream society, the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, at its 139th Session held on 23 March 2008, adopted the First National Action Plan for Improving the Status of Roma Women with Operational Plans for the period 2008-2010, and the Second National Action Plan for Improving the Social Situation of the Roma Women in Macedonia from 2011 to 2013, adopted on 28 December 2010.

The Action Plan of the specific needs of Roma women covers five sectors of activity: education, employment, health, public and political participation of Roma women, anti-discrimination and human rights. General aim of the activities is improving the status of Roma women and their integration in the society.

In the past period, within the Action Plan for improving the status of the Roma woman, a number of trainings were conducted in the area of human rights, as well was prepared an analysis of relevant legislation and civil diaries to overcome unequal treatment and access of Roma, especially the Roma women to services of state institution. Another analysis was prepared of the situation and the reduction of the number of Roma girls and boys in the educational process in the Republic of Macedonia. Pursuant to the Action Plan for improving the status of Roma women, several workshops were prepared for raising awareness among the young Roma women and man in relation to migrating abroad, learn how to stay abroad in a legal and reliable manner, how to secure a work permit, and how to exercise the right to equal treatment on grounds of sex and the right to protection against discrimination.

The activities that were covered by the National Action Plan for enhancement of the social status of the Roma women have been integrated in several strategic documents, such as: the National Strategy for Gender Equality and the National Strategy for Equality and Non-discrimination. In the period to come, the activities concerning Roma women will be conducted in the National Action Plan for enhancement of the social status of Roma women 2015-2020.

### **7. THE DECADE IN A REVIEW**

**Chronological overview of key policies development regarding the social inclusion of the Roma in Macedonia**



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On January 31, 2005, the Government of the Republic of Macedonia adopted the National Strategy for Roma in Macedonia which regulates the National Action Plan for education, health care, employment and housing that is revised and updated annually, and in February, 2005 became a member of the Decade for Roma Inclusion 2005 – 2015 initiative.

The Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, through the Department for implementation of the Strategy and the Decade of Roma, which was established in 2008 in cooperation with the Minister without portfolio, the National Coordinator of the Decade and Strategy for Roma, since then initiated the creation of more than 15 local (municipal) strategies and action plans for the implementation of the Roma Decade.

In 2010, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy with support from the UNDP office in Skopje adopted the National Strategy for Reduction of Poverty and Social Exclusion in the Republic of Macedonia 2010-2020.

In 2011, at the initiative of the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy was adopted the National Action Plan for improving the social status of Roma women in 2011 - 2013.

In 2011, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, in cooperation with the Minister without portfolio, the National Coordinator of the Decade and Strategy for Roma, as a part of the project financed by IPA funds, adopted the National Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma in the social security system.

In the period 2011-2012, the Republic of Macedonia chaired the Decade of Roma.

The above stated facts confirm the determination of the Government to take the necessary measures at the level of policy and strategies that will initiate improvement of the quality of living and integration of Roma in society.

### **Roma Decade's projects and achievements**

- Project for scholarships, mentoring and tutoring of Roma students
- Inclusion of Roma children in public pre-school institutions in Macedonia
- Roma health mediators
- The infrastructural projects implemented by the Ministry of Transport and Communication and the Local governance units
- The Roma Informational centers
- Action of identifying persons not registered in the Register Book of Births



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From the launch of the Decade of Roma in 2005, changes in **the education of Roma** are evident. Although the ambitious goals set out in the Strategy and Action Plan are not fully realized, there are visible improvements in the total coverage of Roma children and youth in the education system.

*Table 1: Overview of Roma students enrolled in high school during the school year from 2005 to 2012.*

School Year	Males	Females	Total number of enrolled students Roma
2005/06	654	586	1240
2006/07	678	526	1204
2007/08	831	641	1472
2008/09			
2009/10	1054	900	1954
2010/11	918	780	1698
2011/12	974	749	1723
2012/13	1056	860	1916

*Table 2: Project for scholarships, mentoring and tutoring of Roma students  
Achieved Results*

Year	Number of granted scholarships	Number of scholarship users that successfully finished the year	Number of assigned mentors	Number of students that completed their four year high school	Number of scholarship students/ graduates enrolled in faculties
2009/10	444	435 (98, 4%)	161	/	/
2010/11	611	597 (97, 8%)	160	72	30
2011/12	591	586 (99, 15%)	132	100	45
2012/13	593	591 (99, 66%)	106	112	49
2013/14	623	610 (97, 91%)	102	125	78

Despite these improvements, still remain some important challenges: the number of Roma children in special schools remains high, a little progress has been recorded in terms of the



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growth of literacy and the education of adults, and also it is lacking a detailed and comprehensive records of the children included in the school system.

