

STUDY ON ROMA INCLUSION UNDER THE EEA AND NORWAY GRANTS

Part II. Background Materials: Country Background Papers and Maps of Projects and programmes

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Introduction

The Background Papers are the second part of developed materials as a part of the Study on Roma inclusion under the EEA and Norway Grants, which served as a background for the development of the main Study Report.

The purpose of the Study Roma on inclusion under the EEA and Norway Grants was to provide a complete overview of all supported projects, sub-projects and programmes in the field of Roma inclusion under the EEA and Norway Grants in five of the countries with the largest Roma population: Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and the Slovak Republic.

The study had two interrelated tasks:

1. To identify results and achievements of the funding provided under the EEA and Norway Grants (2004–2009) and analyse their relevance and sustainability;
2. To review the programs with a focus on Roma that are planned and starting under the EEA and Norway grants (2009–2014) and analyse their potential in terms of outcomes and relevance.

The Background papers include five Country Background reports with summary findings, conclusions and recommendations in the priority areas of the Study, as well as two annexes outlining the mapping of projects in 2004-2009 and planned programmes for 2009. It provides for more detailed reference on the local contexts, the findings in the different countries, as well as on project/programme levels.

Abbreviations

CEICSEM Minorities	Centre for Educational Integration of Children and Students from the Ethnic
CFP	Call for Proposals
DV	Domestic Violence
ECHR	European Court of Human Rights
GBV	Gender-based Violence
HSPBVEM	Health Strategy for Persons belonging to Vulnerable Ethnic Minorities, 2006;
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NCCEII	National Council for Cooperation on Ethnic and Integration Issues
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
NFP	National Focal Point
NRIS	National Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria for Roma Integration, 2012
OP	Operational Programme
OPHRD	Operational Programme Human Resources Development
PDP	Pre-defined Project
PO	Programme operator
SEICSEM	Strategy for Educational Integration of Children and Students from the Ethnic Minorities, 2004 and 2010;
SGS	Small Grants Scheme

I. BULGARIA

1. Roma in Bulgaria: Contextual opportunities and challenges

1.1. Situation analysis

According to the 2011 census the size of the Roma community in Bulgaria is 325,343 (4.9 % of the population). The Council of Europe estimates are 700,000–800,000¹. The biggest concentration of Roma is in North West, South Central and South East Bulgaria, and in only two of the 28 districts their number is considerably smaller than elsewhere – Smolyan and Kardjali. The **key areas of Roma exclusion** are:

- **Access to education.** The educational status of Roma is dramatically lower compared not only to the ethnic Bulgarians but also to the Bulgarian Turks (the second biggest minority); making Roma the least qualified labour force in the country. Leaving school early remains a major problem although some decrease in the dropout rates is achieved. According to data from the Regional Education Inspectorates (there is no official data about the ethnicity of school dropouts), in almost all administrative districts the share of Roma children in first grade is around 20 % from all children who are subject to compulsory education. In every next educational level the number of Roma children decreases and their share in high-school education is seven times lower than their number in the primary school, i.e. out of every one hundred Roma first graders only 14 reach to the high-school level (plus not all of them stay until graduation). As to Bulgarian and Turks, according to Ministry of Education and Science (MEYS) data practically every child reaches the high-school educational level.
- **Access to social and health-care services.** The low educational status and the resulting high unemployment are accompanied by serious issues in their access to healthcare and health status. NRIS indicates that “12.6% of the entire Roma population in the country, including children, has some kind of disabilities or suffer from a heavy chronic disease. What is specific for the Roma people is the very early onset of disability and the widespread chronic diseases on a mass scale as early as the middle age. One third of the male Roma population and two fifths of the female population in the age bracket 45-60 have already lost partially or in full their work capacity due to poor health status.”
- **Living conditions/housing.** In 2011 55.4 % of the Roma live in cities. The rate of urbanisation is low, as in 1992 the figure was 52.3 % and in 2001 – 53.8 %. The 2011 census showed that the average housing space of Bulgarians is 23.2 m², while the Roma have 10.6 m². Roma are increasingly concentrated in isolated neighbourhoods both in the cities and in the villages. Those in the cities are typically overpopulated, outside the regulated urban territory and lacking proper (or any) water and sewer systems. Electricity is often acquired illegally or is non-existent. The issues with water, sewerage and electricity exist in most rural areas and determine worse housing conditions for the majority of residing Turks, Bulgarian Moslems and almost half of the Roma population; 40 % of the Roma live in houses without water supply, 60 % of the houses are not connected to the central sewer system and 80 % have no bathrooms inside.
- **Employment.** According to the National Roma Integration Strategy (NRIS) “there are large social inequalities in the group of economically inactive persons (...). Among the Roma population economically inactive are three fifths of the persons above 15 years, and only 4.4% of all those

¹ An EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020, Brussels, 5.4.2011 (http://ec.europa.eu/justice/policies/discrimination/docs/com_2011_173_en.pdf)

above 15 are students". Combined with the data related to Roma education these figures determine a grim tendency of greater share of person's unemployed and dropping out of the labour market in the decades to come. There are also systemic issues with the employment of Roma women – housewives constitute 36.5% of the economically inactive Roma, or 22.4% of all Roma above age 15.

- **Political participation.** At the national level, the Roma political participation is insignificant. From 1990 to now the number of Roma MPs varies from 3 to 1 in each National Assembly, and the last one had no MP from Roma origin. From 2005 to 2009 there were 2 Roma deputy-ministers, and since 2009 there was no Roma deputy-minister or minister. The number of Roma city councillors at the municipal level was higher after the 1999, 2003 and 2007 elections (between 100 and 200) and decreased sharply after 2011 elections (between 50 to 100)².
- **Discrimination.** Despite the existence of a Commission against discrimination, the level of discrimination remains very high. The wide-spread anti-Roma public speech is a proxy indicator about this.
- **Poverty.** The poverty rate among the Roma was more than 70% at the end of 2010 compared to 21% in the population as a whole.

Currently, a major survey of the Roma communities and all aspects of their marginalisation are under way, financed by OPHRD that will provide a lot of additional data.

1.2. Policy response

Since 1999 a number of policy documents were adopted that translate EU policy frameworks **at the national level**:

- National Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria for Roma Integration, 2012 (NRIS);
- Framework Program for Equal Integration of Roma in Bulgarian Society, 1999 and 2010 (FPEIRBS);
- Strategy for Educational Integration of Children and Students from the Ethnic Minorities, 2004 and 2010 (SEICSEM);
- Health Strategy for Persons belonging to Vulnerable Ethnic Minorities, 2006, (HSPBVEM);
- National Program for Improving the Living Conditions of Roma (2007):
- Action Plan for the Decade of Roma Inclusion (2006)

All of these strategies are currently in force, with the exception of the Framework Program which was replaced by NRIS. There is a consensus among decision-makers, NGO leaders and experts that the NRIS as the leading policy document is an important step towards Roma inclusion (it is the only Roma inclusion strategy to be adopted by the Parliament). It is professionally drafted and has potential for a systematic approach. **At the regional and local level** strategies and action plans following NRIS were recently adopted by Regional Governors and Municipal Councils.

The major shortcomings of the Roma inclusion strategic framework are:

- **Budgeting.** Inadequate budget allocations for the implementation of the Roma integration policies and strategies has been an issue since 1999 and remains unresolved. The state funding was insignificant and the only serious resources came from the EU funds – PHARE and OP Human

² Roma in Bulgaria. Information guide. OSI Sofia 2008 (Ромите в България. Информационен справочник, институт „Отворено общество“ – София, 2008) and data from following NGO research

Resources Development. Although the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies requires “sufficient funding from national budgets, which will be complemented, where appropriate, by international and EU funding”, the NRIS Action Plan largely fails to meet this key requirement. A total of 71 (out of 120) activities in the Action plan are not budgeted. At the local level, an additional difficulty is the integration of the national Roma integration strategies in the more general strategies and plans for local development. The difficulty comes from the fact that the available funding, mainly from the OPs, is distributed on a highly competitive basis in defined priority areas and this (a) seriously limits the chances of the smallest and remote municipalities that traditionally lack access to experienced consultants and funds for their own co-financing; and (b) makes it almost impossible to implement integrated measures in multiple areas of local importance. An important step towards ensuring proper budgeting of the Roma integration strategies was the Interagency Working Group for Resource Support of Roma Integration with Resources from EU Funds (included in the NRIS Action Plan), under the guidance of the Minister of EU Funds. The Group elaborated a detailed action plan and submitted it to the Council of Ministers in early 2013. Shortly after the submission the Government resigned.

- **Monitoring.** NRIS plans for “administrative monitoring” of the progress of implementation to be carried out by National Council for Cooperation on Ethnic and Integration Issues (NCCEII), established in 2005. The nature of this monitoring is *de facto* reporting. Additional mechanisms such as shadow reporting, community monitoring, etc. were suggested by NGOs and experts but were not included in the final draft. The strategy also lacks indicators to measure its achievement. The indicators within the NRIS Action Plan are output indicators designed to measure only the products from the activities and not the results (outcomes and impact). They are quantitative, linked only to specific activities and not systematized to measure the advance at a priority level or overall advancement in implementing the Plan. More thorough assessments are expected to be carried out by the relevant line ministries and within the OPs, e.g. OPHRD.
- **Coordination and implementation.** The responsibility for the NRIS implementation is ultimately with the respective line ministries. NCCEII’s role is of coordination of their activities. Currently no ministry has an administrative unit dealing with Roma Integration³, and it is typically within the other responsibilities of single experts⁴. Although NRIS addresses this deficit by calling for building and maintaining the necessary administrative capacity in the key responsible institutions, it envisages a variety of administrative infrastructures, i.e. “assigning specific functions to directorates, branches, units or experts or forming specialized units”. This practically summarizes all possible cases and does not plan minimum standards. For the regional administrations a requirement is added that at least one employee shall be appointed with the basic duties to work on the integration policy. As a response to these and other issues on 8 April 2013 the representatives of 13 Roma NGOs left the meeting of NCCEII, demanding for serious restructuring of the Council towards a real management and control role in the implementation of the strategy. A week later, 24 Roma NGOs submitted concrete suggestions for the restructuring of NCCEII and its Secretariat, including establishment of new management, coordination and control structures, to the Prime-minister and the Chairperson of the Council⁵.

1.3. The civil society response

In the last two decades, mainly with the support of international and EU donor programmes, the NGOs and especially those focused on Roma, tested and applied with different levels of success a number of

³ Such units at lower administrative level (departments) existed in MEYS and MLSP. They were closed respectively in March 2009 and April 2011

⁴ This is the case of MEYS, Ministry of Culture, MLSP, MRDPW and MH

⁵ <http://www.amalipe.com/index.php?nav=news&id=1560&lang=2>

approaches and models for Roma integration. The following contributions are largely appreciated by decision-makers, NGO leaders, experts and the Roma communities:

- **Education:** a number of desegregation projects, introducing intercultural education and „Roma folklore“ subjects in schools, introducing a model for decreasing the dropout rate of Roma children;
- **Healthcare:** Roma health mediators, Health and Social Centres in Roma communities, and a Roma Health Scholarship Program;
- **community development and civic participation:** Community Development Centres and community based initiatives that have applied integrated approach to development
- **Advocacy:** Roma and human rights NGOs have been at the basis of adopting antidiscrimination legislation, Exemplary successes of NGOs' advocacy efforts are the incorporation of Roma integration in OPHRD (2006-2007), involving Roma representatives in the OPHRD Monitoring Committee and seven Roma targeted calls within the programme (2007-2012), and the adoption of NRIS by the Parliament in 2012.

With the accession of Bulgaria into the EU and the withdrawal of the traditional international donors, the number of active NGOs has been gradually decreasing since 2007. This process became more intense in the last couple of years due to the economic crisis and the decrease of donor programmes aimed at the local level.

There is no official data on the number of active NGOs and the most quoted reference, apart from the Central Registry of Public Benefit NGOs at the Ministry of Justice (which excludes NGOs in private benefit and include sports clubs), is the Bulgarian NGOs Information Portal⁶. The Portal lists 159 NGOs that work on “ethnic issues”, 35 of each have indicated activities in the last 2 years. Even if we double the number, supposing that the Portal attracts half of the active NGOs, we will have not more than 70 active Roma organisations.

There are a number of very good local Roma NGOs that have demonstrated the potential of good community based action. However, a number of them are facing challenges in regard to sustainability. Organizations lack capacity in accessing the structural funds. While one of the issues is raising funds, there is an increasing political vulnerability of civil society. Some organizations do not get financing because they have been a critical voice to government. Especially politicised is the process around elections, where there is increasing political pressure around ensuring the vote in Roma communities. Keeping independent community based voices of Roma civil society will be an important priority in the long-term.

1.4. Donors response

The EU funds channelled mainly through the Operational Programmes (OP) are the predominant funding source in Bulgaria. Roma inclusion is addressed almost exclusively by OP Human Resources Development (OPHRD). The Programme's chapter Areas of Assistance with Regard to the Roma Community lists 7 areas of assistance, mainly in the field of education and partly in employment. In 2011 OP Regional Development launched, jointly with OPHRD) a pilot integrated housing scheme Modern Social Housing for Marginalised Groups and in 2012 the projects of 4 municipalities were funded. The scheme required that the housing measures are combined with such in the areas of education, employment, health, etc. The Rural Development Programme does not target explicitly Roma and this is considered as a major deficit by Roma NGOs, activists and experts.

The World Bank extended a loan of € 40 million for the Bulgaria Social Inclusion Project. The project was launched in July 2010 and was aimed at increasing school readiness of children below the age of 7, targeting low-income and marginalized families, including Roma families. It funds municipal

⁶ www.ngobg.info

authorities for infrastructure renovation and integrated social services. 68 municipalities have received financial support so far. The follow-up (second phase) of the project is expected to be funded from OPHRD.

The Bulgarian-Swiss Cooperation Programme has two Roma related Thematic Funds:

- **Programme for the Promotion of Social Inclusion of Roma and Other Vulnerable Groups** (January 2013 – May 2019, CHF 6,920,000). The objective is to support Bulgaria in promoting social inclusion of the Roma and other vulnerable groups as well as in the implementation of NRIS. Two priority lines: (a) Improvement of the integration of Roma and other vulnerable groups in the health and educational system and (b) Empowerment and awareness. The programme will focus on regions with concentration of Roma and Roma issues.
- **Home Care Services Activity** (December 2011 – December 2016, CHF 1,980,000). The objective is to introduce home care services for older people, people with chronic diseases and people with disabilities, taking into consideration the special needs of those from the Roma community and from other vulnerable groups. The geographical focus is the region of Vratsa.

The Trust for Social Achievement is a new foundation, which was recently established by America for Bulgaria Foundation. It works in the area of education (early childhood development, reducing school drop outs, educational achievement and increase of graduation of high school) and in the area of access to income opportunities specifically job connection, entrepreneurship, and home ownership.

Some of the programmes of OSF Budapest are also supporting Roma NGOs in the country, but their funds are very limited as compared to the needs of civil society.

2. EEA/N Grants (2007-2009)⁷ in Support to Roma Inclusion Processes: Results, Relevance and Sustainability

2.1. General overview

In the 2007-2009 the total net allocations from EEA/N Grants were € 37.1million⁸ in the following 10 Priority Sectors. In this period Roma inclusion was not a priority and the Roma minority was not a specific target group to be addressed. The mapping of the Roma related projects done by the FMO prior this assessment came up with one project targeting the Roma minority – Renovation of “Zvanche” orphanage⁹ in the village of Georgi Damyanovo (€ 308,852). Over 80 % of the children (48 at the time of application), are of Roma origin. The project included renovation of the building of the orphanage, equipment and furnishing, purchase of a bus, capacity building of staff and installation of a document management system. The project was supported under the focus area “Supporting children at risk” of the priority sector “Health and childcare”.

Other projects within the Health and Childcare priority sector may have Roma benefiting from the provided services, but they are not defined as priority target groups. During the interviews the representatives of the NFP indicated 3 such projects:

- Modernization and Rehabilitation of the Premises of District Dispensary for Psychiatric Disorders with Wards in Rousse (€ 489,548);

⁷ Bulgaria became eligible in 2007 after joining the EU

⁸ http://eeagrants.org/content/download/2142/10112/version/2/file/4426_1.pdf

⁹ Residential type of social institutions for children care

- Together for Children at Risk – a Model for Prevention and Reintegration in Kyustendil Municipality (€ 297,885);
- Development of Creativity, Constructive Skills and Social Competency of Children under School Age by Means of Reconstruction and Modernization of the Open Areas of 12 Kindergartens on the Territory of Plovdiv (€ 564,596)

The one that has more direct relevance to Roma inclusion is the project in Kyustendil which ended up with the Municipal Strategy for Social Services for Children and Families (2010–2013) that a year later evolved into the Municipal Strategy for Development of Social Services (2010–2013). Both documents address the needs of the Roma population.

The Consultant’s research of the NGO Fund revealed 7 projects (6 in priority area 2 “Provision and development of social services, such as health and childcare” and 1 in priority area 3 “Civil Society Development and Protection of Human Rights”) that include Roma in their target groups. The projects were identified on the basis of the Project promoters’ own definition of whether the target groups involve minorities. As all social services are addressing specific issues of people regardless their ethnic origin, it is quite possible that other projects have also worked with Roma. Random phone interviews with 3 organizations not originally targeting Roma revealed that 2 of them (Global initiative in Psychiatry within the project Help for Self-Help for Vulnerable People, and Alternatives 55 within Comprehensive Care Program for Children with Autism and Their Parents) had isolated cases of supported clients from the Roma community, while the demand for the services delivered by NAIA Association (Integrated Support for Children Victims of Domestic Violence) on behalf of Roma was high and a special mobile service was introduced to service this target group.

In figures, the support for Roma inclusion within the 2004-2009 EEA/N Grants is:

- **Within the NGO Fund**

11% of the allocated funds (€ 206,980 out of € 1,857,003)

11% of the funded projects (7 out of 61)

Even if research of all projects within the NGO fund is made in relation to their contribution to Roma inclusion, the results will be insignificant considering the fact that the projects are neither specifically aiming at Roma inclusion nor specifically targeting Roma but including them in their target groups.

- **Within the Health and Childcare priority sector**

13% of the allocated funds (€ 606,340,852 out of € 4,579,135);

15% of the funded projects (2 out of 13).

Both in terms of funding and number of projects related (indirectly) to Roma inclusion, the total percentage is between 2 and 3 %. This comes to confirm the findings of a number of researches, including the interviews in the process of the current assessment, that despite the existing strategies and recurring debates, Roma inclusion is still not considered a priority in measures aiming at advancing social and economic development.

