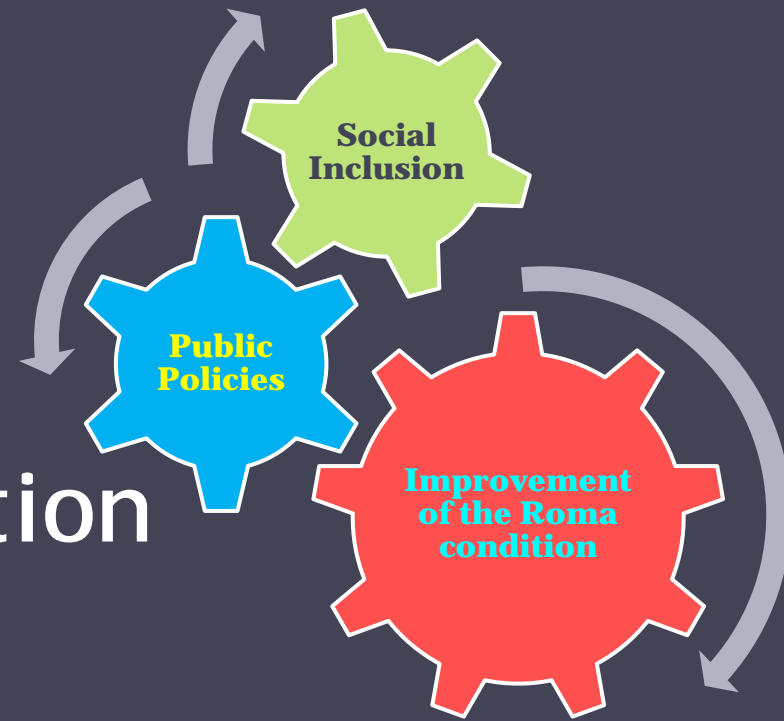


National Roma Integration Strategy in Romania



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Resource Center for
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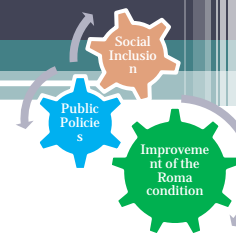


DECADE OF
ROMA
INCLUSION
2005-2015



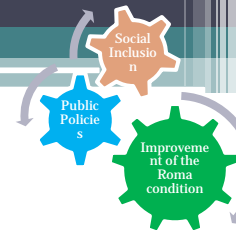
Roma public policy milestones





Context

- EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020", COM(2011)173 of 5 April 2011
- Member States to **prepare or revise National Roma Integration Strategies** in order to address more effectively the challenges of Roma inclusion to tangibly improve the situation by the end of the current decade.
- **Theoretically**, the endorsement of the Framework by EU Heads of States and Governments indicated that **Roma inclusion is becoming an important priority for all the Member States**



The Strategy of the Government of Romania for the Inclusion of Romanian Citizens Belonging to the Roma Minority for the Period 2012-2020