In **the field of the communal infrastructure**, according to the data provided by the Ministry of Transport and Communications, in terms of implementation of activities of the NAP of Housing, Ministry of Transport and Communications, in cooperation with the local governments, in the areas predominantly inhabited by Roma for 2009-2013, are implemented a total of 38 projects in 15 municipalities, with a total value of 44 116 095 MKD.

*Table 3: The data on municipal users of funds through projects supported by NCIDSR and the Ministry of Transport and Communications*

allocated per year for the period 2009 to 2013 year

<i>Municipality</i>	<i>Year</i>					<i>Total</i>
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	
Shuto Orizari	3.487.927,00					<b>3.487.927,00 MKD</b>
Prilep		2.000.000,00	900.000,00	1.000.000,00	927.922,50	<b>4.827.922,50 MKD</b>
Bitola		1.394.000,00	2.086.000,00	1.781.410,00	1.500.000,00	<b>7.301.410,00 MKD</b>
Kumanovo		1.000.000,00				<b>1.000.000,00 MKD</b>
Berovo					1.000.000,00	<b>1.000.000,00 MKD</b>
Delcevo		500.000,00	800.000,00			<b>1.000.000,00 MKD</b>
Kochani		1.000.000,00	1.000.000,00	1.000.000,00	2.000.000,00	<b>5.000.000,00 MKD</b>
Vinica		500.000,00		1.000.000,00	1.500.000,00	<b>2.000.000,00 MKD</b>
Veles		1.000.000,00		1.000.000,00		<b>2.000.000,00 MKD</b>
Gjorce Petrov			500.000,00			<b>500.000,00 MKD</b>
Karposh		500.000,00				<b>500.000,00 MKD</b>
Gazi Baba		500.000,00	1.500.000,00	1.000.000,00	1.000.000,00	<b>4.000.000,00 MKD</b>
Chair		500.000,00	1.700.000,00			<b>2.200.000,00 MKD</b>
Kichevo		500.000,00	1.000.000,00			<b>1.500.000,00 MKD</b>
Debar		500.000,00				<b>500.000,00 MKD</b>
Probishtip					798.835,00	<b>798.835,00 MKD</b>
Shtip		1.000.000,00	1.500.000,00	3.000.000,00	1.000.000,00	<b>6.500.000,00 MKD</b>
					<i>Overall</i>	<b>44.116.094,50 MKD</b>

Although the degree of utilization of funds is high, there is still a significant need for interventions in the area of infrastructure, and thus financial resources (budget and from other sources), to get to a state that would be satisfactory and to ensure a better quality of life of Roma in these urban settlements.



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Regarding **the health care of the Roma**, an improvement could be noticed in the rate of immunization of the Roma infants and children, an increased number of people covered by health insurance, as well as improvements in the health system through the introduction of Roma health mediators. However, remains important to resolve challenges and problems, like the slightly improved overall health among Roma, the problems in the reproductive health, the limited access to gynecological services and antenatal care for Roma, violation of the rights to health care and insurance etc., that are subject to the action of the new strategy for the Roma Inclusion in Macedonia.

**The employment situation of Roma.** There is an improvement in the employment rates and activity of Roma, in particular we can see progress in the area of the public employment (from 0.33% in 2005 to 2.56% in 2012).

According to the data of the Employment Agency (ESA), the participation of the Roma in the active employment measures significantly increased.

*Table 4: Overview of the inclusion of the Roma in the active measures of the Government 2010-2014*

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of Roma (M+F) included in the active measures</i>	<i>Number of Roma women included in the active measures</i>
<i>2010</i>	133	40
<i>2011</i>	233	66
<i>2012</i>	578	222
<i>2013</i>	612	248
<i>2014</i>	632	

Although there is little improvement, the employment situation of Roma still remains one of the most worrying factors that impede their full participation in the society. From the total number of registered Roma in the ESA, only 10 percent were included in the active employment measures. Increasing this number is something that can and should be realized in the next period.

Taking in consideration the current situation and the need for continuation of the positive trends and successful operation in the future, in September 2014, the Government of the Republic of Macedonia adopted the new Strategy for the Roma in Macedonia 2014-2020.