2.2. Relevance

All projects supported by the NGO fund are relevant to the issue of Roma inclusion, as they provide community based social services that address issues of the Roma communities. The services were provided in predominantly smaller communities, traditionally lacking know-how and effective practices of addressing the needs of vulnerable groups. The projects are among a large number of NGO initiatives for providing community based social services finance either by the State or donor programs, both local and international (e.g. Oak Foundation, Tulip Foundation, Workshop for Civic Initiatives Foundation, Maria’s World Foundation, etc.)

As to the Georgi Damyanovo orphanage, the project provided needed support for improving the living conditions of and for the care for the children in one of over 130 institutions (in 2008) for residential childcare in Bulgaria. The children benefiting most from this are those with Roma origin for the simple reason that they constitute over 50% of all children. In terms of relevance to Roma inclusion the project is not contributing directly to the process, moreover the deinstitutionalization processes in childcare that started in Bulgaria in 2009 plan for closing the institutions by 2025, and developing alternative community based services.

2.3. Results

The impact of the projects upon Roma inclusion in Bulgaria is inconsiderable. In the wider framework of social inclusion and at the local level all projects achieved significant successes, mainly in:

- Establishing social services where such were missing and introducing new models;
- Raising the capacities of professionals in the social area at all levels to work in interdisciplinary teams and handle cases more effectively;
- Educating professionals in other areas, esp. teachers, to work more effectively with vulnerable children and their families.

In terms of numbers, the direct Roma beneficiaries of the services are over 250 children and over 120 parents and families.

2.4. Sustainability

At the level of organisational sustainability the studied NGOs continue to work in their subject areas and, although anxiety about future funding exists, are not immediately threatened by having to cease operation. They are well rooted in their target communities and respected by local stakeholders. At the level of sustainability of results, the NGOs main prerequisites are two: (a) the NGOs continue to provide services to vulnerable groups and (b) the local institutions in the social sphere are much more open to cooperate with them in providing community-based assistance. As to the Georgi Damyanovo orphanage, the inevitable closure of the institution will not make the EEA/N investment in vain, as practice shows that the buildings are usually transformed to serve other social programmes.

2.5. Conclusions and Lessons from 2004-2009

The review of the implemented projects and the interviews with representatives of the supported NGOs offered a number of insights for increased effectiveness when targeting specifically Roma:

- Targeted promotion of the services for Roma is needed, as they are often unaware of the possibilities for support and rarely ask for assistance on their own;
- The access to the Roma communities is becoming difficult due to increasing poverty, illiteracy and mistrust. In order to enter the community and build relations of confidence and trust, mediators are needed – specially trained or just community leaders;
- In social services targeting the Roma population, the confidence should be built not only among the immediate clients but within the whole community to ensure a proper supporting environment;
- Increased work with the mainstream population is needed to ensure that the positive effects of the services upon Roma clients will be supported by their non-Roma environment. Adequate public campaigns for ethnic and cultural tolerance are needed regardless of the size of the communities;
- When working with non-Roma children and their families in interventions aiming at reducing ethnic-based violence and promoting tolerance, a special focus should be put on those having direct contacts with the Roma;

- Although trainings of teachers for working with Roma children are effective, more direct out-of-school contacts should be encouraged, e.g. teachers periodically visiting the homes of the children and talking with their parents;
- Funding for projects in the social sphere that specifically target Roma will be adequate for solving issues that are specific for the Roma minority. In all other cases the services should be offered regardless of ethnicity, with increased focus on pro-actively attracting the Roma beneficiaries and community work.

3. EEA/N Grants (2009-2014) in Support to Roma Inclusion Processes: Potential and Challenges

3.1. General overview

The EEA/N support for Bulgaria in 2009-2014 is € 117,105,000. If the allocations for Technical assistance to the beneficiary country, the Fund for Bilateral Relations and the Reserve for 2004-2009 projects are excluded, the EEA/N Grants will support 15 programme areas with a total of € 112,020,245. The MoUs (signed on 17 June 2011) require that 10 % of the allocated funds across all programme areas “go towards improving the situation of the Roma population”. The reference for Roma focus comes from three sources:

1. Memoranda of Understanding, Annexes B, Areas that should specifically address Roma.		
Programme Area	Allocation	Status during the assessment¹⁰
BG05 Funds for Non-Governmental Organisations	11,790,000	Approved, 1 st CFP announced
BG06 Children and Youth at risk	7,860,000	Approved, 1 st CFP announced
BG07 Public Health Initiatives	13,415,000	FMO Appraisal
BG 12 Domestic and Gender-Based Violence	4,000,000	FMO Appraisal
BG 14 Judicial Capacity Building and Cooperation	3,000,000	Approved

2. Programmes negotiation process, Roma focus required from 2 additional programmes.		
Programme Area	Allocation	Status during the assessment
BG09 Scholarships	1,500,000	Approved with condition for 10 % Roma related allocation
BG13 Schengen Cooperation (...)	6,000,000	Approval
<p>Comments: The response of the MEYS, PO of <i>Scholarships</i> was negative for two reasons: (a) the programme area was not originally included in the MoUs and (b) the requirement was inappropriate for the programme design. Reportedly, instead of the required plan for the use of the 10% allocation to Roma, MEYS has communicated to FMO its concerns and is awaiting their response. As to the Ministry of Interior, PO of <i>Schengen Cooperation (...)</i>, they revised the programme concept to define a PDP, developed together with CoE, for Police officers’ training in legitimate use of force, human rights protection and (further) development of skills necessary for working in a multi-ethnic environment.</p>		

¹⁰ As of 29 April 2013

3. Working Paper on the 10% Target (...)¹¹, 3 more areas identified, BG09 Scholarships excluded		
Programme Area	Allocation	Status during the assessment
BG04 Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy (potential impact)	13,260,000	Approved
BG 08 Cultural Heritage and Contemporary Arts	14,000,000	FMO Appraisal
BG 15 Correctional Services, including Non-custodial Sanctions	7,000,000	Approved
Comments: The Working Paper provides rough budgets that will be used for measures targeting the Roma population and briefly comments on challenges and opportunities to meeting the 10 % target.		

Thus at the time of the assessment the total number of Roma relevant programmes was 9 (not counting Scholarships). The 5 programmes identified in the MoUs were assessed in detail, including analysis of the programme proposals and interviews. The rest were studied by means of interviews and/or review of the Working paper.

3.2. Relevance

The relevance of the 2009-2014 Programmes (as relevance to Roma integration in general) can be considered in the following aspects, not excluding each other:

- Relevance to the needs of the target groups and final beneficiaries;
- Relevance to existing strategies, policies and action plans;
- Relevance to specific goals or outcomes set by the donor.

To assess the relevance of the planned programmes and to clarify the basis of the expected impact of EEA/N Grants upon Roma integration, we studied the formal requirements of the FMO and the response of the Bulgarian institutions. The 10 % requirement is justified by the donor and states as a specific concern for *improvement of the situation for the Roma population*. Further, when specifically addressing the 5 Roma related Programme Areas, the definitions are: *targeted towards Roma or activities relevant for Roma such as advocacy, anti-discrimination and history teaching* (NGO Fund), *specific needs of Roma children* (Children and Youth at Risk), *specific health challenges for the Roma* (Public Health), *specific needs of vulnerable groups such as Roma* (Domestic and Gender-Based Violence and Judicial Capacity Building and Cooperation). Nowhere in the documents or the written communication accessible for the purposes of the evaluation is a definition of Roma Inclusion, or specific expectations in terms of results on behalf of the donor countries, or more specific concerns within the widely defined Programme Areas. The lack of specificity demonstrates that the donor states rely on the understanding of Bulgaria about Roma integration, accept the national strategies as relevant to the issue and trust the public authorities to adhere to the measures identified there.

This attitude is appropriate for the Bulgarian administration, as it leaves much space for flexibility. In none of the interviews with the NFP or PO staff were tensions or frustration with the requirement for Roma focus expressed. As the approaches in all programmes are non-discriminatory and Roma constitute a large proportion of the vulnerable target groups of the different programmes, the EEA/N Grants are considered as beneficial to the Roma minority *by default*. Rather, the concerns are that it will be difficult, if not impossible, to measure precisely (monitor and evaluate) the effect of the

¹¹ *Working Paper on the 10% Target for Improving the Condition of the Roma Population in Bulgaria*, developed by NFP with the aim to clarify the effect of the EEA/N Grants upon the Roma minority after discussion during the 2nd Annual Meeting on the EEA and Norwegian FM (November 2012, Sofia)

EEA/N funds on Roma inclusion and to report it to the FMO. The key challenge is that being Roma is a matter of self-determination.

As the donor states did not set specific goals or expected measurable outcomes related to Roma integration, we will concentrate on the relevance of the programmes to the needs and to the policies/strategies. The findings can be summarised as follows (details in Annex 2):

BG05 Funds for Non-Governmental Organisations	
Needs	Relevant to both needs of Roma oriented NGOs and their target groups. Focus on advocacy, human rights, antidiscrimination and social services
Policies	All tasks within Rule of Law and Non-Discrimination Priority area of NRIS (Operational objective: Guaranteeing citizen rights, with an emphasis on the rights of women and children, protecting public order, prevention and combating any manifestations of intolerance and hate speech. Links with multiple areas covered by the national Roma integration policy framework.
Comments	May not reach emerging or inexperienced grass-root NGOs.
BG06 Children and Youth at Risk	
Needs	Relevant to the needs of Roma children and students. Focus on informal education and inclusion of young people, increased access to kindergartens, capacity building of staff and youth professionals dealing with Roma.
Policies	All tasks within the Education priority area of NRIS and half of the 10 Specific strategic objectives for children and students from the Roma minority in SEICSEM, i.e. objectives 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6. Linkages with the National Youth Programme.
Comments	Not clearly defined linkages with existing community based services and practices. Dependency on the quality of the project proposals of the Municipalities.
BG07 Public Health Initiatives	
Needs	Most relevant Programme areas – Reproductive health, Child health protection and Specific health challenges for the Roma
Policies	Healthcare priority area of NRIS and the Health Strategy for Persons belonging to Vulnerable Ethnic Minorities (HSPBVEM)
Comments	The Roma specific measure is indicated as the Scholarship Programme for Medical and Other Healthcare Professions for Roma Students. Roma could be more explicitly indicated in the other measures, as they are quite applicable for their needs.
BG 12 Domestic and Gender-Based Violence	
Needs	Relevant to the needs of increased understanding of Roma specificities on behalf of the Police officers and social workers in their communication with Roma
Policies	NRIS, Rule of Law and Non-Discrimination Priority area
Comments	Focus on Roma is limited to Awareness raising and trainings of Police and Social workers. There is a mentioning of support services for victims of GBV and DV. The programme has a potential of addressing the needs of Roma and especially Roma women in most of its areas.
BG 14 Judicial Capacity Building and Cooperation	
Needs	Two (out of 5) PDPs relevant to the needs of increased access to legal aid, esp. primary legal aid, and increased understanding of Roma specificities on behalf of the GDS staff

	when compulsory bringing Roma to court.
Policies	NRIS, Rule of Law and Non-Discrimination Priority area
Comments	PDP 3, <i>Support towards strengthening of domestic remedies to alleged violations of tile provisions of the ECHR and the capacity for the execution of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, not mentioned as Roma relevant</i> , has in fact the potential of highest impact upon Roma inclusion in the long term, as it can solve a longstanding issue – the inability of Bulgaria to execute the judgments of ECHR and upgrade its legal framework.

In the process of drafting the programme proposals consultations with NGOs were reportedly held for Public Health Initiatives, Domestic and Gender-Based Violence and Judicial Capacity Building and Cooperation. NCCEII has not been approached for comments or contribution in the process.

3.3. Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanisms

The NFP is the Monitoring of EU Funds Directorate at the Council of Ministers. It has the overall responsibility for the implementation of the Norwegian and EEA Financial Mechanisms, including guidance of the work of the Monitoring Committee and regular monitoring of the programmes' progress towards meeting the stated objectives and outcomes. In this work, the input from the POs will be of great significance, as it is the PO's that know the different areas of intervention in detail and they have included their own monitoring schemes. The NFP expressed confidence that it can handle the monitoring tasks, including those related to Roma inclusion. Most of the respondents outside the NFP fear that the NFP will be preoccupied with administrative tasks and its role will be rather technical, related to coordination and processing of the reports from the POs.

The Monitoring Committee for the EEA/N Financial Mechanism is responsible, *i.a.*, for examining the results of the implementation, the achievement of the outputs, outcomes and objectives of the Programmes. The Monitoring committee shall also examine the results of the evaluations which (Chapter 9 of the Regulation) shall be carried out by experts/entities independent from the NFP, CA and the POs. The Monitoring Committee includes a representative of NCCEII' Secretariat. His/her contribution will hardly be sufficient for measuring the impact of EEA/Grants on Roma inclusion, moreover NCEEII's Secretariat, as reported by its representatives, was not consulted in the process of the preparation of the Programme proposals.

All POs have included in their Programme Proposals their own monitoring and evaluation schemes. Out of the 5 Programmes studied in detail, 2 can be considered as having expertise in implementing and monitoring projects targeting minorities, and especially Roma – OSI and MEYS (through CEICSEM), and the rest have access to such expertise through partnering NGOs.

The issue with the evaluation of the impact is in two aspects:

- **Measuring Roma beneficiaries.** All respondents from the Public administration state that they cannot gather data on the ethnicity of the beneficiaries, as it is a matter of self-determination. This can be overcome by (a) partnerships with NGOs, ideally community-based ones, and (b) sociological research, as for research reasons the collection of this data does not contradict national legislation.
- **Indicators.** In most of the reviewed documents Roma relevant indicators are missing or insufficient. Where present, they are quantitative (e.g. “number of Roma persons out of the people completed training”), and often the baselines are set to “0”). There are practically no outcome indicators to measure changes in the situation or the behaviour of the Roma target group, and this will seriously hamper the impact assessment, presumably following the results-based management approach.

3.4. Forward mapping of the results

Expected results	Programmes
1. Better planning and decision making regarding Roma inclusion–involvement of NGOs and citizens is in the planning and decision-making regarding Roma inclusion, advocacy campaigns, etc.	BG05 (NGOF)
2. Increased quality of services targeting Roma, including innovative services, integrated services and establishment of models	BG05 (NGOF), BG07 (PHI), BG06 (CYR)
3. Increased protection of Human rights – <i>e.g.</i> monitoring of violation of human rights, provision of legal aid, improving standards in prisons, antidiscrimination and tolerance campaigns	BG05 (NGOF), BG14 (JCBC), BG15 (CSINCS)
4. Increased access to justice, including alternative sentences	BG14 (JCBC), BG15 (CSINCS)
5. New knowledge on the issues of Roma communities – analyses and research, including Transfer of knowledge between NGOs and Public Authorities and increased capacity of local administrations to address Roma inclusion issues	All programmes
6. Increased capacity of NGOs in the field of Roma inclusion	BG05 (NGOF), BG06 (CYR), BG12 (DGBV), BG08 (Culture)
7. Increased capacities of law enforcement officers to communicate with Roma and adequately address specific Roma issues	BG14 (JCBC), BG13 (Schengen)
8. Increased capacities of other professionals (pedagogues, social workers, physicians, youth workers, Roma mediators) working directly with Roma	BG05 (NGOF), BG06 (CYR), BG07 (PHI), BG14 (JCBC)
9. Increased involvement of Roma youth (<i>e.g.</i> in informal learning initiatives, community and cultural events, services)	BG06 (CYR), BG05 (NGOF), BG08 (Culture)
10. Increased enrolment of Roma kids in kindergartens	BG06 CYR
11. Increased involvement and empowerment of the Roma communities	All programmes
12. Increased involvement of Roma parents	BG06 (CYR), BG07 (PHI)
13. Increased access to healthcare of young (10-19 years) people in the area of sexual and reproductive Health	BG07 (PHI)
14. Increased access of children with specific diseases to new or alternative health services	BG07 (PHI)
15. Increased number of Roma professionals in the healthcare	BG07 (PHI)
16. Improved information services and databases	All programmes
17. Improved quality of prenatal and neonatal care	BG07 (PHI)

The list above is derived from the analysis of the available project proposals, the Working paper and the interviews, and represents the minimum that can be realistically achieved. If the relevant stakeholders reassess the potential of the Programmes for Roma integration impact, a lot more can be achieved. A good example suggested during interviews with NGO stakeholders is the potential of PDP 3 within BG 14 *Judicial Capacity and Cooperation*, which plans for increased capacity of the

Bulgarian Government Agent at ECHR to advise for needed legislative amendments¹² following ECHR judgements. Another example was provided by the PO of BG15 Correctional Services – although not included in the original programme proposal, the PO is considering quite appropriate to include a measure related to after prison-care. Further, the DGBV Programme can effectively support victims of violence who are predominantly Roma. Even BG04 Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy can have an impact beyond the loosely stated (in the Working paper) benefit from improved “living conditions in buildings of social significance” – it can, for example, support long-term unemployed Roma by involving them in reconstruction works.

In terms of financing, based on the data received from the FMO in June 2013, the minimum amount that is expected to be allocated to Roma related measures is € 7,723,000.

We believe that if the suggestions laid out in the Conclusions and Recommendations section (see below) are followed, most, if not all of the Programmes will reveal huge potential for advancing Roma integration in Bulgaria.

3.5. Sustainability prospects

Although the reviewed documentation does not elaborate much on sustainability, the interviews show that all Roma relevant interventions have fair chances for sustainability, provided there is political will, continued commitment to Roma integration and adequate budgetary planning. The summarized sustainability prospects by types of measures are:

Type of measure	Comments
Infrastructure improvement	Wherever infrastructure improvements are considered, they relate to public facilities and their follow-up maintenance will be included in the respective budgets
Services (continued operation)	Dependent on project funding, State budget (direct payments) or delegated budgets. When direct payments or delegated budgets are not possible, project funding can come from municipal budgets, OPs and international donor programmes.
Services (continued access)	Dependent of the continued operation of the services and legal amendments. Amendments for increased access to healthcare and primary legal aid are planned in the respective programme proposals. Whether the next Government(s) will facilitate their adoption is a matter of commitment to Roma inclusion.
Awareness campaigns	The sustainability of the results of awareness campaigns is by default difficult to foresee. The key is in their professional targeting, planning and assessment. Defining initial attitudes and baselines is needed, followed by precise measuring of the change. As the awareness campaigns are planned as SGSs, it will be critical to require these steps from the PPs. Thus even an unsuccessful campaign can provide a lot of insight for next ones.
Trainings	As a rule every serious support for capacity building aims at training a sufficient number of professional so that positive change in their behaviour and the situation of their target group can be expected. Defining “sufficient” is often a challenge,

¹² In relation to Roma rights, an exemplary recent case is the Chamber judgment in the case Yordanova and Others v. Bulgaria (application no. 25446/06)¹² – the judgement requires legal amendments (“a change in law and practice”) which are still not undertaken.

	esp. in view of the traditionally high turnover of civil servants. Wherever possible, ways of introducing the trainings in the curricula of the mainstream educational institutions should be sought (e.g. Universities, Police Academy, etc.)
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As to the sustainability of NGOs, the NGO Fund can be expected to most significantly address it – capacity building is both integrated within the first three lots and specifically addressed by the fourth one. In terms of funding, the NGO sector is fragile. A lot will depend on the next OPs and the access of NGOs to the EU funds. There is currently a massive advocacy campaign for securing this.

