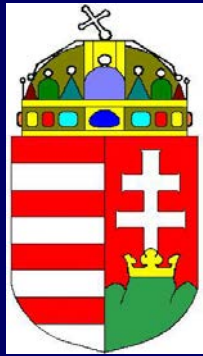


The background of the image is the Hungarian flag, which consists of three horizontal stripes of red, white, and green. The flag is shown waving, with the red stripe at the top, the white stripe in the middle, and the green stripe at the bottom. The text is centered over the white stripe.

**The Government
of the Republic of
Hungary**

Handover of the Presidency of the Decade of Roma Inclusion Program



Erika Szűcs
Minister

Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour



June 24, 2008

Decade of Roma Inclusion Program 2005-2015

- **Cooperation of nine Central-Eastern European countries** (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Croatia, Macedonia, Hungary, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Slovakia) + **international organizations with the involvement of Roma civil society experts**
 - **Priority areas** : education, employment, housing, health
 - **Horizontal aspects**: anti-discrimination, gender equality
- **Goal**: social integration of the Roma population, improved living conditions and welfare, fight against discrimination.

Realization of the Decade of Roma Inclusion Program in Hungary

Legal background:

Resolution no. 68/2007 (VI.28.) on Decade of Roma Inclusion Program
Strategic Plan – adopted by the Parliament without opposition or abstention on June 25, 2007.

- Long term strategy – goals, measures, indicators.



Tasks of the Government for 2008-2009 – Government Decree
1105/2007. (XII. 27.)

- Defines concrete projects and programs including deadlines and budgetary sources.
- Resources: total 10 billions of HUF for 2008-2009.

Hungarian Presidency

1 July 2007 – 30 June 2008

Goal: enhance reputation, advance new topics for discussion, give new impetus to the process.

Events:

- International Steering Committee meetings:
 - 1-2 October, 2007,
 - 25-26 February, 2008,
 - 24-25 June, 2008.
- Expert Workshops:
 - Housing (3-6 December, 2007)
 - Anti-discrimination (17-18 April, 2008)

Hungarian Presidency

1 July 2007 – 30 June 2008

Activities:

- Invitation of new participants to the Decade Program.
 - Countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Spain and Slovenia (Observer).
 - International organizations: UNICEF, ENAR.
- Proposal for the development policy based on equal opportunity principle.
- Elaboration of European Roma Strategy.
- Communication campaign to expand and rise tolerance
-

Development policy based on equal opportunity principle

- Solely Hungary implements it in the region.
- **Objective:** only those tenders and programs are supported that decrease and/or eliminate segregation in education and housing
 - **Development of public education institutions:** Public Education Equal Opportunity Analysis were prepared in about 1000 settlements
 - **ROP, urban rehabilitation tenders:** 160 anti-segregation plans were prepared - making sure that Roma settlements are eliminated and inhabitants are integrated.

Tenders are approved by independent experts.

We do suggest for the consideration of all the Decade countries to use the development policy based on equal opportunity principle.

European Roma Strategy

- **Why does it necessary?**
 - Europe`s largest minority – 10-12 million people.
 - One of Europe`s most pressing social problem, huge social gap between Roma and non-Roma population..
 - Many problems can not be solved on the basis of the present policies and legal framework.
- **Five priority areas:** education, employment, housing, health, representation..
- **Steps concluded:**
 - **Call** at International Steering Committee meeting in February 2008 – signed by Minister dr. Mónika Lamperth, Minister dr. Kinga Göncz, Chair Prof. Dr. Rita Süßmuth, as well as Members of the European Parliament Lívía Járóka, Katalin Lévai and Viktória Mohácsi.
 - **Countries participating in the Decade Program joined the Call** – Support Letter was sent by Albania, Czech Republic, Macedonia, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain.
 - **Letter to the European Commission.**

The Hungarian Government supports the elaboration of the European Roma Strategy.

Communication Campaign – „Roma Desire” Project

Objective:

- Changing attitude towards Roma.
- Creation of the appearance of equal opportunities in the media and advertisements.
- Raising awareness of the corporate enterprises, advertisers, and other actors of the economy that it is time to calculate with the Roma population as potential consumer and target audience.

in-depth interviews → **pictures** → **billboards** in Budapest Metro stations

Messages:

- simple, human desires, anybody can identify as its own ;
- there is no difference among human beings in terms of desires ;
- thus there is no rational to make any difference among people.

Proposal of the Hungarian Presidency

- We suggest for the consideration of all the Decade participating countries to use the **development policy based on equal opportunity principle.**
- The Hungarian Government supports a joint action for the **elaboration of a European Roma Strategy .**



The Government of the Republic of Hungary