



DECADE OF  
ROMA INCLUSION  
2005-2015  
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# **Civil Society Report on the Implementation of National Roma Integration Strategies and Decade Action Plans**

**HUNGARY**

# The report was prepared by a coalition of NGOs:

1. Partners Hungary Foundation (lead organization)
2. Metropolitan Research Institute (lead researcher)
3. Autonómia Foundation
4. Habitat for Humanity Hungary,
5. Amnesty International Hungary,
6. Hungarian Womens' Lobby,
7. Hungarian Helsinki Committee,
8. Alliance of Gipsy Minority Representatives  
and Spokepeople of Nógrád County,
9. Romaversitas Foundation
10. Chance for Children Foundation

# About the research

- Aim: **coalitions of NGOs** to monitor the implementation of National Roma Integration Strategies (NRIS) and Decade Action Plans
- the Decade Secretariat developed and made public a **template**
- 2012 was only the pilot year, **repetition of the researches are provisioned**

# Methodology

- **Document** review
- **Interviews** with several national authorities and key stakeholder
- **citizen consultation** with over 70 Roma NGO representatives
- **EVERYTHING IS FACT BASED!**

# General problems in Hungary

- No Government report.
- the National plan is not totally parallel with the Decade Programme (RIDP) started in 2003; major philosophical ideas (e.g. decreasing segregation in schools, creating the opportunity of having equal access to educational assets, etc.) have not been included in the Strategy.
- Roma are (still) invisible for the system
- Mainstream vs. Roma focus problems – even the positive goals in the Strategy fail in the course of bargains within the Government

# Education

- The definition of disadvantaged children will be dramatically changed,
- The nationalization of schools can (and foreseeably will) effect Roma children negatively,
- The upper education age limit set from 18 to be 16 years,
- Introduction of a mandatory curriculum,
- Re-introduction of failing in elementary schools,
- number of high school places giving a secondary school leaving certificate will be reduced,
- the number of state-financed university places and the whole enrollment procedure is uncertain,
- the general education lessons in vocational schools -and trough this- the possibility of mobility decreases.

- + The Integration Pedagogical System (IPS) is still working
- /+ extra-curricular (Tanoda) services and the decrease in the number of school-leavers – one of the longest existing program, still without predictable financing system.
- + Mandatory enrolment to kindergarten – the most agreed step. Unfortunately distribution of places is quite uneven in the country.

# Anti-discrimination

- Researches have shown that Roma in Hungary are **discriminated** against in **almost all fields** of life.
- Political forces and decision-makers **do little to protect** the Roma.
- In case of most hate crimes, **no proper criminal procedure** is launched.
- Abolishment of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Rights of National and Ethnic Minorities , the new system is **far less powerful** institution for combating discrimination.
- Local level: the powerless position of minority self-governments has been further **weakened**.



# Employment

- In Hungary app. one quarter of active age Roma are employed (13-16% of Roma women).
- There is high proportion of casual work and informal or hidden employment among Roma (no legal protection).
- The chances of Roma for employment are increasingly limited by discrimination, a challenge that has not been addressed by the NRIS.
- The negative impacts of the crisis have been strengthened by frequent changes in economic and taxation regulations.
- Reductions in public expenditure for active labour market measures; most of the funds spent on public work.
- EU funds invested in employment programs reach the most disadvantaged and especially Roma only to a very limited extent.

# Health

- health conditions of the Roma is significantly worse
- there are major regional inequalities
- public health measures are not effective in reaching out to the most disadvantaged
- health of children is heavily impacted by the socio-economic status of the parents
- NRIS' Action Plan (AP) has formulated numerous fields for interventions, (Roma women in social services and child welfare; screenings; less vacant general practitioner's positions)
- little result has been visible

# Housing

- No coherent social housing policy exists since the transition.
- Housing related measures mainly target middle class and not able to respond the problem of those living in deep poverty and affected by housing exclusion.
- Spatial segregation of Roma communities
- EU funded programmes to rehabilitate deprived urban areas and segregated neighbourhoods were launched but desegregation measures are weak
- Housing related measures should be linked with broader social policy and employment measures otherwise no long term effects can be reached.
- Housing measures should be strengthened by desegregation and equal chance policy measures.

# General conclusion

- If the Hungarian situation is monitored from far distance, everything is quite OK; especially on papers...
- Most of the interviewed Roma and non Roma reported from their personal point of view that things according to the Roma issues are getting worse...
- The most important stakeholder (NRSG) who is responsible to run programs for 165,000 Roma is always invisible. No accountability, no transparency, no feedback, no show of, no achievements.
- **Even the most positive goals in NRIS/AP opposes to mainstream legislation or simply to the naked truth...**

**Thank you for your  
attention**