4. Conclusions and Recommendations

4.1. Conclusions and Recommendations for the current programme period (2009-2014)

Paradoxically, the difficulties in assessing the relevance and expected impact of the 2009-2014 programmes to Roma inclusion come from the fact that they are all aimed at meeting the needs and priorities indicated in the National strategic documents. Thus the question of the relevance and impact of EEA/N funding is the question of the relevance and impact of these documents themselves and their planned or implemented measures. While it is safe to state that all Programmes are relevant to the needs of the Roma population as properly identified in strategies and to the Priority Areas of these strategies, their overall impact on Roma inclusion remains unclear, or at least difficult to foresee. This is a result from the fragmentation of the National Roma inclusion framework and the lack of integrated approach that takes into account all available means of intervention, the manner in which they interrelate, and the response of the target groups.

The NFP shared their vision for an integrated approach which is based on non-discrimination (addressing all vulnerable groups, including Roma, no specific CFPs for Roma but wide access for Roma related initiatives and organisations, etc.) and the confidence that much more than 10% of the planned measures will reach Roma, as the target groups of 9 out of 15 programmes include by default a large proportion of Roma, and in 6 of them specific measures to reach the Roma community are planned. While this attitude is not inappropriate, it needs further actions on behalf of all stakeholders in order to accomplish immediate results in the field of Roma inclusion and, more importantly, support future planning and interventions:

- Understanding the 10 % allocation for Roma related interventions not as a formal requirement to be reported in number of measures or shares of the total budgets, but as a demonstration of the **genuine concern of the donor states to advance Roma inclusion** and to see it incorporated in every programme as a cross-cutting issue;
- **Reassessing all programmes from the point of view of their true potential for contribution to Roma inclusion.** The formal focusing on 10 % of the funds (or the measures) is both alien to the will of the donor and distorting the picture of the Roma relevant measures – the current study found more potential for Roma inclusion impact in the programme areas than stated in the Programme proposals and the Working paper;
- **Creating a clear concept for the interrelation between the different programme measures** (the easiest approach is to study possible leverages at the local level, where multiple measures are planned). The Working paper, important as it is, is just the first step in this process, as it is simply a list of interventions that are targeted towards Roma or expected to have impact upon Roma;
- **Creating a clear concept of how the interrelated measures “translate” the implementation of the National Roma integration strategies,** in other words do they only solve specific issues of the Roma community or reach beyond this and really advance the Roma integration agenda. This will be really difficult, as the implementation and the upgrading of the National strategic framework have their own coordination issues. However, the existence of EEA/N Grants and the Roma integration concern of the donor states can be used as a starting point in this process, using some of the resources for true strategic planning and action;

- Designing a clear **monitoring and evaluation scheme** especially serving the purposes of assessing the progress in terms of Roma integration. The scheme must have indicators clearly addressing the Roma related outcomes and means of measuring the integrated impact of the measures. Support from the FMO and the Donor Programme Partners can be sought in this respect. If successful, the scheme may be applied to the implementation of the national Roma integration strategy framework;
- Assign responsibilities for the monitoring, advice and control of the process to **specific body**. It may not necessarily be a structure (council, committee, experts, etc.) of the NFP. Depending on the restructuring of NCCEII and its Secretariat, it may be well suited to serve this function.

Not all of the above listed actions can be fully implemented in the 2009–2014 period. It is our strong recommendation that the first step is reassessing of the programmes by means of targeted discussions between the FMO, the NFP and the POs aimed at distilling the true potential of the programmes for impact upon Roma inclusion. To avoid delays, the debates may accompany the programmes implementation process. In the debates representatives of NCCEII may be included.

As a second step we suggest the elaboration and the introduction of solid monitoring and evaluation system, based on relevant indicators. The system will ideally plan for partnerships with NGOs, mediators and community stakeholders, as they can be of great help in assessing the results and gathering community feedback on the effectiveness of the interventions, as they are more flexible in collecting data about the ethnicity of the beneficiaries. If proper monitoring and evaluation is not introduced, the donor states will eventually have to accept whatever Bulgaria reports as contributing to Roma inclusion. It may be a lot and it maybe not – the issue is there will be no firm evidence.

Other specific recommendations that can be addressed in the short term include:

- Wherever possible in calls for proposals on the local and regional level, POs could require applicants to demonstrate how they take into account existing good practices (and avoid replicating bad ones) and how their projects relate to local and regional Roma integration strategies. Special focus should be put upon defining adequate indicators of impact and reporting accordingly. If, further, their narrative reports are made public, this will both make PPs more critical to what they have achieved and will help other stakeholders plan their activities in harmony with the achievements.
- All potential applicants, PPs and Roma integration stakeholders will benefit from knowing in detail who is doing what with EEA/N funding. For example, if the Children at Risk component reaches Sliven, it is worth making the kindergarten staff (which is expected to work with the parents of Roma children) aware of the availability of a primary legal aid bureau and hotline in the city. Targeted promotion of concrete planned measures, especially at the local and regional levels, could be introduced. This will also support the integration of efforts.
- Encourage and, if possible, require PPs to work in partnership with NGOs and/or stakeholders in the Roma communities. This will help estimating and reporting the number of Roma beneficiaries (as shared by all public officials, they cannot study the ethnicity of their target groups).
- In order to optimise results of the Capacity building component of BG06 Children and Youth at Risk, introduce special focus on the selection of the most appropriate professionals in the kindergartens, the Roma mediators and the trainers to be trained.
- In relation to the Scholarships component of BG07 Public Health Initiatives, come up with a mechanism (e.g. specific grant contracts) for increasing the chances of the Roma medical professionals to practice in their communities, or at least in Bulgaria.
- Wherever possible, encourage/require recruiting long-term unemployed in infrastructure improvements and other works that do not require specific qualifications.

4.2. Recommendations in the long-term (next programming period)

Two types of approach seem applicable for the 2015-2020 period:

Approach 1. EEA/N Grants support as contributing to the National Roma integration strategic framework

This approach can keep the 10 % (or other figure) allocation for Roma. The purpose of this allocation should not be loosely defined as improvement of the situation for the Roma population but specifically targeted to support the implementation of the Bulgarian Roma Integration strategy(ies). In order to use the allocation Bulgaria should come up with an integrated approach to Roma inclusion covering all relevant areas and justly excluding the inappropriate ones. Clear links with NRIS and sector-specific strategies should be demonstrated, accompanied by clear monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

The Roma inclusion allocation can be either required from a set of Programmes or be defined as a separate programme.

A wide consultative process must be required with representatives of NCCEII and its Secretariat, NGOs, and representatives of the target groups.

A body within the Central administration needs to be identified as responsible for the oversight of the programme(s) implementation as regards Roma inclusion (see above). In order to enhance its capacity and increase possible impact, EEA/N Grants could plan for targeted support for this body. The proper positioning of the EEA/N Grants support among other available funding for Roma inclusion will ideally be within this body's responsibilities.

To help the "translation" of the National strategies at the local level (where the capacities of local stakeholders and community support are critical factors of success), a special project preparation facility could be devised, aimed at helping the most inexperienced yet committed organisations/institutions plan and design better their projects.

Approach 2. EEA/N Grants support as contributing to specific priorities of Roma inclusion.

This approach will require that the FMO disposes of its own Roma integration strategic unit. The unit should study the National Roma integration strategic framework, identify (together with the relevant Bulgarian stakeholders), overarching priorities and devise a targeted programme for addressing them. These priorities can be thematic, *e.g.* education, or territorial, *e.g.* holistic support for municipalities/regions with high concentration of Roma population and social issues.

If thematic priorities are chosen, the EEA/N Grants should plan not only for supporting concrete interventions but also for strengthening the capacity, including structural upgrades, of the relevant Bulgarian counterparts.

If the territorial approach is chosen, the FMO strategic unit may (a) choose target territories with the most outstanding issues related to Roma integration, or (b) require from the PO to do so or to ask for justification on behalf of the applicants. The commitment of the local communities should be guaranteed.

The right choice between the two approaches will depend a lot on the outcomes of the Roma integration impact assessment of the current programming period. If the 2009-2014 programmes realise their (so far hidden) potential, Approach 1 will be the natural and most appropriate continuation of the support. If the current programmes scheme fails to prove its impact to Roma inclusion, Approach 2 may be considered as more appropriate.

II. CZECH REPUBLIC

1. Roma in the Czech Republic: Contextual opportunities and challenges

1.1. Situation analysis – country specific issues and needs related to Roma inclusion

According to the 2011 Census, there are only 5,135 Roma living in the Czech Republic. However, this number is only a small fraction of the estimated actual number of Roma that live in the Czech Republic, which experts assume to be between 200,000 – 300,000 (or 2 – 3 % of the population).

Most of its members live concentrated in the industrial towns of Northern Bohemia and Northern Moravia, which are two of the country's most disadvantaged regions, characterised by high unemployment, ecological problems and a lower educational level. Roma are also found in other industrial cities, such as Brno, Pilsen, Kladno, in some working class districts in the capital city Prague, and in many rural municipalities in peripheral border regions, which are only sparsely populated and offer very limited employment opportunities.

After 1990 the Roma were **among the groups that had the largest difficulties in coping with the economic and social changes**. Their situation turned into one of the most problematic issues during the negotiations for EU accession, as the country was repeatedly accused by representatives of the European Commission and other international institutions of discrimination against this group of citizens on the basis of their ethnicity. According to various sociological surveys, the **Roma are a highly unpopular group** in the Czech Republic and their non-integration is in the public discourse often explained with the minority's different culture and mentality.

The **exclusion of Roma has many** dimensions that do mutually reinforce each other. This is most obvious in case of the relationship between education and employment. According to the results of the 2011 UNDP/WB/EC Regional Survey, only 30 % of interviewed adult Roma have completed secondary education that might be seen as a minimum entry requirement to the contemporary labour market. According to the same survey, **39 % of the interviewed persons of working age described themselves as being unemployed**. Among those in the age between 15 and 24, this value reached a striking number of 61 %.

Yet unemployment is only one of the dimensions of social exclusion. Another highly problematic dimension is housing, where the situation is characterized by an increasing trend towards **spatial segregation**. In the consequence of a multitude of factors, such as the privatization of municipal housing in many municipalities, the indebtedness of many households, or the pursuing of segregation policies by some municipalities, a large number of Roma live today in up to 200 segregated locations that offer in many cases highly problematic living conditions.

1.2. Policy responses: State, municipalities and civil society

In reaction to international pressure and growing public awareness for the problem's urgency, the government began during the late 1990s to prepare the first strategic documents for the integration of Roma into society. The currently valid policy document, issued in 2009, the **Concept for Roma Integration 2010 – 2013**,¹³ is already the second succeeding document of a first concept that had been issued in 2000.

In addition to this, the Czech government issued in 2010 the **Strategy for Combating Social Exclusion 2011 – 2015**, which formulates in greater detail strategies for addressing the situation in

¹³ http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/files/roma_czech_republic_strategy_en.pdf.

socially excluded localities.¹⁴ This strategy is the conceptual outline for the work of the **Agency for Social Inclusion**, a government body within the Government Office, which should co-ordinate inclusion policies among various ministries and support partner municipalities in developing policies for social inclusion. Whereas the Concept for Roma Integration defines inclusion policies in ethnic terms, the Strategy for Combating Social Exclusion is ethnically neutral.

The somewhat confusing relationship between these two key government documents mirrors an important discourse, which has been in the centre of the Czech public debate on Roma inclusion for many years. To what extent should measures be specifically targeted towards the Roma as an ethnic group (as opposed to socially excluded citizens, who happen to be Roma)? To what extent should Roma and their organisations be supported in solving the problems of their communities by themselves? While the co-existence of both documents indicates that the state's official policies combine both approaches, many Roma react critically to the dominance of "ethnically neutral" approaches, which they criticise both for ignoring the impact of racial discrimination and the weakening of Roma identity.

As it would go beyond the scope of this report to discuss the proposed integration measures in each sector,¹⁵ we will limit ourselves to a discussion of major facts. The most important fact is that there is very **limited political support for Roma integration** among the electorate. On the national level, the negative opinion of Roma and the sceptical attitudes towards the prospects of integration policies represents a major obstacle for the introduction of needed systematic changes. On the local level, anti-Roma sentiments are often exploited by populist politicians that build their career by demonstrating to be "tough on the inadaptable citizen" (an often used term that is commonly understood to mean Roma or the "problematic part" of the Roma community).

In addition to this, the Government Office's Section on Human Rights has limited possibilities to push ministries to realize the policies included in the strategic documents, as is demonstrated in the areas of education (stop of preparations for action plan for inclusive education under minister Dobeš 2010-2012) and housing (delay of preparation of concept for social housing). It also lacks instruments to demand from municipalities to pursue integrative policies. Due to these limitations, the proposed policies led to improvements in the area of social work yet are too fragmentary and insufficient to effectively tackle the root causes of the Roma minority's exclusion.

Many of the measures included in the strategic documents discussed have the form of grant schemes, which are established by the Government Office, relevant ministries, or the Managing Authorities of EU structural funds within the ministries in order to support integrative measures by regions, municipalities and non governmental organisations. In addition to this, there are very few grant schemes by private foundations (most notably the Open Society Fund) that cannot be compared with the public resources in terms of size, yet often address themes and support activities that are neglected by the public sphere.

While grant schemes do certainly play an import role in the support of integration processes, it is necessary to also see the **problematic aspects of the very project-driven integration infrastructure**. One of these aspects is willingness. While it might be seen as more effective to support those municipalities that expressed an interest in the integration of the local Roma, it is certainly problematic if Roma in municipalities that are at the opposite end perusing quite openly

¹⁴ <http://www.socialni-zaclenovani.cz/dokumenty/strategie-boje-proti-socialnimu-vyloucenim/strategy-for-combating-social-exclusion-for-the-period-2011-2015/details>.

¹⁵ A detailed discussion of the integration strategies and its implementation by the author of this report will soon be published by OSI Budapest in the form of a shadow report on the implementation of the Czech National Roma Integration Strategy. The author drew from research conducted for this report when formulating this chapter.

segregation policies are not at all reached by the support of the state. Another issue is the **question of capacities**. Especially in rural regions, there is often no civil society organisations / providers of social services that could apply for funding to realize social work or other integration measures and also the municipalities lack in many instances, the knowledge and skills to apply for funding and manage the realization of projects.

There is a relative large number of NGOs dealing with the issue of social inclusion. While there is also a large number of Roma community organisations, Roma inclusion work is dominated by professional (registered) providers of social services that are in a better position to access state funding than other NGOs. While some of the Roma NGOs managed to reach the status of a registered provider of social services, this step is difficult to achieve for many organisations both due to the demands concerning the qualification of staff and the „funding landscape“, which is today dominated by EU structural funds that are very difficult to administer and demand large administrative capacities.

2. EEA/N Grants (2004-2009) in Support to Roma Inclusion Processes: Results, Relevance and Sustainability

2.1. General overview

The Czech Republic received 105 Million EUR under the EEA and Norway grants from 2004-2009. The programme was divided in eight priority areas. **Roma inclusion was not a priority for the EEA and Norway funding and respectively of the Czech programme priorities in the 2004-2009 funding period.**

While it is of course possible that individual Roma may have been among the broader beneficiaries from activities funded with EEA/N resources during this period, the number of projects that were explicitly meant to support Roma inclusion processes is very small. **There were no individual projects that were directly or indirectly focused on issues of Roma and their inclusion.** Though the FMO Mapping of Projects 2004-2009 suggested three individual projects with a potential link to Roma issues, based on the review of the documents, this link is missing or very abstract¹⁶.

Roma-relevant projects were funded only within the NGO fund, where 25 projects were identified by the country researcher as being relevant to Roma¹⁷. This number might not be complete,

¹⁶ Among the three suggested projects, the Roma-relevance was strongest in case of project CZ0014 “18 playgrounds in the Liberec region”, where the location of the playgrounds seems to make it indeed likely that Roma children were among the beneficiaries. In the case of project CZ0015, the suggested relevance was highly abstract (former synagogue as a building that was historically the site of a different minority’s cultural life). In the case of project CZ00172 research on the website of the city of Karvina (pictures of children attending kindergarten) did not confirm the hypothesis of the person in charge of mapping that Roma children would be among users of the kindergarten.

¹⁷ This chapter is based both on the analysis of basic project information that are accessible on a website of the NGO fund and visits of 10 projects by 8 organisations (two of the chosen organisations had two projects from the NGO Fund). For logistical reasons, the decision was made to focus on organisations in three geographical clusters. The chosen regions, Brno, Ostrava and the Ústi Region, are at the same time known for their large Roma populations. This fact contributed to the sample’s relevance, as the purpose of the visits was not only to learn about the projects realized with the support of the EEA/N mechanism, but also to document the former grant beneficiaries’ current situation and their view on Roma-related document trends in the Czech Republic and their home region. With one exception, the interviewed persons already worked during the grant realization for their organization. Even though a considerable time has passed since the first of the NGO fund projects were launched, most of the persons interviewed had been directly in charge of writing the project and co-ordinated later its implementation.

The author of the report was not given access to any internal documents related to the projects in question, such as applications or final reports. In addition to the relative large amount of time since the closing of many of the projects, this seemed to make it reasonable to focus during the interviews / visits more on the „larger picture“.

as the available documentation¹⁸ made it difficult to exactly decide whether a project has had a significant impact on Roma or not. Due to the **absence of information on the ethnic identity of the beneficiaries of most projects**, the identification of “Roma relevant” projects was made under consideration of a number of other indicators, such as the location and the implementing organization’s name, stated mission and usual scope of activities. As Roma tend to be overrepresented among many vulnerable groups, it seems very likely that individual Roma were targeted also in some of the other NGO fund projects not included in the list.

In accordance with the regulations of the NGO Fund, the **budget of the projects** was medium-sized (up to 50,000 € per year) and their **duration** ranged from 12 to 24 months (depending on the rules in each of the three calls). The **total financial volume** of the 25 projects identified has been 1 209 317 € (sum does not include co-financing). This is 12 % of the overall NGO Fund (9,3 million €) and 1.1 % of the total of EEA/N funding in Czech Republic during the 2004-2009 funding period (105 million EUR).