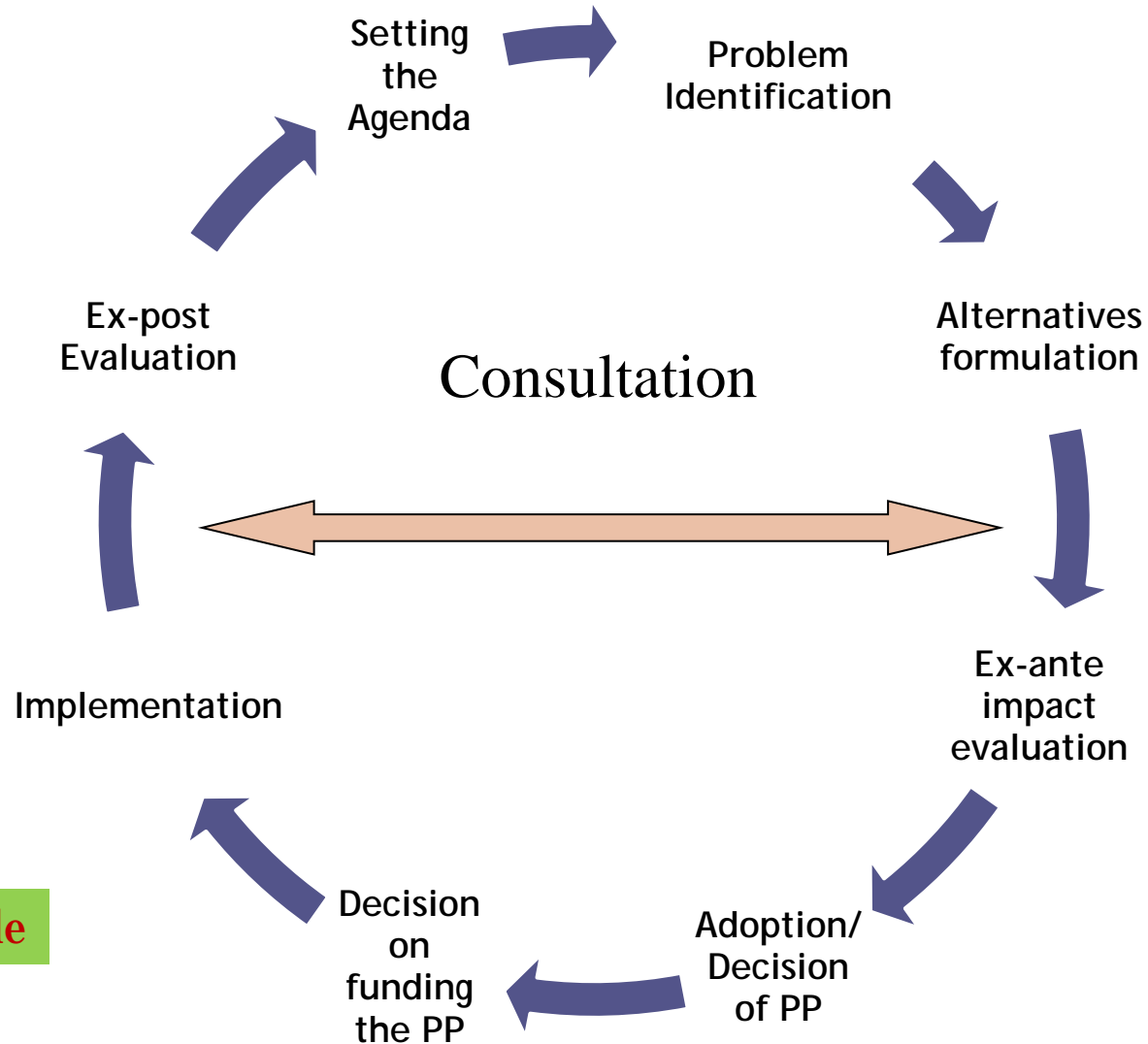
- NRIS adopted in December 2011
- In 2009 the *Presidential Commission for the Analysis of Social and Demographic Risks*: “**a genuine and constant political approach to the challenges of ensuring equal opportunity policies for the Roma minority**”.
- This recommendation is hardly reflected in the text of the actual NRIS and it remains a goal to be achieved considering the limited political capacity of the Roma community to act as a strong and reliable partner in relation to public bodies.

NRIS - a public policy document?

Types of PP in Romania:

- **Strategy**
- **Action Plan**
- **Public Policy Proposal**
- ...
- GD 870/2006 for the approval of the Strategy for improving the development, coordination and planning of public policies at central government level, Annex, Section II, Lines of Action, 1.1. Types of policy documents

IS the NRIS a Public Policy?

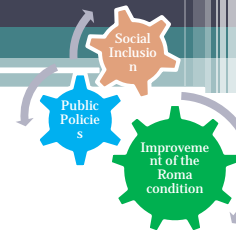


Public Policy Cycle

NRIS Romania

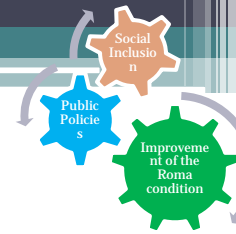


- The NRIS does not meet the requirements of the *Strategy* as a public policy document, generating significant difficulties for its implementation and monitoring and evaluation.
- The Action Plans of a public policy document also need to comply with certain legal standards, standards.
- The review of NRIS Action Plans prove not to be elaborated according to existing standards and they cannot be implemented according to existing provisions.



NRIS Romania

- NRIS lacks a baseline study and clear indicators for monitoring progress - size of population, geographic distribution and specific problems faced by Roma.
- During 2012 there were almost no new developments related to the NRIS, no systemic actions were organized to discuss and analyze the NRIS
- There were no clear actions taken towards the implementation of the new Strategy.



NRIS Romania

- There is no clear allocation of financial resources for the implementation of the NRIS.
- NRIS measures already in place have been the ones implemented on a regular basis by the Ministries.
- The National Agency for Roma (NAR), is responsible for “*applying, coordinating, monitoring and evaluating the sectorial social intervention measures that are part of the Romanian Governmental Strategy for the Improvement of the Condition of Roma*” and is acting as the “*secretariat of the Mixed Committee for the Implementation and Monitoring of the Strategy*”.

