

**Program of Serbian Presidency  
over the Decade of Roma  
Inclusion 2005-2015  
1 July 2008 – 30 June 2009**



# Decade Goals

- Closing of unacceptable gaps between Roma and the rest of society
- Combating discrimination through development and implementation of National Action Plans in the areas of education, housing, health and employment
- The main principle is to support participation and involvement of Roma national communities in achieving Decade goals
- Decade also focuses on combating discrimination, poverty reduction and improvement of women position.

# Priority areas

- Housing
- Combating discrimination in education
- Development of evaluation and monitoring systems
- Development of European Roma Policy
- European Union funds for improvement of Roma position

# European Roma Policy should set the following goals

- widening scope of integrated education, combating segregation in public education, raising the level of qualifications of Roma population;
- providing integration of Roma in the labor market, raising the level of their employment;
- improving housing conditions, followed by combating segregation in villages and regions;
- improving health conditions of Roma population, higher life expectancy and improving access to medical services;
- combating discrimination of Roma population, promotion of equal opportunities for all;
- involvement of Roma population representatives in building their own professional capacities, aimed at realizing their rights and inclusion of their communities; involvement of Roma in making political and social decisions;
- recognizing of Roma as minority, with transnational character.

# Housing



- There are around 600 Roma settlements in Serbia with different legal regulation, infrastructure, individual housing conditions and locations. Common for all these settlements, whether they are newly-built or old, is poverty.
- The Ministry of Infrastructure of the Government of the Republic of Serbia has adopted Guidelines for Improvement and Legalization of Roma Settlements.
- In 14 municipalities in Serbia process for development of urban planning documentation for Roma settlements had started, which presents a base for improvement of housing conditions.
- These activities may serve as a model for improving Roma settlements in other countries of the region.

# First in legalization of Roma settlements

Kraljevo – Grdička kosa No.2

Apatin

Bela Palanka

Negotin

Opovo

Kruševac

Prokuplje

Pirot

Sokobanja

Veliko Gradište

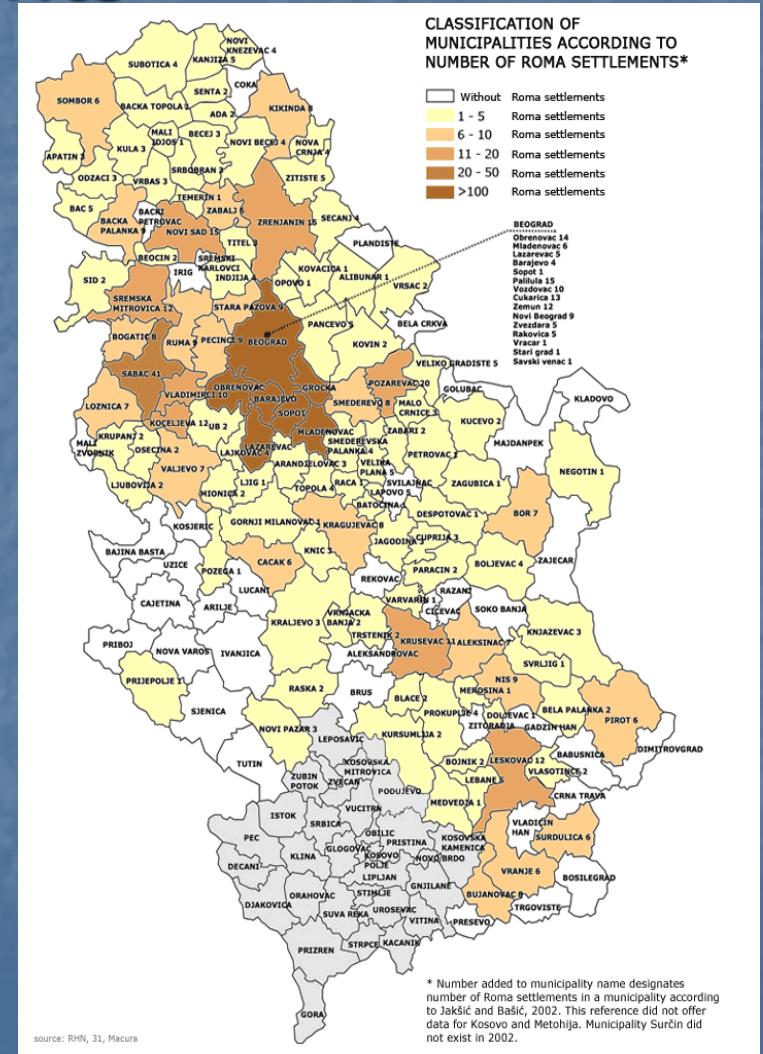
Mladenovac

Knjaževac

Beočin

Bor

Srbobran



“My teacher never approaches my desk to see what I have written”

A Roma pupil from Serbia





# Topics

- Schools for children with special needs
- Adequacy of tests and procedures for enrollment into the first grade of compulsory education
- Preparation pre-school program
- Socio-economic support to Roma families so that children would attend regular schooling
- Pedagogic support to children in regular schooling
- The roles of teachers, psychological and pedagogical services and education inspection in providing equal opportunities for education



# Development of evaluation and monitoring systems

- The lack of adequate monitoring and evaluation systems is an issue in all Decade countries. During former presidencies the activities on providing adequate data and setting monitoring indicators and systems have been launched by the UN Development Program and the Open Society Institute.

# System

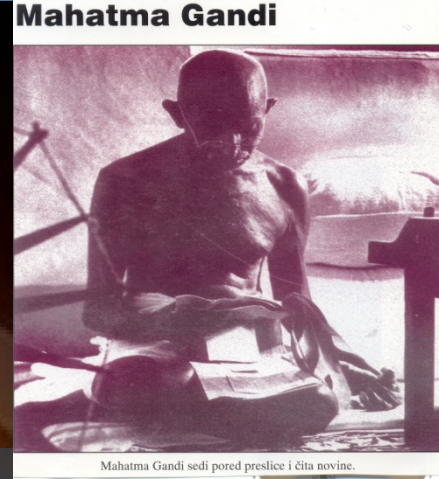
- Development of evaluation and monitoring systems in areas of housing and education
- Discussing the issues of existing of
  - reliable data
  - indicators
  - procedures
  - and structures that monitor and evaluate effects of implemented measures

# Calendar of activities

- September 4-5, 2008 – 14<sup>th</sup> International Steering Committee Meeting, Belgrade
- September-October 2008 – Adoption of the Strategy for Improvement of Roma Status
- October 2008 – Meeting with the countries from ex Yugoslavia – Common Issues
- November 2008 – Workshop – Housing
- February 2009 – 15<sup>th</sup> International Steering Committee Meeting
- March 2009 – Workshop – Development of Evaluation and Monitoring Systems
- April 2009 – Workshop – Combating Discrimination in Education
- April 2009 – World Roma Day Celebration - 8<sup>th</sup> April
- June 2009 – 16<sup>th</sup> International Steering Committee Meeting – Final Report

# Invitation to international organizations and new countries

- UN-HABITAT
- UNHCR
- Italy
- Turkey
- Greece



Amen sijam but Roma





# For more information

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