



EU Enlargement & EU Roma Framework

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Enlargement Strategy



The Roma in EU enlargement countries and the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies



- Roma in enlargement countries face **similar or more serious problems** than in many EU Member States.
- Data indicates that there has been a serious **deterioration of the situation of Roma** in the region over the past two decades.
- The wars in the Balkan region have led many Roma families to move as **displaced persons** to other countries in the region or to Western Europe.
- **Promoting Roma integration in enlargement countries requires:**
 - an enhanced political commitment to Roma inclusion
 - the allocation of appropriate resources under the national budgets
 - better coordination with all relevant donors
 - a systematic evaluation
 - reinforced monitoring.
- The EU Roma integration goals are **equally relevant** to enlargement countries as to Member States. The national Roma integration strategies and Action Plans of EU enlargement countries will be reviewed **in line with the EU Roma integration goals**



The Roma in EU enlargement countries and the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies



- There is an **explicit commitment** to help enlargement countries of South Eastern Europe at the regional and national levels to **enhance their efforts on Roma inclusion in three ways**:
 - Improving the delivery of support under the **Instrument on Pre-Accession Assistance** towards a strategic and results oriented national and multi-beneficiary programming with a focus on a sector-wide approach for social development.
 - Strengthening the **involvement of civil society** by encouraging Roma representatives to become involved and take responsibility for policy formulation, implementation and monitoring on regional, national and local level.
 - **Close monitoring of the progress made by each country** regarding the economic and social situation of Roma and annual presentation of its conclusions in the **Enlargement Progress Reports**.



EU Roma inclusion seminars in Western Balkan countries



- The **objectives of these seminars** are:
 - Identification of policy gaps
 - Strengthening of mechanisms for monitoring and reporting
 - A review of relevant policies in order to effectively foster the integration of the citizens belonging to Roma communities.

- The **topics on the agenda of the Roma seminars** were:
 - Civil registration
 - Education
 - Employment
 - Social and healthcare
 - Housing



Overview EU Roma Seminars in Western Balkan countries



Countries	2011 Seminars	2012 Follow-up	Financial and technical assistance (extract)
Croatia	14.11.2011		IPA 2012: improving housing conditions for Roma (creation of local partnerships, technical capacity building)
Turkey			
fYRoM	26.07.2011		IPA 2008/2009 Civil society grant scheme
Montenegro	28.04.2011		IPA 2010 NP: child care IPA 2011 NP: support for IDPs and residents in Konik camp IPA 2012/2013 NP: support for residents in Konik camp
Serbia	22.06.2011	March 2012	IPA 2012/2011 NP: support to refugees, IDPs and returnees IPA 2012/2013 NP: social inclusion
Albania	15.12.2011		IPA 2011 NP (EU/UNDP): support social inclusion of RAE
Bosnia and Herzegovina	04.07.2011	June 2012	IPA 2011 NP (Call for proposals): Social Inclusion & Action Plans
Kosovo*	11.05.2011		IPA 2010/2012/2013 NP: Return and re-integration

Roma seminars: Albania (I)



In **Albania**, the seminar yielded positive outcomes:

- **Social and Health Care:** Amend health care regulations to allow for free care of people without papers; establish action plans to tackle the issue of child begging and street children; ensure vaccination of all Roma and Egyptians
- **Cross-cutting issues:** additional efforts to implement existing policies including Decade Action Plan and National Inclusion Strategy; reinforce protection of human rights of Roma as key priority for membership application; make full use of IPA; strengthen Roma Technical Secretariat (coordination and monitoring) through additional human and financial resources
- **Civil registration:** No child should remain unregistered; Ministries and authorities should liaise with civil society organisations to jointly organise information sessions; civil registration should not be conditional to payment of local taxes
- **Education:** establish additional public integrated pre-schools, employ additional teachers; school directors should ensure continued enrolment of children of vulnerable families; address shortcomings of education programmes for Roma (e.g. improve free disbursement of textbooks); employ Roma graduates as teachers



Roma seminars: Albania (II)



- **Vocational Training and Employment:** Aim at equal footing access to labour market; State should give positive example by employing more Roma and Egyptians; government should mainstream employment active policies for Roma and Egyptians with focus on salaried employment
- **Housing and Infrastructure:** In case of evictions local authorities should provide substitute accommodation; find legal solutions and progressive practice for Roma living in informal settlements; implement gradually specialised housing programmes for vulnerable groups; ensure access to clean water and sanitation



Roma in EU enlargement process

Financial and technical assistance



Until 2006 **PHARE** (CEE) / **CARDS** (Western Balkan)

=> Since 1998 more than €150 million for supporting Roma inclusion in EU-12

=> **Evaluation** of PHARE support (€64 million) for Roma projects in 2001-2003 (education, unemployment, infrastructure development):

- instrumental for promoting social inclusion policy, new laws and initiatives;
- weak on tackling long-term unemployment

As from 2007 replaced by **IPA** – Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance for candidates and potential candidates (~€1 billion/year)

Other financing instrument: **EIDHR** (DG RELEX) – in total €30 million for projects in Western Balkan in 2011-2013



Protection of minorities and Pre-accession strategy (I)



Examples for structural actions on Roma social inclusion:

Croatia:

- Roma support project: improve infrastructure in several Roma settlements in Menimurje County (PHARE 2006 – IPA 2008 – €5 million)
- Civil society organisations – capacity building on human rights (IPA 2012 - €4,95 millions)

Albania

- Roma social inclusion project (IPA 2011 - €1.5 million) – UNDP

Montenegro

- Child care system (IPA 2010 – €1,25 million) - UNICEF



Protection of minorities and Pre-accession strategy (II)



- **EU Regional Initiative for Roma integration in the WB:**
 - **€3 million project** adopted under IPA 2010 (runs until 2013) targeting WB countries.
 - Contributes to the **integration of minority groups** in the WB in accordance with commitments made in the perspective of EU accession.
 - Main aim is to **improve the quality of life** and access to rights of RAE communities.
 - Fosters the **participation of Roma communities** in the definition, implementation and monitoring of relevant activities in the region.
 - **Regional cooperation** provides for an ideal platform for peer review, benchmarking and coordinating efforts between existing initiatives.





Future challenges

- Maintain annual **progress reports** scheme with section on Roma
- Ensure that, with the **2014-2020 funding period**, the situation of Roma will be more appropriately addressed, both quantitatively and qualitatively.
- Make **Roma civil society or Roma representatives** part of the planning, implementation, and monitoring process.
- Carefully **scrutinize the accession experiences** of new Member States.
- Ensure that Roma forcibly returned from Western Europe are assisted with **comprehensive integration programmes**.