The 25 Roma-relevant projects were funded by the NGO fund in three of its four priority areas. They distribute as follows:

- multicultural communities - 12 projects
- human rights - 10 projects
- youth - 3 projects.

There is a remarkable **variety in regard to working methods and target groups**. In the case of the first priority the vast majority of the projects were realized in the areas of youth, education and social services. In the case of the second priority, some projects offered legal support while others sought to reach the public. Whereas some of the projects were targeting Roma directly (e.g. as visitors of youth clubs or other youth activities, recipients of legal advice or training, provision of support to families in difficult situations), others rather sought to improve the situation of Roma and other minorities indirectly (e.g. media work, improvement of school’s ability to integrate children from different cultural backgrounds).

The projects differed also in regard to the **ways the target group was defined**. Within the projects where the available information did at all allow making any conclusion on this, two projects seem to have targeted only Roma, while 17 projects seemed to have had an ethnically mixed target group. In the case of two or three projects, it seems likely that Roma were only a small minority among the project beneficiaries.

Out of 25 projects, 20 were local or regional projects while 5 were national projects. What kind of regions and municipalities were reached by the local and regional projects? The largest amount of these projects (6) was realized in Northern Bohemia, which is a region known for its large Roma population and the abundance of social problems. The number of Roma-relevant projects is much smaller (2 projects with a local focus) in the case of Northern Moravia, which is also a region with a large Roma minority and a concentration of social and economic problems. On the opposite side, there have been quite a few Roma-targeting projects in a number of regions where the total number of Roma is probably smaller (Southeast (3), Southwest (4)).

In view of the limited overall amount of resources spent, it seems however, less important to ask about the regional distribution than about the **local conditions in the targeted municipalities**. One way of addressing this question is to compare the list of municipalities where projects took place with the list

Even though the lack of written documentation has to be seen as a constraint, the visits allowed to gain a quite good view of the programme and its achievements.

¹⁸ Short project summary on web page <http://www.blokovy-grant.cz/>.

of socially excluded localities, which were identified in a state-wide mapping of socially excluded Roma localities in 2007. 16 of 17 projects with a local focus were realized in municipalities included in this mapping. This can be taken as an indication for a high relevance of the programme's territorial focus. In other words: Most projects were realized in places where the problems are.

Six out of 22 organisations that realized projects were Roma organisations. In the case of the other organisations Roma involvement in the project planning was, at least in the case of the visited projects, (4 projects that were not realized by Roma organisations) often weak. However, it should be remembered that Roma inclusion was not an explicit programme priority and hence most of these projects were not explicitly designed as Roma inclusion projects.

2.2. Selection Procedures

The first **selection procedure was an open tender for the selection of the fund administrator**, which was won by the NROS foundation. All interviewed coordinators of projects supported by the NGO Fund assessed the work of the fund administrator very positively, praised the mechanisms for the grant application, monitoring and accounting as well-prepared and relatively easily comprehensible and the foundations' staff as accessible and supportive. They also put this positive experience in contrast to the experiences made with structural funds (mostly ESF), where procedures were described as being incomparably more complicated and often confusing.

Whereas NROS was directly in charge of the preparation of the technical and financial aspects of the grant realization, it made use of **external experts** to decide the choice of topics to be addressed. The experts were mostly recruited from state expert bodies such as the Government Council for Affairs of the Roma Communities and the academia. NROS delegated also the **selection of projects in the three calls for proposals to external experts**. Even though the fund was centrally administered by NROS, each of the three published calls were effectively divided by regions (NUTS 2 level) in order to ensure that the resources would reach also areas where the civil society is less developed than in Prague.¹⁹ This strategy seems to have been **successful in providing opportunities to regionally based NGOs**, which realized the majority of projects. In a few cases (3), projects were realized by NGOs operating nationally, with local branch offices or local partners. Five of the projects were realized nation-wide and had no local or regional focus.

2.3 Results and Sustainability

Due to the heterogeneity of approaches among the supported projects, it is difficult to draw general conclusions from the observations made during the visit of individual projects. It is especially impossible to provide agglomerated data on the impact of the interventions, as this would mean to mix very different types of participation into one category.²⁰

There are, nevertheless, a number of repeating situations that contributed to the impression of a successful funding programme:

The projects often led to the foundation for **innovation** in the work of the organisations (methodological, introduction of new methods, ideas, training). Grant beneficiaries often stressed that the impact of the projects continues to affect the work of their organisation positively till this day. This seems, in view of the rather limited sizes of the grants, quite remarkable.

¹⁹ There are advantages and disadvantages to this proportional method. While it is clearly positive that this way it was avoided that a large share of the money would be accessed by Prague-based NGOs, which tend to have the best fundraising skills, it has to be noticed that this proportional method pays no attention to the fact that there are regions in which problems accumulate and that might be seen as being in greater need of external assistance than other parts of the country.

²⁰ Due to this risk and because of the lack of access to detailed written documentation, it was decided that it would not lead to meaningful results to produce agglomerated data, such as number of beneficiaries.

Thanks to the availability of state subsidies and EU Structural Funds, most of the organisations were able to **continue either directly with the supported activity, or at least continued to work in this area through other activities**. The relative stability of the visited organisations was reflected in personal stability. Even though the projects of the 1st Call had started already in 2007, in most cases the persons in charge of the projects were still working for the organisations. While this finding is certainly positive, most of the interviewed persons agreed that it has become more and more difficult for the NGOs to continue their work as the state reduced many funding schemes and EU funds seem in some regions difficult to access without political connections. Due to this situation, most of the organisations seem to be highly interested in the launching of the new NGO fund (2009 – 2013 funding period). Even though the available resources in this fund are minor if compared to many EU Structural Funds programmes, some of the interviewed persons declared that they would consider the NGO fund as a funding source of crucial importance for their work.

All visited projects seemed to have met their stated goals. They helped in the local community through various types of useful activities (e.g. offering interesting and stimulating after-school activities for young children, supporting schools in learning to better handle cultural diversity in the classroom, supporting victims of unlawful sterilization to organize themselves) and contributed at the same time to the building of capacities of the NGOs (especially those with less experience). There are, of course, differences between the projects in regard to the quality of the project design. While some were at the beginning of activities that the organisations continue to realize, others were rather one-time projects that were not directly continued in this form.

These three positive aspects speak to a **careful selection strategy**. Even though some of the organisations had limited previous experiences with project management, NROS and the selection committees seemed to have been able to identify organisations that have an interest in, and the potential to be active long-term in their local communities. The surprisingly positive results were certainly also positively influenced by the **support to organisations provided by NROS**.

2.4. Challenges

On the other side, there have also been **two challenges**, which were remembered by some of the former project co-ordinators (and also the NROS representative interviewed):

Exchange rates: Due to the economic crises, the CZK/EUR exchange rate was in 2008 characterized by rather extreme exchange fluctuations. As the grant holders' contracts were in EUR and spending in CZK, this led to massive losses for some of the NGOs. Exchange rate fluctuations do in addition to this, complicate the financial planning of NGOs. As NGOs have due to their non-commercial status, very limited opportunities to generate their own income, large losses could potentially undermine an otherwise healthy NGO and even endanger its existence. As such an unintended effect would completely undermine the very intentions of the EEA/N programme, **it seems highly recommendable to come up with a different solution (e.g. usage of monthly exchange rates, coverage of losses by the donor or insurance)**.

Co-financing: Some of the organisations experienced difficulties in securing the required co-financing (10 %). As it is not allowed to co-finance EEA/N resources with EU funding, it can be complicated for NGOs to come up with a workable strategy for the securing of the co-financing. In some cases, organisations decided in the consequence to spend only parts of the budget, as they were unable to come up with co-financing. While these extreme cases are certainly seldom, the need to acquire co-financing during the project realization complicates the planning of project activities and produces significant stress for the project team. It seems highly doubtful whether the principle of co-financing can in such circumstances contribute to its initial goal, which is to provide incentives for the effective usage of resources.

In the 2009-2013 programming period, NROS proposed to accept also voluntary work as a way to contribute to up to 50 % of the co-financing. As the usage of voluntary work can be planned much better than the success in other grant applications, this seems like a very positive step that could help to make the programme even more successful.

2.5. Relevance

Even though limited in scope, the supported projects addressed various aspects of the Roma minority's non-integration and are therefore clearly relevant to the situation of Roma.

The funding scheme of the NGO fund was developed with the participation of external experts from the Government Office's Section for Human Rights, which is in charge of the development of political conceptions for the integration of Roma. This might have helped to ensure that the supported projects are in accordance with the intentions expressed in these strategic documents.

For many of the interviewed organisations, the administration of an EEA/N-financed project from the NGO Fund was followed by experiences with the successful application for resources from structural funds. All interviewed organisations with experiences in both funding schemes stated that the administration of the EEA/N grant was much less complex than in case of the structural funds, which are in the Czech Republic known for their extremely complicated and constantly changing rules.

While it seems regrettable that the Managing Authorities of the structural funds were not able to come up with similar user-friendly regulations as the implementing agency of the NGO fund, the NGO fund can at least be seen as having had an important role in supporting the building of administrative capacities within regional NGOs. To some extent this role had to do with the historical moment of the years 2007 – 2010, when many NGOs were still lacking experience with the administration of EU funding. Even though the very difficult financial situation of many important NGOs clearly speaks of the importance of the new NGO fund, due to the changed overall situation the question needs nevertheless to be asked in which areas and through what kind of funding schemes Norwegian funding could bring the largest benefits in the future.

3. EEA/N Grants (2009-2014) in Support to Roma Inclusion Processes: Potential and Challenges

3.1. General Overview

Norway decided that the EEA/N programme should in the 2009 - 2014 funding period focus much more on the specific needs of the Roma minority than has been the case in the concluded funding period. However, according to the Czech Ministry of Finance, which is as national focus point responsible for the negotiations between the Czech and Norwegian side, the desire to focus stronger on Roma was formulated at a relatively late moment, when the preparation of individual programmes was already well-progressed. This problematic timing might explain why the Czech side was perceived by one interviewed representative of the Norwegian side as somewhat reluctant to accommodate the requests.

Based on written information provided by the Ministry of Finance and the FMO and interviews with the co-ordinator of the Norwegian funds and those responsible for individual programmes within the Ministry of Finance and the representatives of two implementing bodies, this chapter will provide an overview of how Roma concerns should be addressed in the individual programmes.

In the new period, in the Czech Republic, the overall budget of the EEA/N programme is 131.8 million EUR. The programme structure differs considerably from the one used in the previous period. In the new funding period the funds are distributed across 15 programmes. Most of these programmes will be administered by the Czech Ministry of Finance in co-operation with the relevant ministries. There will be two funds for non-governmental organisations administered by foundations and also so-called pre-defined projects, which are implemented by state institutions.

In the case of some programme areas, it was already agreed in the Memorandum of Understanding (signed in June 2011) that the programme should also address the specific needs “of minority groups including Roma” (programme Area 10 – NGO Programme), “of minority groups” (Area 11 – Children and Youth at Risk) and “of the Roma population” (Area 12 – Reduction of Inequalities and Promotion

of Social Inclusion). In the case of Area 16 and 17 (Culture and Heritage), the Memorandum stated that the programme should also support the “cultural expression of minority groups”.

In the case of programmes that were not included in the Memorandum, the Norwegian desire to put a particular concern on Roma / minority concerns became clear to the National focal point (NFP) when Norway requested additional information about how each of the projects would address the needs of minority groups / Roma. As minority concerns had initially not been reflected in some of the programmes, the NFP began to revise the concept of some of the programmes in order to better reflect the donor countries priorities. This has been especially the case in case of pre-defined project CZ 06 (Schengen Cooperation in the Area of Security), which was initially envisioned to focus entirely on technical aspects of cross-border police co-operation.

Based on the information provided by FMO in June 2013, the Gender Equality and Domestic and Gender-Based Violence program will also have Roma relevant components. The program was not studied but was included for reference in Annex 2. Map of new programs 2009-2014 (below).

However, there continue to be a number of programmes where there seems to have been agreement that it would not be feasible to address minority concerns.²¹ In the case of programme 14 (co-operation in area of correction facilities) the Norwegian side asked for a stronger consideration of minority needs, yet the Czech side saw itself unable to comply with this request without violating the principle of equal treatment of all prisoners. Depending on the type of the programmes, different kinds of methods were agreed to address the needs of Roma.

3.2. Relevance

While the table in the attachment II of this report provides an overview of all relevant programmes and the chosen method of addressing the needs of Roma, the following summary discusses the Roma relevance of each programme and presents some concrete suggestions how the programme (including similar programmes in future funding periods) might be improved:

Table 1: Roma Inclusion in the 2009-14 period

Code	Topic	Assessment of relevance of programme to objective of Roma inclusion + additional comments and suggestions
CZ 03	NGO Fund	The NGO fund is an effective tool to support civil society organisations, including Roma organisations. The institutional arrangement seems likely to support the capacity-building of regional NGOs that are not yet very experienced. It also represents an interesting alternative to the funding mechanisms of structural funds. Suggestions: The creation of funding possibilities for newly formed community groups (very small sizes of budgets, simplified procedures, and support infrastructure) and the creation of long-term funding perspectives for a selected number of pilot projects might be considered in future funding periods.
CZ 04	Children and Youth at Risk	In general, the extremely high share of children in institutional care and the strong overrepresentation of children from Roma families in these institutions, represent very serious human rights problems. Studies have shown that a very

²¹ CZ 01 technical assistance, CZ 02 biodiversity, CZ 07 School co-operation; CZ 08 study on conservation of carbon dioxide; CZ 09 support of research; CZ 13 domestic violence; and rather surprisingly CZ 11 public health, CZ 12 gender equality.

		<p>high share of the children from these institutions will enter into criminal careers in their life. The system's current way of functioning does hence contribute also to the racialization of the penal system. From the perspective of the Roma minority, the support of the system's de-institutionalization and especially the support of families in situations of crises are highly important steps.</p>
CZ 05	<p>Local and Regional Initiatives to Reduce National Inequalities and to Promote Social Inclusion (Campaign against Racism)</p>	<p>Focusing on two regions in the Czech Republic with a high share of Roma and a concentration of social problems and inter-ethnic tensions, the campaign seeks to contribute to a more tolerant environment in selected locations. The decision to prefer deeper involvement in a limited number of locations seems reasonable, as the experience shows that traditional campaigns on this topic (using billboards, TV spots) are not always effective in reaching people and can even have counterproductive effects.</p> <p>Suggestions: The relevance of the programme for Roma communities could be increased by systematically offering direct opportunities for Roma to participate in the campaign.</p> <p>In the case of some programme elements (e.g. educational programmes in schools, development of new teaching methodology), it seems unrealistic to realize the full scope of planned activities with the planned resources. The programme could benefit from incorporating the wide range of programmes and methods that already exists.</p>
CZ 06	<p>Cultural Heritage and Cultural Diversity</p>	<p>In view of the other selection criteria, which stress the applicant's experiences with similar projects (up to 10 points), it will be difficult for non-professional artists from the Roma community to participate in the project.</p> <p>The grant scheme's regulations might on the other side lead to the co-operation between professional cultural institutions and individuals and / or initiatives in Roma communities. Such co-operations might help to overcome the social isolation of segregated communities.</p> <p>Suggestions: The ministry might actively encourage potential applicants to create partnerships with persons and initiatives in socially excluded Roma localities. This strategy could include the highlighting of positive examples of social art projects and the proactive providing of information and contacts both in relation to the Czech art scene and inhabitants of Roma localities.</p>
CZ 14	<p>Schengen co-operation</p>	<p>Socially excluded localities are often perceived as a security risk. Relationships between the police and the inhabitants are in many cases problematic. It is therefore positive to invest into the improvement of police work in these communities. Security-focused activities are however not always perceived positively in minority communities, as increased police presence and surveillance could be perceived as being intrusive or discriminatory. The outcome of the project will hence very much depend on the quality (and, in fact, philosophy) of the planned trainings and other activities.</p> <p>Suggestion: It seems surprising that the exchange of international experiences focuses mainly on Slovakia. While there is a large Roma minority in Slovakia, the country is not known for particularly innovative approaches in the area of police work. It might have been a better idea to learn from the experiences of Norway or other Western European countries and to also address the issue of the police force's ethnic composition. It seems further advisable to encourage a close co-operation with the Agency for Social Inclusion, which will realize similar activities within programme CZ 05.</p>

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4. Conclusions and Recommendations

4.1. Lessons from 2004-2009

(1) In the 2004-2009 period, only a very small share (1,1 %) of the Fund's overall support for the Czech Republic were spent in support of Roma inclusion. All of the Roma-relevant projects identified were realized within the NGO Fund. As the inclusion of Roma is one of the most urgent societal challenges, Norway's decision to request a stronger reflection of the particular needs of Roma in the subsequent funding period seems to have been the right decision.

(2) The visit of selected Roma-relevant projects that were funded by the NGO fund led to a picture of a very successful programme. Even though relatively small in size, and of limited duration, the projects were comprised of useful activities and supported the organisations in enhancing their skills and capacities.

(3) Even though the resources provided by the NGO fund were small in comparison with the ones distributed through EU programmes such as the European Social Fund, the interviewed organisations stressed the importance of the fund. The fund's regulations were described as being less complicated and the fund's management as being more accessible than in the case of the structural funds.

(4) The interviews also discussed the general situation of the NGOs that were supported by the fund. There are two important findings: First, all of the contacted NGOs do still exist and continue to realize activities in the area of Roma inclusion. In many cases these did directly represent continuations of activities supported by the NGO fund. These positive findings in regard to sustainability can be taken as evidence of a careful selection procedure, which managed to identify organisations with strong potential. Second, most of the organisations described their current situation as difficult, as there is less and less funding available. Some of the interview partners complained about the permanent insecurity, which undermines the stability needed for a successful long-term intervention. In view of these findings, the question might be posed whether it wouldn't be better to support projects with a longer duration as has been the case in case of the NGO Fund.

4.2. Conclusions 2009-2014

(1) Unlike in the 2004-2009 period, where Roma-relevant funding was limited to the NGO fund, the planning for the new period includes six programmes that include activities that are of particular relevance to the needs of Roma. As the desire to integrate Roma concerns was expressed in a relatively late stage, when the development of the programmes' was already well-progressed, the Roma inclusion was in some cases integrated in the form of a modification of the initial programme proposal.

(2) The programmes differ in regard to the way Roma concerns have been addressed. Whereas three address target groups among which Roma are overrepresented (children in care institutions, children in schools in Ústí and Moravian-Silesian region, prison population), two have allocated a certain sum for Roma inclusion purposes (NGO fund, Schengen police co-operation) and one introduced criteria, which should give minority-related projects an advantage in an open grant competition for cultural projects.

