



Republic of Albania

Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities

Department of State Social Services

The National Roma Strategy

**Policies and programmes on the Inclusion of
Vulnerable**

Albanian Taskforce Groups

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Legal framework

In 1995 Albania member of Council of Europe

In 1996, National Assembly ratified European Convention on Human Rights

In 1999-2000 Convention on Minorities protection ratified

Impetus for Albanian Government to draft the National Roma strategy.

In 2003, an Interministerial group and NGO's worked to draft the Strategy

“For improving the living conditions of the Roma community” (decision of CM No 633 dt 18.09.2003).

The strategy's objectives

- Education, Schooling and Awareness
- Economy, employment , Poverty Reduction and Social welfare
- Health Care
- Infrastructure and Housing
- Public order, Justice, Public Administration
- Cultural Heritage and Family

Stakeholders for strategy implementation

Ministries responsible for strategy implementation include:

Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, and Equal Opportunities,
Ministry of Education and Science,
Ministry of Health,
Ministry of Interior,
Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Communication
Ministry of Culture

Actors involved in monitoring the strategy's progress and reporting:

Roma Monitoring Department established at the Ministry of Labour;
Focal points assigned within each responsible Ministry;
Ministry of Labor **representatives at the regional** levels;
Civil Society - Roma NGOs or NGO's involved with Roma issues.
Partnership with International Organizations (UNDP, OSCE, CoE, etc)

Activities are reflected in the state budget

Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, and Equal Opportunities

1. Special Program for the promotion of employment among the Roma community
2. Public and private professional trainings gratis for this vulnerable minority
3. Identification and creation of a Roma and non Roma NGOs Network in collaboration with the government structure.
4. A cooperation contract with the Ministry of Labor for the NGOs that offer social services for Roma community.
5. Benefits from the economic adds, payment from disability and benefits from the social care service.

Ministry of Education and Science

- Build new schools and repair existing ones, mainly in urban areas, thus reducing by 20% the total number of pupils in inadequate conditions and ensure transport for teacher and pupils.
- Improve the quality of new school equipment and instruments for their maintenance , laboratory equipment for natural sciences, didactic materials, computers, and libraries which cover 30%of the pupils.
- Inclusion of 5 to 6 year old children in compulsory education.
- Good cooperation between NGOs and government for identification of Roma children in this field.
- Supply 100% of pupils with textbooks
- Better inform the Roma parents for the important of the school attendants of their children
- Looking about the “Second chance” amendment

Ministry of Health

1. Better access to primary health care and provision of service according to established norms and standards
2. Ensure supplies of vaccines and carry out obligatory vaccinations, at the rates of 100%
3. Insert family planning program in all health center
4. Improve the health service conditions
5. The process of decentralization is expected to finish by 2007 , full transference of utility services under local authorities.

Ministry of Interior

1. Streamlining of measures in all strategies. Already is formulated the general policies in public order , policy and trafficking issue. (Local Anti-Trafficking Committees are functioning in the 12 administrative circuits of the country. Their role is to identify, prevent and protect vulnerable groups in the society. The Regional Committees have reporter on their cooperation with Roma associations for the identification of risk categories and employment and education opportunities).
2. Inclusion of Roma in the policy and policy bodies. The ministry of the Interior must Create more opportunities for Roma community to join the ranks of the police force and the public administration
3. Allocation of funds to the local government. Ministry of the Interior must give priority to municipalities and communes that target The roma Community, through competitive grants.
4. Registration of Roma population. (The Ministry of the interior must consider making the necessary amendments to the laws related to the registration of the Roma population in civil status offices, including the registration of the children and transferal of documents of that part of the Roma population that has migrated. For this, it is necessary to launch a special project which could be supported by donor funds.)

Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Communication

1. The development of referents terms of the national Strategy on the improvement of the living condition of the Roma community
2. Draw up proposals for improving living condition of Roma in collaboration with community
3. Planning funds from the state budget to implement the projects
4. Co-funding of projects with donors and NGOs

Ministry of Culture

1. Draft an action plan in the field of art, culture, youth and sport for the Roma community
2. Financial support to publish social –cultural multiethnic magazine “ Equal”
3. Financial support for the national folk festival with ethnicity participations.
4. The ministry of culture is providing the possibility to insert some traditional cloths in the ethnographic hall in the historical national museum.

This Ministry is engaged to support according the low cultural projects presented by the Roma’s NGOs and individuals in the fields of culture art sports and youth.

Conclusions

1. Better cooperation among Central Government , Local government, International Organization, donors and NGOs to better implement the national Strategy for improved the social and economic condition of Roma community
2. Local authorities must start developing local plans for the implementation of the strategy objectives pursuant the national plan and must work closely with central institutions and donors to support the development of capacities and to secure funding for development projects in this community.
3. The civil society must continue to monitor the implementation of the strategy at the central and local levels; they must conduct evaluations of such implementation through reports, studies, debates and make recommendations for its implementation in the future; they must cooperate with the monitoring Unit in order to ensure that all the commitments made in the strategy are adhered to
4. The government must consider updating the strategy, so that the objectives become clearer and more measurable, with deadlines for the realization of the objectives, available funds and funding sources. The updating must be based on broad based consultations with interest groups and must take into account all other sectoral or inter-sectoral strategies.

Albania joins officially Roma Decade

- Government of Albania expressed the willingness to formally join the Decade of Roma Inclusion
- As a result, Government of Albania will put more efforts and resources for promoting the inclusion and improving the quality of Roma community in Albania

THANK YOU!

