
Czech Republic: CZPressRomaHighlights

towards Common Basic Principles for Roma Integration

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Office of the Council of the Government of the Czech Republic for
Roma Community Affairs

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- Once upon a time...

Towards the Czech Presidency

- Conclusions of the European Council of December 2007 and June 2008
- General Affairs Council December 2008
- Resolution of the European Parliament of March 2009 on the social situation of the Roma and their improved access to the labour market in the EU

- The Czech Presidency to the EU Council
 - Call for a conference plan: ?

- 2 meetings in Prague
 - Expert Meeting
 - Towards evidence based policy, the first meeting of the Integrated European Platform for Roma Integration

Expert Meeting

- 26. – 27. February, 2009
- Meeting of experts on Roma Integration with representatives from governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental institutions and organizations
- Productive meeting with concrete results
- Drafted a preliminary framework and expectations:
 - Process;
 - High political representation;
 - Concrete policy measures;
 - expectations of various stakeholders;
 - Sustainable;
 - Data collection, unified standards for national policies;
 - Exchange of best practices.

Towards the Platform Meeting in Prague

- Eurocommissionaire: Vladimír Špidla
- Minister of the Czech Republic for Human Rights: Michael Kocáb
 - Clear vision about Roma Inclusion;
 - A step towards setting a common European (EU) approach towards Roma Integration;
 - Call for cooperation at European level resulting in drafting of the Common Basic Principles For Roma Integration;

Common Basic Principles

- Principle 1: Constructive, pragmatic and non-discriminatory policies
 - realise the core values of the European Union, which include human rights and dignity, non-discrimination and equality of opportunity as well as economic development. Roma inclusion policies are integrated with mainstream policies, particularly in the fields of employment, social affairs, housing, health and security.
- Principle 2: Explicit but not exclusive targeting
 - focusing on Roma people as a target group but not to the exclusion of other people who share similar socio-economic circumstances.
- Principle 3: Inter-cultural approach
- Principle 4: Aiming for the mainstream
- Principle 5: Awareness of the gender dimension

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- Principle 6: Transfer of evidence-based policies
 - learn from their own experiences of developing Roma inclusion initiatives and share their experiences with other Member States.
 - Principle 7: Use of Community instruments
 - legal instruments (Race Equality Directive, Framework Decision on Racism and Xenophobia),
 - financial instruments (European Social Fund, European Regional Development Fund, European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, Instrument for Pre-Accession)
 - and coordination instruments (Open Methods of Coordination)
 - Principle 8: Involvement of regional and local authorities
 - Principle 9: Involvement of civil society
 - Principle 10: Active participation of the Roma

Towards evidence based policy

the first meeting of Integrated European Platform for Roma Integration

- 70 representatives from governmental, intergovernmental and non governmental organizations participated and discussed the fundamental questions about Roma Integration in Europe and within the framework of European Union
 - Data Collection
 - Common approach towards integration
 - Examples of best practices
 - Introduction of Common Basic Principles

EPSCO

EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL POLICY, HEALTH AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS Council meeting

- INVITES THE COMMISSION AND THE MEMBER STATES, in close cooperation,
 11. to take into account the Common Basic Principles, where appropriate, when designing and implementing policies to promote the full inclusion of the Roma, as well as when designing and implementing policies to defend fundamental rights, uphold gender equality, combat discrimination, poverty and social exclusion, and ensure access to education, housing, health, employment, social services, justice, sports and culture, and also in the EU's relations with third countries;
 12. to make use of the integrated European platform for Roma inclusion for the exchange of good practice and experience between the Member States and with those countries with a perspective of joining the EU, and in the cooperation between all parties and international organisations concerned by Roma issues;

What can we expect?

- the commitment of the Commission to follow up its report of July 2008 on Community Instruments and Policies for Roma Inclusion⁶ and to undertake concrete steps to make Community instruments and policies relevant for Roma inclusion more effective;
- the commitment of the government of the Kingdom of Spain to organise on 8 April 2010 the second European Roma Summit which will be prepared, inter alia, on the basis of the activities carried out within the framework of the platform
- to continue the work on the integrated European platform for Roma inclusion, where appropriate, including consideration of the possibility of further developing its structure;

**Thank you for your attention and also for
help and support for
the Platform and the Common Basic Principles
it is a process with a strong political commitment!**

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Belgrade

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<http://www.vlada.cz/cz/pracovni-a-poradni-organy-vlady/zalezitosti-romske-komunity/uvod-5779/>