



# Decade Intelligence Report

26<sup>th</sup> International Steering Committee meeting  
Podgorica, June 20, 2014

# Decade Intelligence project

- Mapping of projects implemented under the Decade
- analysis of the projects' transferability and applicability
- provision of information and advice to Decade
  - project practices
  - elements that contribute or hinder achievements



# Mapping of projects

- Snow-ball method
- 314 projects mapped
- Database available online:  
<http://www.romadecade.org/about-the-decade-decade-good-practices>



## Decade Good Practices

### Search engine

#### Projects

#### Stakeholders

[Advanced search...](#)[Advanced search...](#)

### Decade Intelligence

Access to data on Decade projects and stakeholders from the Decade Intelligence data-base will be soon provided here, along with links to related information available on the Internet. An analytical report of the Decade Intelligence, containing illustrative case studies, is under development and will also be available for downloading on this ...

[more ...](#)

### The Decade Secretariat

### Data-base of projects and partners

### The future of the Decade after 2015

### Videos

[Show all videos](#)

Housing Hamdi Interview English



**Interview with Nabeel Hamdi - Improving Access to Housing for Roma – Good Local Practices, Funding and Legislation (English)**

# Assessment of projects

1. Reduced the gap between Roma and non-Roma (according to subjective or objective measurement).
2. Level of involvement of the government, as the main responsible actor for the inclusion of Roma.
3. Participation of Roma.
4. Level of institutional incorporation of the practice.
5. Connection to Decade priority and cross-cutting areas.
6. Geographic coverage.

Scores: 0-5; max: 30





# Assessment results

- Average score 16 (of max. 30)
- Participation of Roma average 3.5 (of max. 5)
- Geographical coverage average 2.9
- Demonstrated reduction of gap average 2.6
- Scope – priority and cross-cutting average 2.4
- Institutional incorporation average 2.3
- Involvement of government average 2.1



# Assessment conclusions

- Projects good enough to produce some results but insufficient to achieve the goal
- Roma participation well promoted, although room for improvement exists
- Expansion of projects promoted to certain level
- Methods for inclusion developed to certain extent to tackle exclusion comprehensively
- Governments making insufficient efforts to include Roma
- High level political commitment not translated into law or practice



# Evaluation

- To understand factors that move forward or impede efforts for Roma inclusion
- 42 projects selected for deeper evaluation
  - High, middle and low scores
  - Different priority areas
  - Different approaches
- 5 interviews per project
- 1) relevance; 2) efficiency; 3) effectiveness in producing the planned results; 4) impact on the inclusion of Roma in the respective area; 5) sustainability; 6) other influencing factors





# Report

- Result of analysis of 42 evaluations
- 5 chapters: general recommendation, description of findings, illustrative project examples



# Beneficiaries of Roma Inclusion projects

- Outreach to Roma.
- **Creation of inclusive criteria for selection of beneficiaries, making efforts to reach those most marginalized and excluded and attempting to ensure provision of the benefit to all in need over time.**
- Incentives for participation are sometimes necessary.
- Roma inclusion projects open to non-Roma when appropriate, keeping in mind tensions that may arise.
- Cultural and gender sensitivity.



A project in Bulgaria offering loans for outstanding debts for electricity is targeting only those formally employed; excluding most potential beneficiaries who do not meet this criterion, even though some have sufficient income to repay the loan.

A project for employability in Montenegro offering vocational courses is accessible only for those with completed primary education. This excludes the majority of potential Roma beneficiaries from participation.

# Thorough and meaningful involvement of Roma

- Participation of Roma from the beginning to the end of the project cycle.
- Open and thorough discussion of the issues with participation of all the relevant stakeholders, including potential beneficiaries.
- Transparent and accountable decision-making, with the participation of Roma.
- Involving Roma in the implementation stage as some type of mediators between the Roma community and the public authorities or the general public.
- Avoid creating new forms of marginalization and exclusion.
- Roma inclusion projects may promote beneficial dialogue within the Roma community on controversial issues.
- Mainstreaming empowerment of Roma and community development.





*“[Without full participation of Roma], the County School Inspectorates, for example, will never be motivated or able to report on cases of school segregation, school drop-out or the real causes for absenteeism or lack of access to education. Furthermore, they will not be able to identify and provide the social conditions needed for assuring school participation.”* – Statement from an evaluation of a project in Romania by which participation of Roma was provided, but ended immediately after the project.

# Designing Roma inclusion projects

- Profound knowledge gained through open discussion with potential beneficiaries, long-term presence in the community, statistical and other available data, deployed in project design.
- Iterative project design that encompasses piloting.
- Attention paid to long-term complex problems and needs.
- Focus on prevention and early intervention.
- Flexibility to allow crisis and emergency response when needed.
- Commonly recognized and acceptable values and principles (such as human rights) taken into account in project design.
- Integrated approach dealing comprehensively with complex individual situations.
- Addressing diverse beneficiaries in project design.
- **Addressing discrimination against Roma.**



Within this evaluation there are two projects that have actually started with doubts towards Roma based on prejudices (one that Roma would not return loans, and the other one that Roma children, particularly girls, would not be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities). Both the projects had the positive factor of involving Roma in the management who pursued the aims and insisted on implementing the projects. The success of the projects thus didn't just bring change to the lives of Roma, but also managed to change certain false beliefs towards them, at least among those non-Roma related to the projects.



# Implementing Roma inclusion projects

- Flexibility and change management are incorporated.
- Long-term duration.
- Institutional incorporation through creation of structures, mainstreaming in public policies and budgets, or other forms of institutionalization.
- **Establishing wide coalitions and bringing on broad expertise.**
- Managing various expectations by different stakeholders.
- Employing committed people in project implementation.
- Monitoring and evaluation involving public authorities relevant for data collection.





Within a project in Bosnia and Herzegovina a Mobile Project Team (MIT) has been established involving social workers, teachers, and representatives of ministries, NGO activists, Roma mediators or community leaders. MIT acts within the community and it is assessed as an added value to the project. Another project from Bosnia and Herzegovina found the involvement of the local authorities crucial to the success because of their contribution of land, monitoring, funding, etc.

# External factors

- Proper legislation and its implementation.

*“Health mediators initially planned as public servants, for 30 years now are involved only through annual grant agreement, because authorities are not able to include ethnic criteria in the open call for public servants.”* – Statement from evaluation of a health project in Spain.



# Management of resources and funding

- **Budget both inclusion activities and basic needs of beneficiaries necessary to ensure participation.**
- Budgeting for unexpected costs, including the need to provide incentives for potential beneficiaries to participate.
- Budgeting/sufficient funding/fundraising for scaling up successful projects, where demand increases rapidly.
- Assess and address at design phase donor requirements that might represent a risk.
- Avoid overly ambitious planning, particularly in terms of number of beneficiaries.
- Diversification of funding, not only in terms of number, but also quality and type.
- Institutionalize successful practices, including by Identifying government funding.



*“Cold. That’s normal. Medicine. They can come and knock on my door, even at night, whenever somebody has a fever. If medicine is needed at night I give it to them. Or clothes...winter time. When there are no shoes, of course, parents do not let children go to school. The closest school is twenty minutes’ walk. In winter time it is not easy, especially in a holey shoe or without a jacket. This is a crisis situation, we manage it. We give them clothes so the next day they can go to school.” –*

Statement by an implementer of a practice evaluated in Hungary



# Next steps

- Distribution of the report
- Possible translation of the report
- Updating the database
- Discussion of findings with Decade partners





Thank you for your attention!