

Experiences and lessons learned from housing workshop in Hungary and Croatia

Decade Trust Fund Project

December 2007

- *Hungary*
 - Municipalities of Golombok and Gorobonc near to town of Nagykanisza
 - Different types of interventions in ensuring the housing for socially excluded Roma communities in cooperation with local municipalities
 - Support of central government
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- Interconnection and link between housing program and programs aimed at social integration, improvement of access to public services, enforcement of social protection, employment activities and vocational training, in order to harmonize supply and demand sides of local labor market (cooperation with regional labor office) and support of education for Roma children
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- Successive growth of funds available
 - Year 2006 – 2,4 million EUR
 - Year 2007 – 2,66 million EUR
 - Year 2008 – 4 million EUR
(estimated)

 - Outsourcing of activities from NGOs
(complex approach)
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- Anti segregation strategy as part of the Regional Operational Program (ROP) 2007 - 2013
 - Integrated Urban Development Plan as precondition for all cities to have an access to funds
 - All development should focus on anti-segregation
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Croatia

- Municipalities Pribislavec and Piskorovec in Medjmurje County
 - Investment into infrastructure building mainly
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- ❑ PHARE 2005 and 2006 –
 - ❑ 3 million EUR and additional 1,2 million EUR as a government co-financing
 - ❑ Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction has allocated financial resources to municipalities for elaboration of technical documentation Urban development plans
 - ❑ Support of central government to municipalities
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Housing Workshop, Hungary, Croatia, Decade Trust Fund, December 2007

Comparison of Hungary and Croatia

- ❑ In Croatia settlements were built illegally
 - ❑ In Hungary, so far prevailing resources from the state budget are used (in 2007-2013 programming period the role of EU financing will increase)
 - ❑ In Croatia a combination of EU PHARE 2006 Program was used with government co-financing and some contribution of municipalities.
 - ❑ With exception of the case of Donja Dubrava, where government removed Roma stuck by the floods and bought new houses for them for 150 thousand EUR
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- In Hungary programs are more complex (housing, education, and employment),

 - while in Croatia they focus mainly on building of housing infrastructure (sewage systems, water supply, electric supply, road system, etc.) and legalization of land.
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- On the other hand Hungarian model is less educative for municipalities, since they do not co finance

 - Since Croatian model focus on investments only, specifically to infrastructure building, Roma have to put their own efforts to build houses

 - Design of houses and quality of construction was very surprising, giving evidence about high level of craft skills of Roma in Medjimirje County.
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- However Croatian projects seem to lack (or so far have quite low level of) complexity and interconnection with so called “soft projects”, aimed at education, employment programs and individual social work with clients.
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- Gorobonc was a good example of housing and re-qualification /vocational training project (bricklayers).
 - In Hungary in some cases prepaid card for electric supply were used, which is very good way of prevention of debts
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- Both countries logically imposed the restraint of retail of the properties for certain period. In Hungarian program the period was 10 year, while in Donja Dubrava in Croatian the period was 20 years
 - Positive were relatively low prices of real estate property and land in visited regions.
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- ❑ Workshop opened space for discussion – the situation varies country by country:
 - ❑ While in some countries Roma live in rural areas (majority of Balkan countries), in others they are concentrated in urban areas (Czech Republic, Macedonia, Montenegro)
 - ❑ In some countries Roma live in settlements of shanty houses build illegally without construction permission (on the land, which is not owned by the tenants), whereas in other countries they live mainly in urban blocks in low quality housing (for instance in the Czech Republic many Roma living in socially excluded areas consist of rental defaulters/non payers.
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- ❑ Role of the EU and public support and *de minimis* exception
 - ❑ It seems that Hungary, Slovakia and other countries do not apply public support regulation in case of housing subsidies to municipalities and NGOs.
 - ❑ In the Czech Republic this issue is often discussed and generally public support regulation is applied.
 - ❑ Czech Government would be interested to discuss this issue in-depth with government experts from Hungary and Slovakia
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Recommendation

- It is highly recommended to create a list of best practice examples among the Decade countries, which would in depth examine the methodology, strong and weak points of different models and would be shared across the Decade countries. Logistics and work connected to implementation of this idea might be financed from the DTF fund.
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Thank you for your attention!

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