(3) Most of the Czech ministries were reluctant in creating particular programmes for Roma, which could be seen as being discriminatory against other groups of the population. In most programmes the concept used is „minorities“. As the Czech Republic has an official concept for the inclusion of Roma, which assigns various measures to various ministries, this reluctance to allocate resources specifically for the benefit of the Roma minority seems somewhat surprising. There have also been calls within the European Social Fund that were specifically meant to target inhabitants of socially excluded Roma localities. Possibly, the acceptance to create Roma-specific programmes will be larger if the target group will be defined as “inhabitants of socially excluded Roma localities”.

4.3. Short term recommendations for the implementation of 2009-2014 programs

(1) While some of the planned programmes will certainly be beneficial for Roma, others might potentially bring significant benefits for Roma but could also end as formal exercises, which will hardly affect the reality of socially excluded Roma. As the Roma focus was in the case of some programmes integrated into the programme documents belatedly (in reaction to requests by the FMO), it is uncertain to what extent the persons responsible for the programme realization will have the needed specific knowledge on the specific situation of Roma.

It would therefore, be highly desirable to establish an independent mechanism to oversee how the programme evolves in relation to the goal of Roma inclusion. This could be the task of an independent monitoring committee, which could for example include independent researchers, and representatives of the Government Office's League for Human Rights (as a co-ordinating body for implementation of national Roma inclusion strategy), the Agency for Social Inclusion, the National Focal Point, and the Norwegian Embassy. As an alternative, it might be agreed with the Government Office's League for Human Rights to establish such a committee within the existing structures as a working group of the Government Council for the Concerns of Roma Communities. Disposing a modest budget for travel and tasks related to monitoring and research, the first task of the monitoring committee would be to critically accompany the implementation of the programmes in order to ensure that Roma will directly benefit from it. The second task of the proposed committee would be to come up with suggestions on how the needs of Roma could in future programming periods, be incorporated from the beginning of the programme planning.

(2) In the case of programme CZ 06 it will be important to disseminate information about the grant programme within Roma communities. As the grant criteria put emphasis on the experience and technical capacities of the applicant, this outreach should not only inform local Roma organisations about this opportunity but also encourage established artists / organisations to create partnerships with non-professional Roma artists.

(3) In case of programme CZ 14 a close co-operation with the Agency for Social Inclusion is strongly recommended in order to ensure that the activity is in line with the Agency's approach towards security in socially excluded Roma localities. The programme promoters of programmes CZ 14 (police presidium) and CZ05 (Agency for Social Inclusion) might further consider to co-ordinate their activities in the area of police training in order to avoid duplications.

(4) A system for the monitoring of the impact on Roma should be established, which will allow to come up with estimates on the number of Roma beneficiaries and the character of their involvement.

4.4 Recommendations for next programme periods

(1) The Czech Republic addresses the challenge of Roma exclusion in the Czech Republic predominantly through grant and subsidy schemes for municipalities and non-governmental organisations. While grants do have an important role to play in this, the existing system has a number of flaws, such as the permanent instability of the organisations and staff carrying out the inclusion work and the lack of services in villages and smaller towns where NGOs are absent and municipal capacities limited. In addition to this, there is a lack of funding for small-size activities, which are essential for starting processes of social activation.

How could EEA/N funding be used in this situation to bring the largest possible impact?

One possible strategy would be to focus at least parts of the resources designated for Roma inclusion work to a number of territorially defined areas (e.g. micro regions) with a large Roma population that are at the same time characterized by a weak civil society and limited municipal capacities. Our suggestion would be to come with a long-term commitment to support socially and ethnically

inclusive economic development in the area. To come up with such a model could not only be very beneficial for the regions in question, but also provide an important alternative to the existing financial support structures. While it would be necessary to systematically develop a feasible model for this kind of complex development project, some cornerstones might be seen in the following:

- long-term commitment (7 – 15 years, even if concrete financial promises will be made only for the next planning period)
- project implementation through a foundation to be chosen in tender.
- combination of job training, employment and improvement of living conditions (e.g. through purchase of flats, construction work, creation of non-segregated housing owned by the foundation and rented to persons in need)
- investments in education

In order to avoid creating new ethnic tensions on the local level, the programme should offer benefits to all groups of local inhabitants. At the same time, there should be clear rules in order to ensure that Roma are not discriminated against.

Possibly, the regional programme could be supported with specific measures by other programmes (e.g. heritage reconstruction, environmental programmes) realized in the focus region, using similar principles (benefit to local people, especially long-term unemployed)

(3) One relatively simple way to increase the impact of EEA/N funding for Roma would be to demand that in all programmes that involve construction works that a part of the workforce has to be recruited among long-term unemployed.

(4) We consider it crucial to support a process of empowerment. Wherever possible, Roma should not only be recipients of support (as clients of social service providers, as children attending educational institutions) yet given the opportunity to actively participate in activities that will improve the situation of the Roma. Unfortunately, the current funding structures are not very accessible for less-experienced Roma organisations. We suggest using part of the resources for low-threshold grant schemes that will offer community-based organisations and informal groups a possibility to start their own activities for the benefit of their local community.

III. HUNGARY

1. Contextual opportunities and challenges

1.1. Situation analysis- country specific issues and needs related to Roma inclusion

According to the data of the last census (2011) 315583²² people or 3% of the population of Hungary identified themselves as Roma, which is 1,6 times higher than the number of Roma in the previous census in 2001 (190,046²³ people). This growth of self-identification as Roma is due to the effective campaign „*We belong to here*” supported by Roma Initiatives of the OSF²⁴, According to representative Roma sociological research²⁵ there are around 600 000- 800 000 Roma in Hungary.

Most of the Roma people live in small villages in the counties located in north-eastern Hungary - regions with underdeveloped infrastructure and high unemployment.

Interrelated Key areas of social exclusion:

- **Education:** Only a minimum percentage of the Roma children go to kindergartens. This is due to low income and a shortage of places in the nursery schools, especially in the regions where Roma live.²⁶ The education indicator of the Roma is worse than the national average. If almost 100 % of the Roma youths complete primary school, 2/3 of them continue with vocational training after that, while only 10% goes to secondary school. Only 1% or at most 2 % of the Roma youths enter into higher education.²⁷ Serious concerns are the reduced access to quality education starting from the primary school, the growing school segregation due to the “*white flight*” effect and the low rate of continuation in higher levels of education.
- **Employment:** While in the past 87 % of the Roma men and 65-70% of the women were working²⁸, following the period of transition to democracy there is a drastic increase in unemployment of the Roma. While the national unemployment rate is around 10 %, today 70-80 % of the Roma are unemployed.²⁹ The share of long-term unemployed among Roma is very high. There are families in which already the third generation is unable to find work since 1990. Only a small percent of the Roma are on the open labour market, most of them work in public employment, or in the grey economy.³⁰
- **Living conditions/housing:** Roma people live in extreme poverty and they are overrepresented in the most depressed regions of Hungary. A high percentage of the Roma families live in a segregated environment, in Roma ghetto-like settlements. Flats are small and in very poor condition often with more than one family living under the same roof. Ownership of the properties where Roma live is often unresolved. Infrastructure in the settlements is very poor with missing street lighting or paved roads. A significant problem is the irregular collection of garbage, and in many cases the rubbish dumps are located next to the Roma settlements.³¹
- **Access to social and health care services:** The health condition of Roma is worse than the majority of the population. The rate of the Roma suffering from chronic, cardiovascular and respiratory disease is really high. The life expectancy of the Roma people is 10 years shorter than

²² www.ksh.hu Central Statistical Office, Hungary (09.04.2013)

²³ <http://www.nepszamlalas2001.hu/hun/kotetek/04/tabhun/tab105/load05.html> (09.04.2013)

²⁴ <http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/voices/roma-feel-less-fear-and-more-hope-after-census>

²⁵ István Kemény, et al. 1993-2003, Representative researches on Roma

²⁶ <http://www.delphoi.hu/download-pdf/roma-ovoda.pdf> (2013.04.18.)

²⁷ <http://mek.oszk.hu/08200/08222/08222.pdf> (2013.04.18.)

²⁸ Gábor Kertesi: Roma employment in the Millennium. In: Review of sociology 2/2005, page: 57-85.

²⁹ The employment of Roma according to UNDP data sources (2011) is 23%. While a national research (2010) on the ESF Social Renewal Operational Program shows 20%.

³⁰ <http://www.mtapti.hu/mszt/20052/003.pdf> (2013.04.18.)

³¹ <http://uccuprojekt.files.wordpress.com/2010/04/romak-marketing-centrum.pdf> (2013.04.18.)

the non Roma's. Most of them do not attend the obligatory health screening. Though health service is available for Roma, it is not always accessible. It is difficult for them to reach the healthcare centres and hospitals in more distant locations. There is also a high level of discrimination in the health care system. One example is the fact that pregnant Roma women and non Roma women are put in separate rooms in some county hospitals³²

- **Discrimination, prejudice:** The level of the prejudice against Roma people is permanently high. The discrimination can be observed the most in the labour market and in the education system. Roma and non-Roma do not have many meeting points - they live and study separately, and there is a very limited common space and chance for dialogue. This blocks the social integration of the Roma. At present there is no systematic policy of government for overcoming societal prejudice and discrimination and creating common space for positive interaction and dialogue.
- **Political participation:** Roma minority can elect their representatives in their own living area in the local election according to Roma Minority Self-Government system³³. Members of the Self-Government can be elected at national and local level³⁴. Based on the results of the election in 2010 there are 1248 Roma Self-Governments with 3036 mandates³⁵. The National Roma Self-Government has 53 members.³⁶ While the Roma Minority Self-Government System has a lot of potential for representation of the interests of Roma it faces a lot of challenges. Roma Minority Self-governments are referred to as the point for resolving the issues of Roma and at the same time they miss adequate infrastructure for that - capacities and resources. Their budget depends on the National Government and this support has been reducing over time. The Roma Minority Self-governments can be the subject of politicised influence and pressure and at present are considered as more silent than vocal in expressing the interests of Roma people. Two political parties have 4 Roma representatives in the Parliament: Fidesz: 3 men, LMP: 1 woman.³⁷ Fidesz also has one Roma representative in the European Parliament.

1.2. Policy Response

The previous constitution of Hungary declared that measures can be taken by the state to stop the social inequality, however, those failed on a policy level.³⁸ Though in the past decade the programs for Roma inclusion were ad hoc, short-term and they were not mainstreamed in all aspects of social policy there were some positive developments.

Some of the most important policy measures and frameworks include:

³² Miskolc (center of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén county), Nyíregyháza (center of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county). A large number of the Roma population live here.

³³ Firstly the Act LXXVII of 1993 on the Rights of National and Ethnic Minorities regulated the self-organization of the national minorities. The current government adopted a new Law in 2011-which named all the minorities as nationalities: Act CLXXIX of 2011 on the Rights of Nationalities.

³⁴ There has been a long policy debate that non Roma should not have to vote for Roma deputies. According to the minority self-government system, election measures has been changed, Roma voters had to be registered themselves as Roma, these data showed approx. 140.813 Roma voters registered in 2010

³⁵ Lungo Drom Advocacy Association (LD) 2288 mandates, Hungarian Gypsies National Forum (HGNF) 775 mandates).

³⁶ LD won 37, the HGNF 16 mandates http://www.nek.gov.hu/id-1377-nemzetisegek_onkormanyzati.html

³⁷ Fidesz (current government party) had a previous agreement with LD as an election alliance, so the 3 Roma representatives are members of LD. LMP (Politics Can be Different) is a new party in the Parliament considered the necessity of Roma representation. Their Roma representative is Ágnes Osztolykán, an expert in public policy and public education.

³⁸ Act XX of 1949 -70/A § (3). The Act lapsed. There is a new National Basic Law adopted in 2011. The Basic Law was modified three times from 2011 by the 2/3 mandates of the Fidesz Government.

- The Equal Opportunity Law was adopted in 2003. This, together with the equal opportunity horizontal priority of the EU was the basis of developing **equal opportunity based policy which was crosscutting in all policies in past periods**. The equal opportunity principle was mandatory for Local Governments in order to apply for ESF/ERF funds in Hungary. Local governments had to make an educational action plan to *reduce the segregation level of Roma and disadvantaged children in public education*. This was valid in many other sectors measures too.
- The *Decade for Roma Inclusion* suggested solutions in the areas of housing, education, employment and healthcare. Hungary was the first state managing the Decade among the participating states. Though with no budget on its own the measures suggested by the Decade were mainstreamed in policy. It also promoted the participation of Roma professionals in the establishment of Roma inclusion policy formulation. Programmes activated under the Decade framework did not indicate real changes to Roma inclusion, however, there was a better level of cooperation, mobilizing together civil society and government for improvement of the situation of Roma.
- In the past there were some good examples of policy implementation. Hungary was one of the few countries that had Roma professionals employed at a variety of positions and areas in administration. This assisted in testing some more pro-active approaches in outreach to Roma communities in regard to making EU funds more accessible to the local level and maximizing their effect. One example is the Program assistant network 2004-2009 in the area of Education (NAME??) It provided direct assistance to organizations to apply to the structural funds in the area of education. There were 13 people, mostly Roma experts, working with over 80 Roma NGOs. The network was pro-actively working with Roma organizations in several interrelated steps: assistance to develop their idea; providing a small grant to test it and assisting them in learning from it; and providing follow up assistance to scale up and apply for a big project.

In 2011 two important policy frameworks were developed:

- A *Framework Agreement* was signed by the National Roma Self-government and the Hungarian Government. According to it 100, 000 Roma will enter the labour market by 2015.
- The *National Social Inclusion Strategy* (NSIS) was developed in December 2011 and its primary focus is on people living in poverty, including Roma as well. The document has been analysed by policy experts as a progressive instrument. However, it is too general and does not include guarantee for sustainable development.³⁹ It has four priorities - employment, education, housing and healthcare. The strategy is based on the European Framework Agreement.
- Some other new legislation developed in 2011 like the National Public Education Act is considered by experts to be regressive in regard to Roma inclusion. It has excluded some of the above mentioned progressive measures like the equal opportunity principle and the some of the provisions related to desegregation of schools. Another aspect of the Education Act that will affect the education of Roma youth is the provision for children to finish school by the age of 16⁴⁰. More over the 4th constitutional change will allow school to organized separate classes, which is contradictory with the NSIS.

³⁹ Partners Hungary Foundation forwarded a document to the European Council, to the Ministry of Public Administration and Justice and to the National Roma Self Government about the recommendations and correction of the Hungarian Strategy (together with international and national NGOs). – From the electronic monthly newsletter of Partners Hungary.

⁴⁰ While this was introduced as “optimization” of the school system (cutting off spending), it will affect especially Roma children, both girls and boys, as very few of them will further continue their education in higher levels of studies.

1.3 Civil society response

In the past decade there have been numerous initiatives and achievements of civil society in regard to Roma integration in society. They were supported mostly by outside donors and were in various areas related to access to education, income generation and employment, community development, advocacy and human rights, and the media.

Currently, the situation of Roma NGOs and NGOs working with Roma is very challenging both politically and financially. Only a very small number of organizations get significant and continuous support via applications from the EU. Their success is also due to the ability to cooperate with local governments successfully disregarding their ideological beliefs. There is a new tendency of a growing selective approach of government today in regards to the Roma organisations. Churches are favored by the government as a competitor and substitute of true civil society. In one case they extended a special Roma College network by the involvement of churches (mostly catholic) while not considering the highly achieved work that has been done by Romaversitas Foundation in the field of higher education of Roma youths.

The sustainability of local NGOs is blocked, due to the politicized environment, lack of human resources and infrastructure. The bottom-up Roma organizations are unable to compete with those charitable and social service organizations that are supported by the government and churches. Roma NGOs have enormous challenges to meet with the criteria of call for proposals. The partnership and cooperation with local government often means for the organizations to give up their independence during the implementation of projects. Principally Roma NGOs are safe if they have non Roma personal supporters who are dedicated to Roma inclusion and invest appropriate human capital to the existence of the organizations.

Currently there are no Roma civic „heroes”- new types of leaders in the country who can articulate adequate responses to the challenges built up by the government. The *We belong to here* campaign, led by *Jenő Setét*, a civic rights activist, established itself as a Roma movement and could mobilize Roma for peaceful demonstrations and memorial of the Roma murder series and to represent Roma in public. The movement is not so active any more due to the lack of resources. Except for the Open Society Foundation there is no funding available to support leadership and such movements.

It is critical to invest in new generations of leaders that are able to represent in an honest way Roma issues and articulate the interests of Roma communities. Growing such leadership is important both at the local and the national level.

1.4 Donors response

At present, the EU is the main donor in the area of Roma inclusion. The field of Roma integration mostly included in the *Social Renewal Operational Program* (SROP), the *Regional Operational Program* (ROP) and in the *Program for the Most Disadvantaged Regions*. Roma inclusion is present in the area concerning early childhood development, healthcare, education and employment. Currently Roma inclusion is also part of the 3rd priority (education) to initiate more Tanoda⁴¹ (after school, extracurricular) – and early development activities.

Other than the EU funding provided through the government, there are very few other donors programmes that support initiatives related to Roma inclusion:

- **The Open Society Foundation** (OSF) supports initiatives through its various programs: Health, Youth, Early childhood, Access to justice, and Public education. The OSF **Roma Initiative Office** supports institutional grants to Roma NGOs, in empowerment, Roma youth, internship programmes and overcoming hate speech. While these programmes are very valuable and needed, their grants support is limited as compared to the existing needs of Roma civil society. *Making*

⁴¹ Tanoda is a spread educational practice (extracurricular activity) in Hungary since the middle of the 90's that help Roma and disadvantaged children in school integration.

the Most of EU Funds for Roma Inclusion is another important support program of the OSF. The aim of the program is to assist Roma organizations that can initiate real changes in terms of Roma integration in their settlements to get access to EU and national funds.

- The **Roma Education Fund (REF)** Budapest is aiming to reduce the gap among Roma and non Roma youths in the education system. The organization is offering scholarships for young Roma. In addition, during 2005-2012 REF supported 13 NGOs and Universities in different type of activities with 683,038 euro.⁴²
- **The Swiss Fund** has a scholarship grant available for youths who start the high school and are living in a marginalized environment. The aim of the grant is to keep youth in the school and help them to finish their studies. The grant is providing relevant support as Roma youths are often dropping out from high school. The operators of the Swiss Fund are the same as the EEA/N NGO Fund program operator consortium.

2. EEA/N Grants (2004-2009) in Support to Roma Inclusion Processes: Results, Relevance and Sustainability

2.1. General overview

Hungary received 135,1 Million Euro under the 2004-2009 EEA and Norway grants. Support was provided through individual projects of larger size (varying between 300,000 and 3 million EUR) and grants provided by the NGO Fund which were smaller and in the range of 20,000-80,000 EUR.