NRIS - civil society participation



- Still an unresolved issue, while the elaboration of the NRIS was a rather superficial one
- Very few suggestions and comments provided by a large group of NGOs were considered and can be found in the final version of the NRIS adopted by the Government in December 2011
- The NRIS aims to “*make local and central public authorities, the Roma minority and civil society responsible for the increase of the level of social and economic inclusion of Romanian citizens belonging to the Roma minority*”.
- In 2013, the new NRIS President initiated several consultation meetings with Roma and non-Roma NGOs, ministries in order to revise the Strategy document.

Recommendations to the EU structures



- Identify and put in place **control mechanisms** of the European Commission in the elaboration of NRIS at a level that **fully complies with the standards for the elaboration of public policy documents established by individual Member States.**
- Elaborate a **road map agreement** between the European Commission and national governments, with clear objectives to be accomplished through NRISs. Design an effective monitoring and evaluation mechanism for the implementation of the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020 to ensure that its provisions are put into practice.
- Initiate a **debate with EU Member States** on the **collection of disaggregated ethnic data by Eurostat and national statistical institutions** and on the identification of solutions for the systematic collection of data on Roma, respecting human rights standards as regards privacy.
- Use **financial resources** for the next programming period, 2014-2020, in order to **allocate substantial funds for Roma social inclusion**, particularly through **integrated** projects that address the vulnerabilities of Roma communities in a comprehensive manner.

Recommendations to the EU bodies



- **Collaborate more closely with relevant private donors** in order to find ways of covering the cost share required by EU-funded projects.
- Provide **technical assistance to the Romanian government** in elaborating, implementing and evaluating public policies for the Roma community.
- Request from the Romanian government the organization of **real consultations with civil society** and a **transparent process of prioritizing the tailoring of future EU funds**.
- Constantly **monitor the implementation of the EU legislation in the field of anti-discrimination**. Demand that the Romanian government and the Parliament improve this legislation to ensure full compliance with the substantive provision of the Race Directive as regards the implementation of the burden of proof principle.
- To continue to **support financially the watch dog type organizations**, active in the field of monitoring human rights abuses and fundamental freedoms violations.

Recommendations to Romanian government



- ***Rely on The 10 Common Basic Principles of Roma Inclusion in the elaboration of any public policy document, in line with the request of the Council of Ministers in charge of Social Affairs to the Member States and the Commission.***
- Carry out an external, independent evaluation of the implementation results of previous policy documents (the Strategy for Improving the Roma Condition – 2001, 2006) as a basis for revising and implementing the NRIS.
- **Revise the NRIS to meet all the specific standards for the elaboration of the Strategy as a public policy document under Romanian law;** review the main sections of the NRIS in order to extract the general issues and keep the focus of the document on specific Roma areas – education, health, employment and housing.
- **Limit to 4-6 the directions for action and also reduce the number of specific measures** in order to ensure a proper allocation of responsibilities, budgets and monitoring and evaluation of results.

Recommendations to Romanian government



- **Redesign the entire implementation mechanism of the NRIS**, including the role of the National Agency for Roma in the larger context created by the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020.
- Ensure that a **systematic data collection process on the situation of the Roma** is in place, in order to follow the progress of the NRIS. Involve and make responsible the National Institute for Statistics, in design and collection of relevant data on Roma situation.
- Initiate **genuine consultations with civil society** when prioritizing funding or measures funded through the European Social Fund (ESF) and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).
- Allocate **sufficient financial resources** from the **national budget** for the implementation of the NRIS and enable the supplementation of these resources with **international and EU funds**, in particular structural funds, as stipulated by the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020.

Recommendations for the Roma civil society



- Consistent participation in the consultation process with the public authorities in developing and implementing public policies for Roma. Participation in the public debate on Roma, encourage prompt responses in case of negative events in the context of economic crisis, which may lead to exacerbation of negative attitudes and behavior towards Roma.
- Initiate, in partnership with other organizations and institutions, integrated pilot projects that can be afterwards replicated, taken over by the public administration structures.
- To constantly demand transparent consultation with the governmental representatives, as well as to promote their best practices to be scale-up through the public policies.
- Increase the NGOs' involvement in civic activities that stresses the impact of problems associated with stereotype and discriminatory attitudes of health professionals in relation to Roma patients in order to reduce inequalities in access to health services.

Recommendations for the national and international donors



- Identification of financial resources to be allocated for strengthening of the Roma participation, through grant schemes that will include capacity building, project management, monitoring, evaluation, advocacy.
- Collaborating with relevant national authorities and with EU structures in order to maximize the use of funds especially in areas where the governmental interventions are weak.
- Identification of funding mechanisms for covering, through reimbursable grants, the participation of civil society organizations to partnership projects funded through Structural Funds.