

# Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015

# **BEYOND 2015**

25<sup>th</sup> International Steering Committee meeting  
Podgorica, September 26, 2013

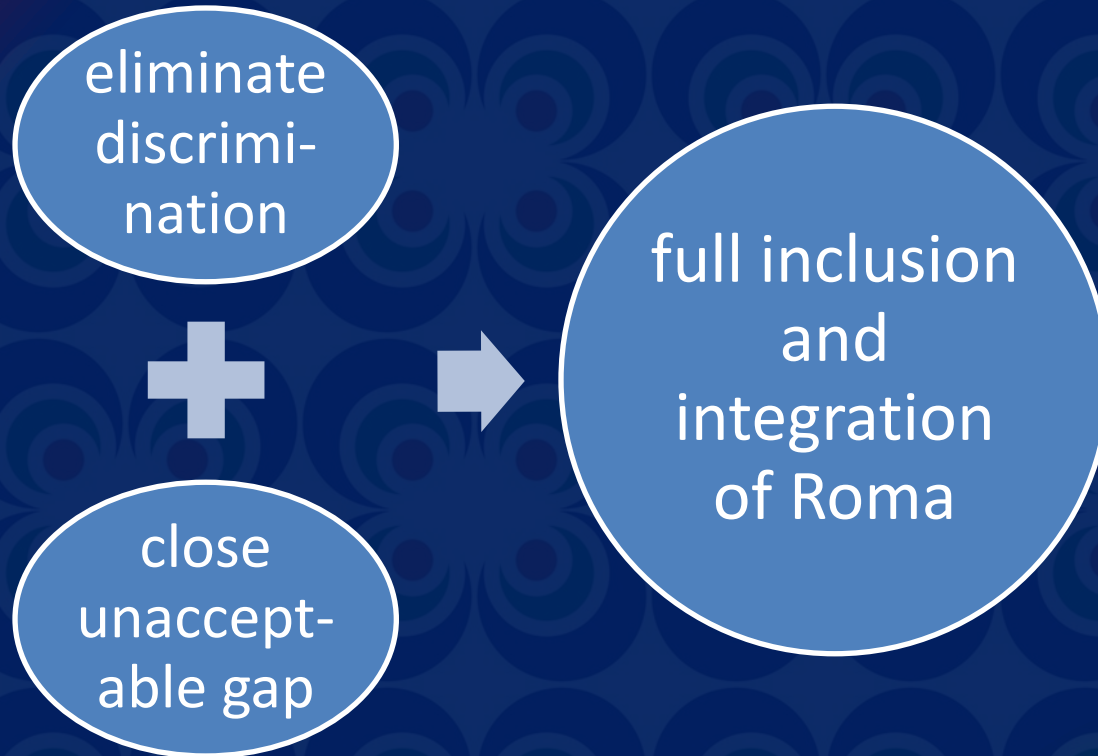
# CONSULTATIVE PROCESS OF DECISION-MAKING

- **Decision on participatory consultative process**
  - 23<sup>th</sup> International Steering Committee meeting, Zagreb, September 2012; Croatian Decade Presidency
- **Working group and methodology**
  - November, 2013, Zagreb; GOV: HU, CR, RS, NGO: RS, INT: OSF, WB
- **Consultative process**
  - questionnaire (93); focus-group meetings: NGO, INT, MK, ME, BH, CR, CZ, RS, AL, RO, ES, HU
- **Policy options, discussion, consensus**
  - 25<sup>th</sup> International Steering Committee meeting, Zagreb, June 2013

# THE NEW COMMITMENT

- In 2005, eight governments declared 2005–15 as the Decade of Roma Inclusion, and were soon joined by others committed to eliminating discrimination and closing the unacceptable gaps between Roma and the rest of society. Under the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies, many more states and the EU have voiced the same commitment. While some progress has been made, we recognize that much more needs to be done.
- Accordingly, we reaffirm the principles of the Decade and commit to continue efforts-considering various ways of cooperation- to ensure the full inclusion and integration of Roma into our societies, beyond 2015. In particular, we will continue to work closely with Roma and non-Roma civil society, international organizations and other partners to achieve the goals spelled out in our action plans and integration strategies and to comply with our obligations under international law. To that end, we pledge to take efforts to streamline and harmonize the Decade process and the EU framework process, including creating and implementing unified reporting framework.