In total, 99 individual projects in eight priority sectors were supported, implemented by various project promoters: public institutions, companies, non-profit companies, churches, public foundations, NGOs and local governments. Based on the interview with the NFP, 54 of the individual projects were implemented in Budapest and Central Hungary i.e. 54% of projects focused on the better developed regions in the country.

The NGO fund distributed €6.298.500 in support to 240 grants to civil society in four priority areas: environment protection; civil liberties and capacity building; social cohesion – health and child care; and cultural heritage. Projects were implemented by NGOs and church's organizations.

Roma relevant projects:

Roma inclusion was not an explicit priority of the 2004-2009 Financial Mechanism. However, as compared to the other four countries covered by this study, Hungary had a larger number of supported projects with a more direct focus on Roma - both individual and sub-projects of the NGO Fund.

- **In total eight individual projects and 17 sub-projects under the NGO fund were supported. They were of a total €9,126,532 EUR.** This is 6,7% of all the support provided to Hungary in 2004-2009 that was allocated to Roma related projects.
- **According to the provided data⁴³ eight Roma relevant individual projects have been supported in a total value of €8,507,853.** Two of them were in the area of human resource development and six - in the area of child and healthcare.
- **The NGO Fund supported 17 Roma relevant sub- projects in total value of € 618,679.** They were all in the priority area of social cohesion – health and child care, which was managed by the Autonomia Foundation, as part of the NGO consortium managing the NGO

⁴² http://www.romaeducationfund.hu/sites/default/files/documents/projects_list_dec_2012.pdf

⁴³ Initially the Mapping done by the FMO suggested 11 individual projects that are Roma relevant. After review of the content of projects and based on the interview with the national Focal point the number of individual projects that are related directly to Roma is 8.

Fund. This is 32 % of all the projects supported in this priority area and about 9% of all the grants of the NGO Fund. There may have been some projects related to human rights and democracy which have indirectly targeted Roma too, however, we were not provided with such data.

- The majority of the projects - both individual and sub-projects of the NGO Fund were of local outreach with activities in one or more municipalities. Three of the individual projects and three of the NGO Fund projects were at the national level.
- Geographically, half of the individual projects were more in the capital and Central Hungary and only a few in more disadvantaged regions where Roma are overrepresented. The NGO Fund sub-projects had a more clear focus on the areas where Roma live in the country, including some of the most disadvantaged regions⁴⁴.
- According to the field of the activities 90% of the individual and NGO Fund Roma projects focused on education, social cohesion and child care. The least was the number of initiatives related to housing and employment; only one of the individual projects focused on job training and placement. Employment training was part of the integrated approach applied by the individual project led by the Antipoverty Network.
- The majority of the Roma relevant projects in Hungary involved partnerships. Five out of the 8 individual projects had bilateral relations with Norway and Denmark. Other types of partners within the individual projects included different NGOs, local government, social policy experts, and welfare service. The NGOs funded by the NGO Fund had partnerships involving: police, local government, welfare service, different types of civic organizations, University, media, different experts and the Budapest Gypsy Symphony Orchestra
- Roma Involvement in project partnership and management was low. Only one individual project worked with a Roma NGO in contracted partnership and one had a Roma expert who was hired as the project manager of project in Szécsény by the Antipoverty network. Two more individual projects the Burattino Elementary and Vocational School and Children Home and the Nutcracking Foundation had Roma as part of their staff.
- Only four out of the 17 sub-projects of the NGO fund were led by Roma NGOs.

2.2 Relevance

The Roma related projects funded under the 2004-2009 EEA and Norway grants in Hungary are of high relevance to the overall objective of reducing the social disparities. They were also in response to key needs related to Roma inclusion in the country. The projects worked for:

- The integration of children into the education system; tanoda activities; to develop capacity of Roma youths in higher education; and expanding opportunity for musical talents of Roma youths;
- Reducing child poverty and social exclusion;
- Promoting the integration of young Roma to the labour market;
- The prevention of abuse and creation of access to quality service for Roma youth in the state care;
- Disseminating knowledge about poverty and the life of the disadvantaged to the majority;
- A variety of community development initiatives building social cohesion and self-esteem;
- Improving the living condition of the disadvantaged families;

⁴⁴ 5 of them were implemented in villages of Borsod County (Roma lives here in a biggest number⁴⁴) in North Hungary and these are also in the most disadvantaged region. 5 projects were supported in the capital and 3 of them implemented their activities at national level. 1 project implemented in the capital of Esztergom County in Central Transdanubia, 1 in a town of Tolna county in Southern Transdanubia; 4 in small villages of Somogy and Zala Counties where mostly Roma live.

- Building a bridge between the Roma community and the police.

2.3. Results

The projects funded in Hungary during the previous funding period brought some meaningful results in regard to Roma inclusion. They can be grouped as follows:

- ***Development of infrastructure in the area of social services and education.***

The majority of the individual projects in Hungary included a number of capital investments. As a result one elementary school was established, one secondary school was built, one primary and vocational school (with 62% of Roma students) renovated, one Roma College of Music built and established, and several reconstructions and renovations were done in the framework of the project of the Nutcracking Foundation working with most disadvantaged youth in Budapest.

- ***Expanded access to education of Roma children and youth***

The supported projects in Hungary involved over 1,042 Roma and disadvantaged children in a variety of integration educational services and activities; 14 Roma mentors were trained to reduce the dropout of primary school Roma children; 60 Roma students attended the Roma Music College and 2 Roma mentors trained to work with them.

Especially, the subprojects of the NGO fund in Hungary combined educational activities for children and youth and work with their parents and larger families, and broader community activation initiatives and events contributing to the social cohesion in communities. In some cases this involved creating community structures like parents clubs, fan clubs or initiative groups. Combining sport, after class activities, summer camps and community events contributed to reducing the rate of school drop out and increasing the motivation of continuing education in the next grades. For some children, these were first time experiences which helped them gain new social experiences and self esteem.

While most of the projects invested in work related to pre-school, primary and secondary education, one of the subprojects (supported by the NGO fund in Hungary) worked in the area of higher education. This was the project of *Romaversitas* – an NGO systematically developing new ability programmes that are assisting Roma students for finishing their study at the University and College levels, and supporting the most excellent ones to continue MA and PhD studies.

- ***Expanded access of Roma community members to social services***

Approximately 2,021 people from disadvantaged communities including Roma received different kinds of social services organized under the projects funded by the EEA/N grants in Hungary. Some of the projects invested in expanding the capacities of service provision by providing training and better equipment for social services

- ***Expanded access to employment of Roma individuals and families***

Only a few of the projects funded by the EEA/N in Hungary addressed the area of access to employment as a priority of their work or as a part of set of integrated activities. Within the project of the Budapest public company, 33 well qualified young Roma received job placement for 6 months and out of them, 17 got more regular jobs. The *Szécsény – Children's Opportunity Programme* managed by the Antipoverty Network involved 184 Roma community members in intensive employment training and courses as part of the complex set of services provided by the programme.

- ***Improving living conditions***

A very good case in this area is *the Social Construction Camp project of the Foundation for the College of Social Theories funded by the NGO Fund in Hungary*. It was an experimental program with one of the smallest grants amounting to €11.766. It worked to improve the living conditions of the tenants of municipality owned housing with rent arrears, which are willing to work to repay their debt, and are ready to act as a group, recognizing their shared interest. An agreement with the Town Council was reached regarding the conditions of implementing a social housing work camp, and crediting the working hours of locals against their payments in arrears. The Project Promoter won additional

support from Habitat for Humanity to assist their project with on-site construction supervisors, necessary equipment and international volunteers. The project involved 60 inhabitants organized in a local network, and mobilized 130 volunteers (both Roma and non-Roma). The College for Social Theories plans replication and expanding the work in this direction and has mapped social housing in the country.

- ***Fostered community development by applying integrated approaches to fight social exclusion***

While a number of projects were working in one priority area, one of the individual projects stands out with as a very good case of applying an integrated approach and developing a combined set of services addressing together several areas of social exclusion. This proved to be a very successful approach to tackling exclusion:

The “Szécsény – Children’s Opportunity Programme” developed by the Hungarian Anti-Poverty Network Foundation was a regionally focused pilot project to fight child poverty and social exclusion in one of the most disadvantaged regions in North Hungary. It had the longest duration of all projects – 36 months. It successfully applied an integrated approach combining work for access to education, labor market integration, and community development initiatives. This involved 'Sure Start' preschool activities, public education activities to promote de-segregation and facilitate entry into secondary education, including 14 mentors to assist children; initiatives to improve child nutrition and healthcare; implement youth development programmes; activities to improve parents' employability and employment opportunities; IT training, etc. This was combined with community development activities, including setting-up 22 community houses/spaces. Over 1200 people from the disadvantaged communities benefited from the set of services and activities of the project.

Among the factors for success of the project are with the long-term record, high capacity and commitment of the project promoter; involvement of Roma staff, and effective partnerships with local and regional authorities.

- ***Overcoming discrimination and growing solidarity***

The *Kurt Lewin Foundation’s project “100 poorest”* funded by the NGO Fund in Hungary is a very good case of a consistent public campaign to disseminate knowledge about the different forms of poverty and the life of disadvantaged people. The aim was to trigger social dialogue to increase responsibility, solidarity, and voluntary actions in the society. It combined in a creative way various campaign activities - publication of a “100 poorest”, photo contest and exhibitions, public campaign and films, you tube presentations, public meetings, presentations on TV etc. The project involved about 40 Roma people in the volunteer actions. It is estimated that 3 million people were reached out to by the various campaign activities. It received follow up funding from OSI to continue the campaign work.

A number of the subprojects of the NGO Fund in Hungary have contributed to nurturing solidarity within the Roma community and among Roma and Non-Roma, especially by stimulating volunteerisms and involvement to support the most needed families and children. Some of the examples provided above had this as an integral part of the projects. One more example is the Eight Beautitudes Foundation mobilized over 286 high school students to volunteer in initiatives to assist poor families and children in György-telep (a ghetto in the settlement on the outskirts of Pécs)

The Kurt Lewin Foundation, the Independent Roma Association of Bonyhad and the Saint Márton Caritas Foundation project are worth mentioning from the projects of the NGO Fund. It is an innovation in the project of the KLF that Roma and non-Roma people volunteered and worked together and they were able to reach the majority with their 100 poorest publications. It’s a good method of the Bonyhad project that they connected education to sports and by cooperating with schools and football clubs they improved the sports and school results of the Roma pupils. Caritas has had many colourful activities using all of the support.

2.4. Sustainability

Based on the visit of 6 of the 8 individual projects only two of the project promoters were

successful in raising some funds to continue the work started with the EEA and Norway grants. These are the *Antipoverty Network and Camp Europe (Roma College of music)*. Some of the other project promoters have stopped working on the same issue (for example the *Budapest Public Company* that did employment training and job placement for Roma). As noted in the interview with them “this was a good model and initiative but with very low sustainability. It was neither mainstreamed, nor continued and the experience from it will be lost”. Others are facing financial difficulties and their existence is jeopardized – like the *Nutcracker Foundation* working with the most socially disadvantaged youth in Budapest, and the *Buratino School* in Budapest.

Based on a sample of 14 out of 17 subprojects of the NGO fund⁴⁵, 50% of them continue the work started with the grants, expanding the same initiatives or developing similar ones. Some of them are doing it on a volunteer basis as part of their NGO or church work, while others – have raised funds from other donors – for ex. OSI has supported the continuation of the campaign for the poor of the *Kurt Lewin Foundation*. Another part of 30% of the project promoters continued work on some of the initiatives or components for one to two years after the projects were over, but had to stop due to financial reasons. Only 20% (3 organizations) had stopped working on the same issues due to lack of finances.

Most of the NGOs that were visited, consider that the sustainability of the project results are vulnerable as much more work and time is needed to grow sustainable change. With limited sources of accessible funding the question of sustainability becomes a crucial issue for civil society working for Roma inclusion.

3. EEA/N Grants (2009-2014) in Support to Roma Inclusion Processes: Opportunities and Challenges

3.1. General overview of Roma relevant funding (2009-2014)

Based on the Memorandum of understanding with EEA and with Norway, Hungary will receive support of €153.3 M (€70.1 M from the **EEA Grants** and €83.2 M from Norway grants) for programmes in 12 key areas. Three programmes will have components or aspects directly related to Roma inclusion.

Programme	Total Budget
Children and Youth at Risk	€ 11,216,000
Public Health Initiatives	€ 16,640,000
Funds for Non-governmental organizations	€12,618,000

In addition, the Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage programme of total value € 11,216,000 will have a small grants component of €1,100,000⁴⁶ which will be supporting cultural diversity where minorities and Roma will be also addressed.

The three main programmes that will be including Roma relevant measures have complex structures of a variety of components and funding instruments. They also differ in the way the donor’s specific concern of targeting the issues of Roma is accommodated in their design.

⁴⁵ We visited 6 of the projects and for the rest we received evaluation and monitoring reports which had information on the sustainability of the initiatives. This could be tracked for the projects that were funded in the first round of the NGO fund.

⁴⁶ http://www.nfu.hu/kulturalis_es_termeszeti_orokseg_megorzese On the link shows a document for the social dialogue on the planed programme (world document in Hungarian).

“Participation–Prevention–Protection–Provision – Programme for the improvement of the quality of life of children and youth at risk” is the programme in the area of Children and Youth at Risk. The Managing Authority for Human Resources Operative Programmes of the National Development Agency (NDA) will act as PO and will work in partnership with the Council of Europe (CoE) as Donor Programme Partner.

The programme has a complex design with three access and various measures under them, the components with more direct targeting of Roma are two of the preventive programmes:

- *The prevention of early school leaving (ESL) of disadvantaged, multiple disadvantaged children, mostly Roma girls.* The programme has a budget of € 2 666 667 and is with a primary focus on Roma girls in elementary and secondary schools and those who plan to further pursue the level of higher education. It will support mentors to work with girls and families. The calls for proposals will support projects of € 50,100- 66,800 open to elementary and secondary schools, civil society organisations, social and health care actors, child protection institutions, juvenile custody centres, and children’s homes.
- *The Programme of integration to sport with a budget of € 3 189 788 will include Roma among other children/youth in a vulnerable situation.* It will also have calls for proposals and will support with grants between € 170,000-175,000 education institutions and sport schools for activities like establishment of local sport integration offices in the sport schools, event organisation, community development, networking, trainings, and mentoring. There are no specific details of how exactly Roma will be reached, at least at this point.

Based on the extent to which measures and approaches to Roma inclusion will be part of *the reinforcement of cooperation among organizations and institutions* (the first axis) will also have Roma relevance aspects. It is overarching for all programme elements, providing for collection of good-practices, development of methodology, support in the implementation and adaptation. It will focus on cooperation among the formal/non-formal professional organisations and organisations in the field of advocacy and religious organisations/institutions – in Hungary and in the donor states. It will be guided by the CoE as a Donor Programme Partner. Based on its practice it will provide tools to develop interdisciplinary and integrated solutions through assistance on capacity building, trainings, and legislative assistance. In this component a call for proposals will be open to social care institutions, higher education institutions and civil society organizations. Anticipated size of projects is between €170,000-334,000. Again there are no specific details in regard to Roma inclusion.

(2) “The improvement of the health status of the population and the reduction of disease burden with a special emphasis on mental health” is the programme in the area of Public Health Initiatives. It aims to improve public health by reducing inequalities between user groups and to improve access to and the quality of health services, including reproductive and preventive child health care. The Managing Authority for Human Resources Operative Programmes of the NDA will be the PO working with the Norwegian Institute of Public Health as DPP.

There are no specific components dealing with the health dimension of Roma inclusion. Several aspects within the complex structure of this programme claim to have linkage with the donors’ specific concern of targeting the issues of Roma.

- The programme has a special focus on the general health status of the marginalised groups and the reduction of the health inequalities between different social groups in the country, especially with regards to future generations
- Activities for reduction of the disparities in access to healthcare services will include: the development of healthcare for infants, children and youth; securing missing health services (drug, ambulance, mental health unit), increased effectiveness of the health visitors system (addressing the health of children) by providing equipment with up-to date software and internet access, this way increasing the coverage of the system among disadvantaged groups and regions

- 909 500 EUR has been allocated for the open call entitled “*Physical activity awareness among vulnerable and disadvantages groups*. However, the call for proposals will be open to “state and local government owned (non-profit), local government or government institutions”. NGOs (both Roma and non-Roma) will not be eligible applicants in these calls which will reduce the direct outreach of the programme to Roma communities.

The program will have 6 calls for proposals, one pre-defined project and a small grants scheme⁴⁷. The calls will be open predominantly for health service providers; civil society organizations will not be eligible for these calls.

The pre-defined project has a part which will create an Integrated Health Inequality Action Plan based on participatory approaches and local consultations. It will be developed as a pilot programme on a county level and disseminated. This initiative can bring improved policy for better accessibility and provision of health care services in disadvantaged regions and groups.

(3) The NGO Fund has as a main objective to strengthen civil society development and enhance contribution to social justice, democracy and sustainable development. It will be managed by a consortium of four NGOs: the Hungarian Environmental Partnership Foundation, the Foundation for Development of Democratic Rights, the Carpathian Foundation-Hungary and the Autonomía Foundation. This is the same group of organizations that successfully managed the NGO fund (2004-2009).

The NGO fund has a very well designed complex strategic framework with diversified funding instruments of macro, medium and micro grants to address different segments of civil society, levels of intervention and thematic fields. Grants will be also combined with systematic capacity building services. This will be ensured by supporting 10-15 well established and leading NGOs in two functional areas - advocacy and watchdog organizations, and community and organizational development. They in turn will work intensively with 10-20 smaller and local organizations to expand their capacities. In addition, capacity building will be provided by the relevant partner in the consortium acting as PO of the NGO fund in their respective area.

Roma inclusion is visibly present both as targeted specific measures and as a crosscutting element within the NGO Fund strategic framework. *Roma Integration* /empowerment of vulnerable groups is one of the seven specific sub-funds (specific calls). It will be managed by the Autonomia Foundation which has a proven record in work for Roma inclusion in the past 20 years. The approach of Autonomia was also one of the best practices in supporting Roma relevant projects under the 2004-2009 EEA/N grants. The Roma integration sub-fund will allocate 9% of the overall budget (or €1,135,620) to support independent, truly bottom-up organised NGOs giving a voice to their communities, working directly with Roma communities to overcome poverty and exclusion. It is anticipated that 55-60 projects (micro or medium) will be supported under this sub-fund.

A second sub-fund which will be of high relevance to Roma inclusion is the *Provision of welfare and basic service to vulnerable groups* (€1,135,620). It will support service providing NGOs also wishing to scale up their advocacy, participation and watchdog activities in order to develop sustainable solutions to how the state and the NGO sector can work together in the provision of services adapted to the needs and circumstances of the vulnerable groups. Under this sub-fund 55-60 projects (micro or medium) are expected to be supported. It will be managed again by Autonomia Foundation. Based on the experience from 2004-2009 where Autonomia Foundation was also responsible for the social service/social cohesion area, it can be anticipated that at least one third of the projects in this sub-fund will be directly relevant to Roma.

