



DECADE OF
ROMA
INCLUSION
2005-2015

THE INCLUSION OF EU ENLARGEMENT COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN THE DECADE OF ROMA INCLUSION IN THE EU FRAMEWORK FOR NATIONAL ROMA INTEGRATION STRATEGIES UP TO 2020

Endorsed by the 22nd International Steering Committee meeting
on 25 June 2012 in Skopje, Macedonia

The EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies is a vital political tool inspired by the Decade of Roma Inclusion. Decade countries (both EU Member states and EU enlargement countries) fully endorsed the EU Framework at the 20th International Steering Committee meeting on 28th June 2011 in Prague, Czech Republic.¹

Participating Governments of the Decade of Roma Inclusion agree that the EU Roma integration goals are equally relevant to EU enlargement countries. We therefore support the involvement of EU enlargement countries in the EU Framework as full and equal participants.

In response to the European Commission's request, EU enlargement countries participating in the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015² are reviewing their National Roma Integration Strategies and Actions Plans in line with the goals of the EU Framework and the targets of the Europe 2020 strategy, and commit to submit them to the European Commission by the end of 2012.

Beyond the four priority areas of health, housing, education and employment, and in line with the recent communication of the European Commission³, our National Roma Integration Strategies and Action Plans will pay particular attention to the issues of access to personal documents and registration with the local authorities; tackle the multiple discrimination affecting Romani women; ensure that Romani children can exercise their fundamental rights; and more broadly, 'step up the fight against racism and discrimination'.

We pledge to improve the use of the Instrument of Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) - and other available EU funding - towards the social inclusion of Roma and link explicitly the measures of our Action Plans to IPA funding.

We reiterate our commitment enshrined in the Decade Declaration to demonstrate progress by measuring outcomes, and pledge to fully support the European

¹ http://www.romadecade.org/files/downloads/20th%20ISC/PLEDGE_20th%20ISC.doc

² Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia

³ National Roma Integration Strategies: a first step in the implementation of the EU Framework, Brussels 21. 5. 2012, COM (2012) 226.



DECADE OF
ROMA
INCLUSION
2005-2015

Commission to meet its reporting obligations within the EU Framework.⁴ Reviewing the mandate and capacity of our Decade National Coordinators, we will designate our national contact points within the EU Framework in order to take part in their envisaged network.⁵

We pledge to bring all of the experiences of the Decade – seven years of lessons learnt from good and bad practices of Roma inclusion – to ensure that the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies meets its primary objective: to put an end to the exclusion of Roma in both EU Member States and EU enlargement countries.

⁴ “The Commission will review annually the implementation of the National Roma Integration Strategies, reporting to the European Parliament and the Council.” COM (2012) 226

⁵ COM (2012) 226