# DECLARATION ELEMENTS



- action plans and/or integration strategies
- cooperation: Roma and non-Roma civil society; international partners; participating governments
- streamline & harmonize Decade and EU framework
- reporting framework

# PRIORITY AREAS

- Retain current areas: education, employment, housing and health
  - Define objectives specifically
  - Complement with other initiatives (EU framework in particular)
  - Work on institutionalizing good practices
  - Strive to establish specialized facilities per priority (like REF)
- Retain and ensure cross-cutting: non-discrimination and gender (consider to include empowerment, trust-building and identity)

# ROMA PARTICIPATION

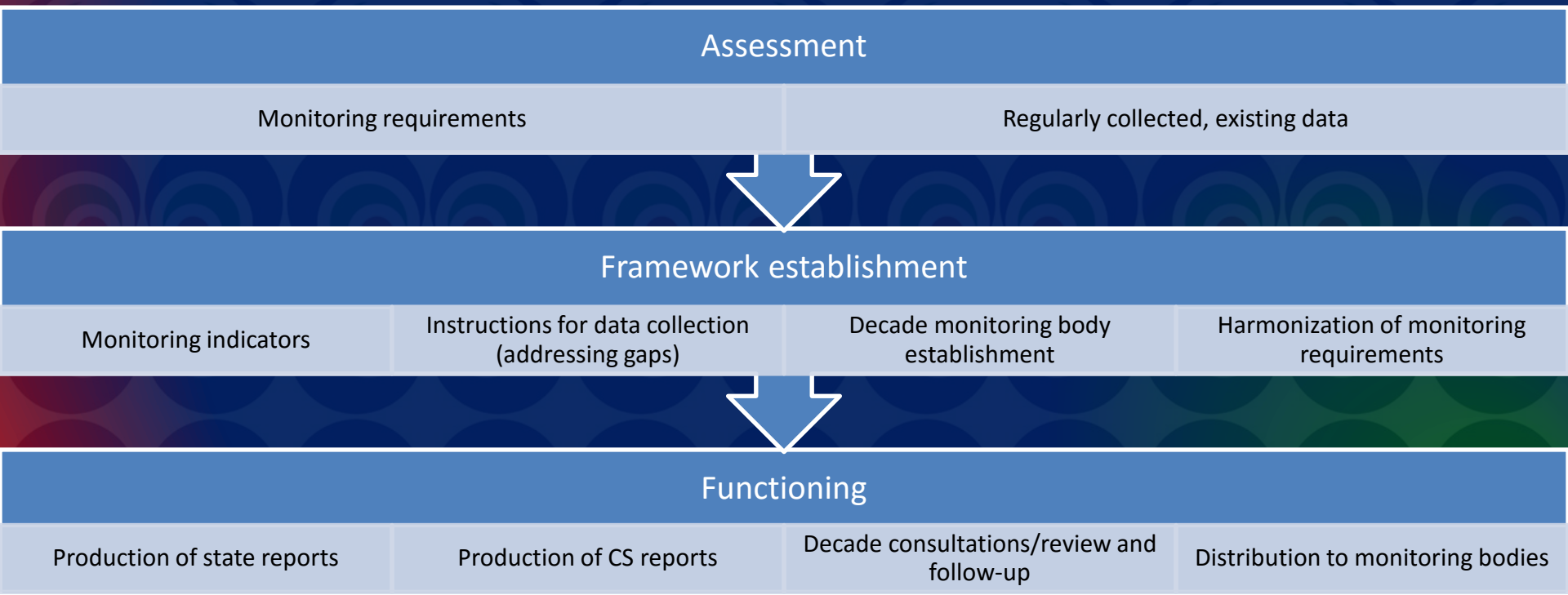
- **Roma participation**
  - Involvement at international and national level
  - Build on Decade Focal Points
    - identify organization in each country to coordinate
    - establish international network
    - establish local networks/coalitions to involve variety of Roma organizations and individuals engaged in the priority areas
    - build links with international Roma organizations
    - regular meetings, information sharing, outreach, policy consultations, advocacy and delegation of representatives
  - EU framework link:
    - develop idea for Focal points in EU countries
    - acknowledge Focal points and their representatives in EU framework processes
  - Empowerment, support and acknowledgement on international, national and local level (by Decade partners)

# OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS

- Harmonizing Decade Action Plan and National Roma Integration Strategy requirements:
  - one principle official document:
    - National Roma Integration Strategy
      - aligned with the EU framework
      - ensuring Decade objectives per priority included
  - Action or operational plans as needed/required
  - Decade Secretariat and other partners provide guidelines and technical support
  - Governments ensure participation of Roma through Focal Points

# MONITORING FRAMEWORK

- Developing harmonized monitoring framework (compatible with Decade, EU framework and other international bodies)





# DECADE MEMBERSHIP

- Current participants reaffirm participation or withdraw
  - clarify at earliest possible
  - future members engage in reform design and implementation
- Maintain flexible membership requirements:
  - official policy document
  - basic structural requirements for participation
  - commitment to Decade mission and process
- Define withdrawal/inactivity conditions and procedures
- Clarify observing status, requirements, role
- Clarify international partners' requirements, role
- Consider expansion with new countries meaningfully

# Administration and management – National level

- **Government structure**

- Ensure National Coordinators actively participate; coordinate on national and local level and have appropriate decision making and executive powers
- Back-up with appropriate in-country structures (to implement official policy and participate internationally)
- Increase Roma engagement (Decade focal points)
- Harmonize with EU requirements – unify structures designated for various Roma inclusion policies/processes, including by designating same office as Decade National Coordinator and EU Framework Contact Points

- **Decade focal points**

- as discussed previously on Roma participation

# Administration and management – decision making and representation

- **International Steering Committee:**
  - Maintain two meetings per year (one combined with the EU Platform – content, including monitoring, and logistics)
  - Clarify procedures and ensure efficiency (active members)
  - Encourage participation of decision-makers and international partners including EU
  - Ensure enforcement of decisions and follow-up, both nationally and internationally
  - Bring in more expertise to inform decisions
- **Presidency – consider continuation or other form of leadership:**
  - Clarify role and procedures and ensure efficiency and resources
  - Engage other countries (consider events in other countries)
  - Representation of Decade at relevant EU and other international fora
  - Participatory annual planning (with bidding by countries)

# Administration and management – Decade specialized facilities

- **Secretariat**

- Current mandate; consider possibility to increase and support its role in visibility, representation, management
- Ensure its capacity to continue supporting active Roma participation by managing the NGO focal points and civil society monitoring in all Decade and EU countries with significant Roma populations
- Consider further developing capacity for policy and technical support provision to Roma inclusion actors (staff, funding, skills)
- Manage Increased and structured cooperation with EC (EU Framework) and other international partners

- **Other specialized facilities**

- Ensure continuity and sustainability
- **Consider creation of new facilities according to revised objectives**
- Build stronger relations with EC

# DECADE FUNDING

- **Decade trust fund**
  - Reform **purpose**, management, rules and procedures
  - Ensure **contribution**, including international
- **New elements for consideration:**
  - Consider establishing (or developing DTF into) general Roma inclusion fund
  - Guide budgeting and fundraising; provide technical support and coordination
  - Introduce regional planning and management facility / fundraising functions (Secretariat role)
  - Link with EU framework and EU funding opportunities
  - Build absorption and management capacities in government and civil society; tackle funding barriers (optional)
  - Identify correlation between funding and change on the ground

Thank you!!!