In addition, Roma are present as a target group and Roma NGOs will be eligible in other sub-fund areas like children and youth, community and organizational development, and democracy and human

⁴⁷ It will support the creation of mental health centers.

rights. Roma NGOs can be eligible for the internships (if their representatives can meet the criteria for good knowledge of English), as well as to the start up aid to small and medium size NGOs.

3.2 Relevance

Roma related components and aspects of the three programs are of relevance to the needs in Hungary to overcome the social disparities among Roma and the majority of the population. They respond to three critical areas of importance to Roma inclusion:

The preventive program to reduce early school leaving of Roma girls (children and youth area) responds to an important need of expanding access to education. While the program is focusing primarily on Roma girls we would suggest that it is open to work with Roma children and youth - both girls and boys. If in other countries in the region among the factors that affect continuation of education of Roma girls are the early marriages, this factor is less present in Hungary⁴⁸.

Based on the interviews a strong moment in the Children and Youth at Risk preventive programmes related to sport integration and reducing early school leaving is that they envisage intensive work with Roma families and other community members. This is translated into the programme design by having civil society organizations (including Roma NGOs) as eligible in the calls for proposals of the different components. The projects that will be supported will be longer term - 2 years which will provide more space for the initiatives to grow and to stimulate change at the community level. However, still there are not too many details on the criteria and approach that will be applied in the relevant calls of proposals. Especially, the preventive programme of integration through sport will need more targeted criteria in order to make sure that Roma are included in the relevant supported initiatives. This programme has Roma as part of a broader target group and without clearly defined criteria it will be difficult to monitor its direct effect on Roma inclusion.

The Health initiatives programme responds to the critical need of reducing health inequality and increasing access to quality health care for Roma. It is linked to the national strategy for social inclusion and there is a clear synergy with other structural funds programs - the equipment that will be provided to the health visitors under the EEA/N funding will optimize the usage of the reporting system developed with financing of the Structural funds.⁴⁹

A very good aspect of the design is the investment in the effectiveness of the health visitors (local nurses' network) system which is unique for Hungary - nurses that directly work with families in regard to children health. This network has a lot of potential to contribute to the improvement of the health conditions of Roma and more broadly for their better access to health services.

However, very few if any of the health visitors are Roma or are familiar with Roma culture and more broadly with the concepts of Roma inclusion. While the programme envisages technical equipment to boost the efficiency of the health visitors system, the design is missing some "soft measures" - sensitizing, training and raising skills of working in a multicultural environment. This can be compensated by involving Roma NGOs and civil society. However, NGOs are completely absent from the envisaged project promoters for the six calls of the health programme⁵⁰.

The NGO Fund is of very high relevance to a critical need in regard to Roma inclusion - growing strong and community based Roma organizations that are able to voice out the interests of the Roma community. Based on the interviews with various respondents, support to Roma civil society is

⁴⁸ The problem of early marriages of Roma girls has been more present 20 years ago but had been reducing in the past 10 years, also due to the effective work of Roma organizations and activists.

⁴⁹ The reporting system was developed by the Early Childhood Headline Project 6.1.4 of the Social Renewal Operational Programme (SROP), which is financed by the Structural Funds.

⁵⁰ This was outlined as a serious shortage by the comments provided by the Roma Health Programme, as well as in the interview with their representative.

especially important in the current political context of Hungary, where independent civic voices are often suppressed or limited.

Very strong aspects of the design of the NGO Fund in Hungary related to Roma inclusion are: diversified instruments that will grow capacities in Roma NGOs and civil society, earmarked portions of the NGO fund that will be specifically targeted to Roma integration, and having Roma as a crosscutting aspect of the overall strategic framework.

A key factor for the success is that one of the NGOs operating the fund is the Autonomia Foundation. It has a proven record of effective work for Roma inclusion, including the managing of the priority area social cohesion of the NGO fund from the previous period that generated 17 meaningful project initiatives.

3.3 Forward mapping of results and sustainability

The successful implementation of the Roma relevant programs that will be funded under the EEA/N 2009-2014 will bring several important outcomes:

- Effective and efficient measures addressing vulnerable groups of children and youth facing particular risks implemented (especially in the area of education);
- Improved access to and quality of health services, including reproductive and preventive child health care;
- Fostered active citizenship and empowerment of vulnerable groups by expanding the constituency base of Roma organizations, their outreach and interaction with communities, volunteerism, and cooperation and civil dialogue between the public and Roma NGOs.

What will be critical for achieving the above programme outcomes, will be the way the calls for proposals in the different areas are concretely designed so that they ensure outreach to organizations, groups and institutions that are directly linked with the issues of Roma inclusion. In this regard, it will be important to have a good vision for desired change that the programmes can bring in regard to the situation of Roma and respectively if this vision is translated in the guidelines for application and selection criteria.

Based on the interviews some of the programmes like the NGO Fund already have a clear vision for the type of change they would like to see as a result of the intervention.

Based on the interviews a successful project for Roma inclusion:

- needs to focus on the empowerment of Roma and is encouraging and growing honest local organizations;
- mobilizes local people and communities and makes them owners of the ideas;
- activates and cooperates assets, putting together what people have and is based on true partnership with institutions (not politicized and not fake “paper” partnerships);
- creates new types of communities of active people that believe that change depends on them

Again, it will be critical how the vision for desired change is translated into the technicalities of guidelines and criteria. As shared by some respondents, a threat for the accessibility of the EEA/N funds in this period may be the bureaucracy and a too complicated application process that will repeat in a smaller scale the procedures of the Structural funds.

In regard to sustainability, the project documents provide very little and formal description that in some cases is replicating the instructions from the EEA program operators manual in the section sustainability (social and economic). Based on the interviews, there are two main aspects that are important for the sustainability of investment:

- True involvement of local community;
- Commitment and capacity of the organizations and institutions involved;

- Support by the system which will provide for support and/or mainstreaming of the initiative;

An important area related to both effectiveness and sustainability will be the cooperation with the CoE as a Donor Programme Partner in the Children and Youth Programme. They will provide the methodological guidance and expertise for Axis I which is serving all the other parts of the programme. This needs to be done in a timely and adequate manner.

There have been some serious issues in communication among the PO and the DPP during the design face. This needs to be carefully reviewed in order to ensure that partnership will stimulate local ownership of the programmes. In this respect, it will be also important whether and how local expertise and knowledge will be also involved.

4. Conclusions and recommendations

4.1 Lessons from the previous period (2004-2009)

- The experience of the previous EEA/N funding period in Hungary proved that meaningful projects for Roma inclusion can be generated under more general calls for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. Among the reason were the good design of the calls for proposals, and the specific mentioning of Roma as part of the target groups. In addition, especially with the NGO fund, the Programme operator of the relevant priority area of social cohesion - the Autonomia Foundation has a long record and good name of an organization experienced in the field of Roma inclusion.
- We found out – based on evidence- that among the 25 Roma related projects 24 have been successfully implemented in Hungary and achieved mostly satisfactory results in important areas of Roma inclusion - access to educational and social services, building bridges between Roma and non-Roma, and making institutions more responsive to the needs of Roma communities. Only one of the individual projects was cancelled due to the lack of management capacity of the project promoter.
- However, a very low number of Roma NGOs participated as project promoters or partners in the 2004-2009 grants. This was due to the fact that Roma inclusion was not a specific priority. Another reason is the comparatively low capacity of Roma NGOs to apply to grants schemes, especially larger ones - like the individual projects. There was one Roma NGO that was initially approved as a project promoter of an individual project. However, the grant had to be cancelled due to a lack of management capacity.
- EEA/N Grants expanded, or in some cases created the possibility that Roma and non-Roma meet in Hungary through the funded projects. As outlined by respondents, creating bridges among the Roma and the majority of the population is a priority need for the country.
- EEA/N Grants and especially the NGO Fund could provide small grants that invested in the capacities of locally based NGOs that worked directly in disadvantaged regions and Roma communities. These funds are very much needed but almost missing in Hungary. They had a number of advantages related to flexibility and better accessibility as compared to the European Social Fund; as well as they were independent from government. The approach of Autonomia was very instrumental as it also envisaged capacity assistance to organizations.
- A number of the project promoters /have difficulties with sustainability. Some of the organizations that were managing Roma relevant individual projects are on the edge of existence. It was complicated to undertake long-term sustainability of the projects because of the current economic and political situation; as well as limited sources of funding for civil society.
- There were several projects which promoted social services and help what is originally the responsibility of local institutions; the question is to what extent local institutions will be ready to mainstream and take over the services after the funding is over. Such plans need to be

integrated in the design of the projects, as it will be too late to look for sustainability after the project is over.

- During the field visit in Hungary we found out that there were cases where Roma were just passive beneficiaries of various services, rather active participants.
- The period of 2004-2009 showed that small NGOs with small support could implement much needed actions for Roma communities despite of the lack of capacity and human resources. It proved that civil society has an important role to play in regard to Roma inclusion. The Grants showed that for effective Roma inclusion there needed to be an independent civil society

4.2 Conclusions and recommendations 2009-2014

- The calls for proposals should consider in their requirements that the obligatory cooperation between the Roma specific NGOs and the representatives of the far-right parties, which won seats in the local elections, can cause an ethical dilemma for the Roma NGOs. While partnerships are important for sustained action for Roma inclusion, they cannot be done at the cost of losing the independence of civil society.
- It will be critical how to put “soft conditionality” that will open the grants to true measures for Roma inclusion. It will be very important how the calls for proposals are designed - announcements, outreach and the selection criteria etc. NGOs and especially Roma NGOs need to be eligible for all calls for proposals related to Roma.
- A critical issue will be the capacity of Roma NGOs and other NGOs working with Roma. The new structure of the National Development Agency will be similar to the EU Funds structure. If the application process is designed in a similar way it will narrow the possibility of Roma civic organizations to apply.
- The preventive program to reduce early school leaving of Roma girls (children and youth area) addresses only one of the issues of access to education. There is a need for a broader focus on educational issues of Roma children and youths, especially in view of the new education act from 2011 which will not give them opportunity to continue with the public education system after the age of 16. Roma youth will be out of education system, and they will cost money for the employment and social service benefits. This will increase the rate of Roma unemployment in Hungary, which is already drastically high (80-90%).
- The Health programme needs to review the component related to health visitors and include some soft measures to increase their understanding and capacity to work with Roma.

.Program Operators should exchange experiences with the Autonomia Foundation as it has a developmental and pro-active approach to reach the Roma communities. They need to invest in project development - not just in proposal writing, but developing of initiatives that can have a real meaning and effect on Roma inclusion.

At the level of programme operators it will be important to invite some professional groups - people who have experience and practice in Roma inclusion. A good example in this direction is Autonomia (NGO fund). It has established such a consultancy group

Recommendations for future programming:

- Individual Programs need to be based on a clear needs assessment and to be put in real context. Sound consultative process with NGOs and Roma experts will be needed to make programmes more relevant to the real needs of Roma communities

- There is a need to foster cross-sector (themes) cooperation and inter linkage - gender, civil society, children and youth. Interventions and outcomes need to be integrated, not fragmented.
- A mainstream approach needs to be combined with Roma targeted intervention to support equal opportunities and assist the access of Roma organizations. Without this - effect will be minimal. It is part of the empowerment.
- From a sustainability point of view it will be important to think from the very beginning how developed initiatives can be spread and supported as part of the policy implementation. The mainstreaming of good practice remains very difficult. Governments need to know what pieces of knowledge exists outside the state system, and how these models can be multiplied and/or further expanded for more effective policy development and implementation.
- Monitoring and evaluation - remains a very weak point. The data gathering system cannot be done only by the program operators. It will be good to develop a team of independent monitors, preferably Roma and/or experts with good knowledge on Roma inclusion. There is a need of a specific project to increase the involvement of Roma in the M@E process. Indicators need to be Roma inclusion driven and designed in a way so that they grasp both quantitative as well as qualitative change.

Critical needs related to Roma inclusion that need to be addressed include:

- *Developing the citizen based advocacy capacity of NGOs* . They need to be able to speak up and become more vocal, especially at times when there is a rise of extremism.
- *Visibility and reaching out the general public needs to be an immediate priority in the coming 2 years*. It is critical to reach out to broad audiences, to create bridges between Roma and non-Roma and to expand positive public debates. Support to Roma programs in mainstream TV can bring possible good results. Hungary had very good practices in this direction but they do not exist any more.
- Developing a new generation of leaders, a wider pool of activists and creating a broader group of agents of change needs to be a priority.

IV. ROMANIA

1. Roma in Romania: Contextual opportunities and challenges

1.1. Situation analysis – country specific issues and needs related to Roma inclusion

According to the last census in 2011, Roma persons represent 3,2% (619 000) from the total population, being uniformly distributed all over the country, with percentages ranging between 1,1% in Botoşani county and 8,8% Mureş county. According to the survey conducted in 2005 by the Romanian Government through the National Agency for Roma and the World Bank "The Roma Social Mapping, Targeting by a Community Poverty Survey", based on the persons who declared their ethnicity, the estimated number of Roma is: minimum 730,174 and maximum 968,275 people.

Key areas of social exclusion:

- **Low level of Education:** Roma children face much higher barriers to quality education. They typically live in deprived communities, with poverty rates four times higher than the national average. Lack of appropriate clothing or equipment may deter Roma parents from sending their children to school. According to the study conducted by UNDP Bratislava „Roma Education in comparative perspective”, there are significant gaps between the educational level of Roma and non-Roma: 30,7% of Roma have no formal education, for 31,2% primary education is the highest completed education, 28,4% for the lower secondary education, and only for 9,6% of Roma the completed level is upper secondary Education (as compared to 52,2% for the non Roma). There are big gaps in the rate of school attendance by age for Roma comparing to non Roma. It increases especially in secondary and high education. Only 25% of Roma children aged 16-18 attend school, as compared to 86% of majority children; only 8% of young Roma aged 19-21 attends school as compared to 57% of the majority population.
- **Low access to social and health care service:** The main causes are physical access (i.e. long distances to health services providers) and financial constraints (income poverty). Only 50% of Roma adults (16 years +) have medical insurance⁵¹. The access to a proper health treatment for Roma persons with chronic disorder is low and 71 % of Roma were unable to purchase prescription for medication
- **Challenging Living conditions/housing:** Localities, where Roma live, lack access to public services and infrastructure such as water, sanitation, power supply and waste removal, and they stand a lower chance of being selected for neighbourhood improvement projects. A significant share of Roma housing is insecure and overcrowded, with a detrimental effect on their health. There is a higher exposure of surveyed⁵² Roma households to threats to security of tenure, since home ownership is less present among Roma, compared to their non-Roma neighbours, increasing the probability of eviction threats.
- **Dependency on welfare/unemployment rate:** As outlined in various studies, the rate of Roma unemployed is much higher than non-Roma, however, an exact number cannot be provided as the official data on unemployed in Romania are not segregated on ethnicity. A recent study conducted by the Romanian Institute for Evaluation and Strategy and the Impreuna Agency provides interesting comparative data on the main sources of income for Roma and non-Roma: child allowance is the main source of income for 36% of Roma as compared to 14% of the non-Roma; salary - 28% for Roma and 54 % for non-Roma; 23% of Roma earn their money from temporary activities such as, iron sales, paper sales, etc comparing to only 2% of non-Roma.

⁵¹ As it is mentioned in the 2011 UNDP regional study „The Health Situation of Roma Communities“

⁵² According to the 2011 UNDP/WB/EC Regional Roma Survey

- **Political participation:** The level of Roma political participation in Romania is low comparing to the other national minorities. The only Roma association present in the Parliament for 20 years is the Roma Association Party "Pro- Europe" which has one Roma representative in the Chamber of Deputies⁵³. As a result of the 2012 local elections there are 161 local councillors and one mayor⁵⁴ Roma, elected from the three participant Associations.
- **Discrimination:** Roma are still victims of forced evictions, racist attacks, and police ill-treatment. In most cases Roma discrimination is based on racial prejudice, and negative stereotyping which were also noticed in public statements (politicians/public institutions) and mass media. However, "the intolerance level of the majority population towards Roma decreased very much after 1990. In 1993 over 70 % of Romanians refused to have a Roma neighbour, in 2006 their share has halved, as only 36 % still say that"⁵⁵. At the central level, the National Council for Combating Discrimination is one of the institutions which have among their responsibilities the protection of Roma rights.

1.2. Policy response

Up to 2011, the main social inclusion policy document targeting Roma in Romania was the Strategy of the Government of Romania for improving the condition of the Roma⁵⁶. In 2011, based on the European Framework for the National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020, the new Strategy of the Government of Romania for the Inclusion of the Romanian Citizens Belonging to the Roma Minority 2012-2020 was adopted. In addition, two other national policy documents have relevance for Roma inclusion: the National Development Plan (2007-2013) and The National Anti-Poverty and Social Inclusion Promotion Plan (2002-2012). The main areas for intervention in all policy documents involve: education, housing, employment, health, discrimination and culture, with cross cutting issues such as gender.

An important Public institution with roles as regarding Roma inclusion is the National Agency for Roma (NAR), with the following main attributions, according to its set-up law⁵⁷: elaboration, promotion, monitoring, evaluation, and implementation of the measures within the Strategy of the Government on the Roma minority. However, according to the new Strategy for Roma 2012-2020 the main role of the Agency is to provide expertise to the line ministries which are responsible for the implementation. A counsellor on Roma issues is appointed within each line ministry and a Counsellor of state, within the Prime Minister Office. At the regional level, there are 8 offices of NAR and in each county there is one Roma expert in the Prefecture with a monitoring role for the Strategy implementation. In addition, at the local level, in each City Hall should be one Roma expert monitoring the Strategy implementation.

While there are positive developments in regard to national and international policy documents and declared political will and commitment of Government, the critical challenge that remains is the implementation of the policy framework. There are a number of shortages:

- lack of national budget allocation for the planned interventions;
- no specific deadlines for the implementation of the planned measures;

⁵³ In accordance to the election law in Romania, the associations of the minorities can participate in the local and national elections. For the national elections they need to have public utility status, which is given by the Government

⁵⁴ In 2012 local elections three Roma association ran: Roma Association Party "Pro - Europe" (won 125 Local councilors and one mayor), The Roma Civic and Democratic Alliance (ACDR) – (won 28 Local Councilors) and the National Union of Roma Communities (UNCR) - (won 8 Local Councilors)

⁵⁵ According to the "Roma Inclusion Barometer," conducted by the Open Society Foundation in Romania, in 2007

⁵⁶ Adopted through the Government Decision no 430/2001, subsequently amended and supplemented

⁵⁷ Law No 7/2005

- missing clear monitoring and evaluation system (unclear outcome and output indicators as well the baseline in view of measuring the progress; lack of clarity of roles and responsibilities);
- insufficient capacity for implementation with a serious gap of capacity between the national and local levels;
- missing effective coordination mechanism between the structures of implementation other than informative meetings and official reports;
- uneven development of Roma civil society (rural/urban/national) and low Roma political representation at all levels (local/national).

1.3. Civil society response

The total number of NGOs in Romania working on Roma issues is around 300, according to the Civil Society National Registration Office (www.just.ro).

The most active and visible are mainly the big NGOs located in better developed cities. The small, community based NGOs are either not existent in some parts of the country, in particular at the rural level, or face capacity issues (e.g. management and leadership, access to financial resources, advocacy);

There are NGOs active in the field of Roma inclusion that significantly contributed in the past 20 years to the design/improvement and implementation of public policies in all fields relevant for Roma inclusion (e.g. health mediator, school mediator, community facilitator, Roma language is taught in schools where there is a significant number of Roma children, if the parents request it and declare their ethnicity) and played an active role in the Romania's EU accession process. They proved capacity to attract significant sources of funding, to implement projects with relevant results for Roma communities, to advocate for the Roma rights and to network with other Roma and non-Roma NGOs in view of getting the desired changes;

Due to the economic crisis but also the withdrawal of the majority of the external donors, currently, many NGOs are facing financial problems. In addition, the big NGOs that accessed EU structural funds are facing cash-flow problems due to the delays in reimbursements;

Another problem that affects the Roma civil society lately is a certain fatigue of the existing leaders in parallel with a low number of new leaders rising from the community.

1.4. Donors response

At present, the EU is the most predominant funding in Romania. The European Social Fund (POSDRU) included axes with interventions related to Roma inclusion. Most projects are managed centrally and focus primarily on education (including early childcare), vocational and professional training, labour market insertion and social inclusion. Based on the information from the interview with the Management Authority there were strategic projects targeting Roma inclusion but it seems that due to deficiencies in the data collection systems, it is not possible to highlight the volume of funding for Roma inclusion out of the total volume of funding.

A new source of funding is the Swiss Fund for Inclusion of Roma and other vulnerable groups with a budget of 14 M CHF. It is aiming at a) improving the living conditions of Roma - focusing on activities related to children's education as well as on children's and women's health; and b) empowerment and awareness building - focusing on promotion of the Roma leadership and role models, mutual understanding, social inclusion and participation. The Programme Management Unit is hosted by the Department for Interethnic Relations within the Romanian Government. The program has recently started.

Several programs of OSI Budapest continue funding initiatives in Romania, however their budgets are insufficient as compared to the needs in the country. They support civil society initiatives for Roma inclusion in various areas, as well as investment in capacity of Roma organizations.

2. EEA/N Grants (2007-2009) in Support to Roma Inclusion Processes: Results, Relevance and Sustainability

2.1. General overview

The EEA support for Romania under the 2004-2009 Financial Mechanism amounts at 50,5 M Euro and included the following priority sectors: protection of the environment, including the human environment; promotion of sustainable development; conservation of European cultural heritage; human resource development; health and childcare. In addition, the Norwegian Cooperation Programme with Romania (Norway Grants) made available grants amounting to Euro 48 million for Romanian-Norwegian partnership projects in four major sectors: environment, energy efficiency, sustainable production and health.

Roma inclusion was not an explicit priority of the 2004-2009 Financial Mechanism and according to the mapping conducted by the Financial Mechanism Office there were no **individual projects** targeting Roma inclusion in Romania.

The NGO fund did also not include any priority related to Roma inclusion. At the request of the study team, the NGO Fund Programme Operator provided the list of the funded projects and a short description for eight projects that might have had a certain impact on Roma inclusion. Out of these projects, five were general social projects without objectives and activities with a direct focus on Roma. In addition, due to the fact that Roma was not a programme priority, the data gathered by the Programme Operator from the grant beneficiaries is not structured on ethnic criteria in view of an in-depth analysis at the level of project beneficiaries. Therefore, only three projects that had a clear focus on Roma or NGOs working with and for Roma were considered within the framework of this study (more details are available in the Map of funded projects 2004-2009).

The NGO fund in Romania, with a budget of 5,098,189 Euro, supported 115 projects implemented by non-governmental, non-profit organisations (NGOs) in the following areas: consolidating democracy (11 projects); children and youth opportunities for community involvement (13 projects); social inclusion and access to social services (18 projects); environment (40 projects); cultural heritage (33 projects). The NGO Fund was implemented by a consortium of Romanian NGOs contracted directly by the Financial Mechanism Office.

The three above-mentioned projects qualified for funding under the general priority sectors and were selected within the open calls for proposals, based on the general selection criteria applied to all applicants. The three projects benefited from 151,486 Euro financial support under the NGO Fund and aimed to:

- evaluate the access of Roma to public health services, draft a general policy recommendation regarding the improvement in access of Roma to public health and run an advocacy campaign in order to promote policies aimed at improving access of Roma to public health services;
- generate on the disadvantaged children from one School in Bucharest (with most students Roma) a positive change on three issues: the lack of participation of the youth in decision-making related to their habitat and future of their city; the lack of solidarity among different socio-economic categories and generations of youth; the low access to suitable education, self-representation and self-expression about visions of the future;
- consolidate the NGOs' capacity to provide quality social services and social inclusion programs in response to the beneficiaries' needs; consolidate and promote the network of social services providers at the county level; promote the consultative role of the NGOs in the dialogue with the public authorities and in elaborating local public policies in the social field; increase the public resources allocated to the social services and social inclusion programs developed by NGOs; promote the public-private partnership to develop social services and social inclusion programs.

2.2. Relevance, results and sustainability

All three projects are relevant for the Roma inclusion in Romania, addressing the following needs: to improve the access of Roma to public health services; to empower youth in view of active citizenship and to develop the social NGOs capacity and the dialogue with local public authorities. The projects' results support Roma inclusion. However, the short duration (max. 16 months) and the small related budgets (max. 73,488 Euro) of the projects might have limited their overall impact on the general situation of Roma in Romania. One example is related to the policy recommendation on the access of Roma to public health services, which was not assumed by the relevant Public authorities. A stronger, longer term advocacy campaign might have increased chances to obtain the desired policy changes.

The results of all three projects were good, responding to the identified needs and corresponding to the planned objectives. All three NGOs used participatory approaches and involved Roma (people/NGOs) in the project activities. A brief summary of the projects main results includes: a study and a policy recommendation as regards Roma access to health services; over 90 Roma students participated in non-formal education activities and have been connected to other socio-cultural categories; 9 social NGOs (some with direct activities for Roma) developed their capacity and actively contributed to the improvement of local public policies - their recommendations were transmitted to the Oradea City Hall and inserted in the City Development Strategy, Social Work Section.

All three projects created the basis for future continuation/multiplication of the interventions and will continue to produce positive changes to a certain extent after the end of funding. A few examples are: the study and the policy recommendation may represent good tools for future advocacy campaigns; the NGO recommendations incorporated in Oradea local development strategy may contribute to further progress in the social inclusion field. However, at this stage, the concrete plans for the projects sustainability – including: solid financial prospects and clear strategy for continuation - are uncertain. A factor that might support the long term sustainability is the commitment of the organization to work for Roma inclusion in accordance to the mission and objectives of the organization, which is the case of two out of three project promoters.

3. EEA/N Grants (2009-2014) in Support to Roma Inclusion Processes: Opportunities and Challenges

3.1. General overview

The EEA/N support for Romania within the 2009-2014 Financial Mechanism is of 305,950,000 Euro and is allocated to 23 programme areas, 12 areas considered relevant for Roma inclusion (more details are available in the Map of new programs 2009-2014).

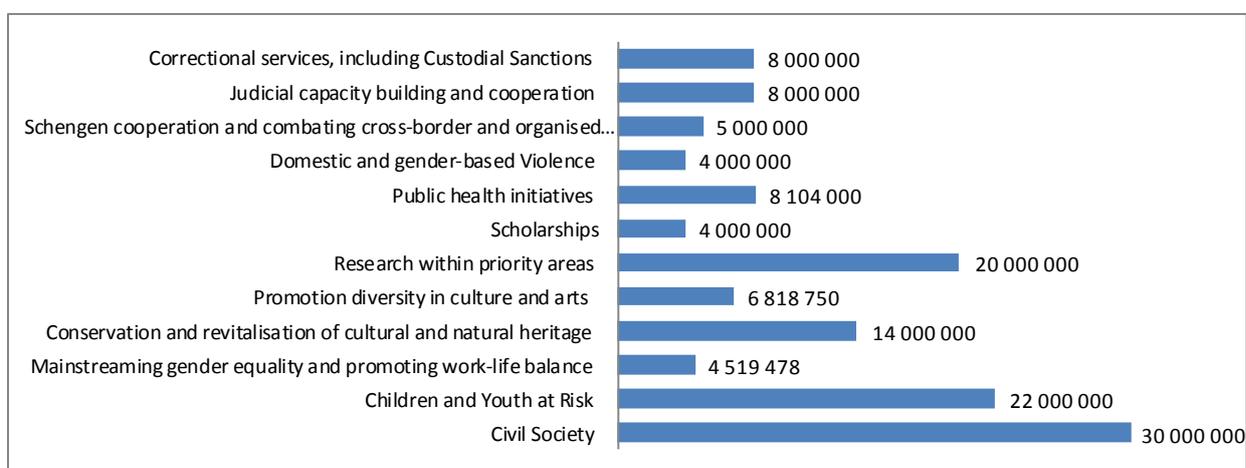


Table: The 12 programme areas with components relevant for Roma inclusion

Total budget/programme area (Euro)

The total budget allocated by the EEA/N for the 12 relevant areas is of 134,442,228 Euro⁵⁸. An indicative target of at least 10% of the budget, allocated for these areas shall target Roma inclusion, which means at least 13,444,222 Euro. However, the concrete total allocation for Roma inclusion is not clear as, not all the programme areas include distinct financial allocations for Roma inclusion. Based on the data received from the FMO in June 2013, the amount that will be allocated to Roma related measures will be of minimum 17,400,000.

The 10% financial allocation for Roma inclusion has a general character. In the programmes that do not include distinct financial allocation for components focused on Roma inclusion and/or adopt a mainstream approach (without activities, outcomes, outputs and indicators specifically designed for Roma inclusion) the Programme Operators might face difficulties in measuring and reporting the budgetary allocation for Roma inclusion.

At the time of the interviews (February 2013), the Romanian **legislative framework** necessary for the implementation of the 2009-2014 FM, was not complete, in particular as regards the cash-flow (related to Programme Operators access to funds) and this restricted the access to the funds for technical assistance (necessary for the preparation of the programme proposals) and involved a risk of further delays in the Financial Mechanism implementation.

The EEA assistance directorate within the Ministry of European affaires will act as **National Focal Point** and will have the overall responsibility for reaching the objectives and implementation of the 2009-2014 Financial Mechanism in Romania. Out of the interview it resulted that the National Focal Point role is mainly technical (procedural). Regarding the content, the National Focal Point relies extensively on the Programme Operators, as it admits its limited expertise in the specific fields covered by the Financial Mechanism and Roma inclusion field.

The implementation mechanism also includes **Programme Operators**, who are the institutions in charge with the preparation, implementation and monitoring the programmes. The Programme Operators were named in the Memorandum of Understanding, with the exception of the Programme Operator for the Civil Society programme which was selected through a tender organised by the Financial Mechanism Office. The interviews revealed different levels of expertise in regard to the Roma inclusion field at different Programme Operators, with rather limited experience and practice in implementing programmes with a special focus on Roma inclusion in the majority of the Programme Operators public institutions. The initiative of some Programme Operators and Project promoters to work with experts on Roma or with Roma organisations is a positive step forward (e.g. civil society, research, cultural and natural heritage – pre-defined project, etc). Although there is a coordination mechanism at the level of the Financial Mechanism it does not include coordination for Roma inclusion, as cross-sectorial priority.

There are two ways envisaged for the identification of the **Project Promoters**. The first one includes open calls for proposals (in 9 out of the 12 areas) and the second one includes the Project Promoters for the pre-defined projects (in 8 out of the 12 areas), the majority of them pre-identified in the project proposal (with the exception of the project promoter for the pre-defined project proposed in the civil society field, who will be identified through tender). The possibility offered by the 2009-2014 Financial Mechanism to include pre-defined projects represents a pro-active tool to support strategic interventions and project promoters in different areas. However, the strategic role of the pre-defined

⁵⁸ According to the programme proposals, the national co-financing for 11 relevant areas (civil society not included) is of 18,169,542 Euro

projects and/or the related project promoters is not clearly explained in all programme areas (e.g. children and youth at risk, health).

The majority of programmes include a **Donor Programme Partner** (in 9 out of 12 areas) with a role in advising on the preparation and/or implementation of the programmes. In particular, the Council of Europe is Donor Programme Partners or partner in the pre-defined projects in 5 areas: children and youth at risk; domestic and gender-based violence; Schengen cooperation and combating cross-border and organised crime; judicial capacity building and cooperation and correctional services, including non-custodial sanctions. Based on the information from the interviews, the communication between the Programme Operators and the Donor Programme Partners was in some cases fragmented and mainly at distance.

In addition, all programs aim at encouraging and facilitating **bilateral partnerships** between Programme Operators/Project Promoters and relevant institutions from the donor countries and include specific activities in this respect: e.g. seminars, conferences, study visits, etc.

The interventions on Roma inclusion will target the **local or national level** in accordance to the Programme Operators proposals. The majority of interventions are intended to be at the local level, but at this stage, there is little information on the concrete tools that will be used in view of outreach to Roma communities. However, there are fields where the Programme Operators designed some proactive tools (e.g. the civil society area, children and youth at risk).

There are two levels of **monitoring** envisaged:

- **Financial Mechanism:** The Monitoring Committee for 2009-2014 Financial Mechanism, chaired by a representative of the National Focal Point which shall include representatives from relevant ministries, local and regional authorities, civil society, the social partners and, where relevant, the private sector.
- **Programmes:** The Programme Operators included in their programme proposals different monitoring systems for different programme areas (e.g. monitoring teams, reports from the beneficiaries; monitoring visits to the fund beneficiaries, etc.).

In addition to monitoring, the regulation on the Financial Mechanism implementation stipulates that *“the Beneficiary State shall carry out evaluations of programmes to assess actual and/or expected effects at the outcome level.”* Out of the Financial Mechanism documents and information from interviews, the timing (interim/final), types (general or on priority areas such is the Roma inclusion) and responsibilities for the **evaluation** process are not clear.

In view of monitoring and evaluation two instruments are of crucial importance:

- the **indicators** to measure the results in the Roma inclusion field – they need to be further deepened and developed as they are fragmented and only partially present. There are some quantitative indicators in a few programme areas (children and youth at risk; cultural and natural heritage; health; domestic and gender based violence; Schengen cooperation and combating cross-border and organised crime; correctional services, including non-custodial sanctions) but the qualitative ones are neglected. In other programmes there are no indicators specific for Roma inclusion.
- the **data collection system** for the Roma inclusion field - at the level of the Financial Mechanism it is a centralized system and at the level of Programmes there are the individual data collection systems of the Programme Operators. It seems that the instruments to collect data differ from Programme Operator to Programme Operator.

3.2. Relevance

The 12 priority areas considered for the 10% budgetary allocation in Romania are relevant for Roma inclusion, based on the general fields covered and their relevance for the existing strategies and needs (e.g. health, education, culture, etc.). The level of details available at this stage in individual programmes in regard to the interventions on Roma inclusion does not allow for a complete analysis

of the planned interventions relevance due to the fact that the specific information on Roma inclusion is fragmented and present only in part of the programme areas. Therefore, the study team analysed only the potential for relevance in the field of Roma inclusion. The programmes that have more potential for relevance are:

- the programmes designed in consultation with stakeholders (e.g. civil society; children and youth at risk);
- the programmes that build on previous experience and envisage synergy with other relevant initiatives (e.g. civil society; children and youth at risk; cultural and natural heritage – Pre-defined project; domestic and gender-based violence – trafficking in human beings Pre-defined project 2; Schengen cooperation and combating cross-border and organised crime – Pre-defined project 4; correctional services, including non-custodial sanctions).

The potential for relevance may increase during the implementation, depending on the approach of the Programme Operators (calls for proposals – design and selection) and approach of Project Promoters (implementation of projects).

3.3. Forward mapping of the results

The 2009-2014 Financial Mechanism has the potential to add value to the Roma inclusion in Romania, considering the following:

- it includes a distinct cross-sectorial budgetary allocation for Roma inclusion in 12 areas - this may lead to better high level coordination between different line ministries in regard to Roma inclusion;
- some line Ministries will implement measures targeted on Roma (as part of their general interventions) and this may facilitate strategic thinking and capacity building in the field of Roma inclusion;
- the mechanism includes bilateral cooperation which has potential to generate innovative approaches on Roma inclusion in both beneficiary and donor states.

The results of the 2009-2014 Financial Mechanism on Roma inclusion, in many programme areas will depend extensively on the results of the projects selected for funding within the calls for proposals. These results cannot be predicted and mapped in details at this stage. Based on the existing programme documents and the information gathered from interviews, the main results expected in the field of Roma inclusion are:

- updated information on Roma communities: general overview (e.g. civil society); issue related (e.g. trafficking, crime victimisation); potential scientific research (in the research field);
- active citizenship fostered and Roma empowerment (e.g. civil society);
- development of disadvantaged communities and improvement of the Roma situation in interethnic communities (e.g. civil society, cultural and natural heritage);
- integrated services with focus on access to formal and non-formal education, targeting Roma children & youth in risk situations (e.g. children and youth at risk);
- increased number of education and care services for the children of 0 to 3 years and of the social services for the children with disabilities aged 0 to 7 – mainstream approach, potentially including Roma (mainstreaming gender equality and promoting work-life balance);
- increase higher education student and staff mobility, potentially including Roma students (scholarships);
- staff from the different public institutions and NGOs better prepared to work with and for vulnerable groups (Roma in particular) and combat discrimination (e.g. children and youth at risk – potential pre-defined project; Schengen cooperation and combating cross-border and organised

crime Integrated – pre-defined project 4; correctional services, including non-custodial sanctions – pre-defined project);

- awareness raised on several issues of public interest (e.g. trafficking in human beings, crime victimisation; communicable diseases; new judicial codes; cultural diversity, education);
- bilateral and international partnerships developed/strengthened (in all 12 areas).

It has to be mentioned that the general interventions and the interventions with a mainstream approach could also bring results for Roma inclusion, as they are meant to have impact on all Romanian citizens, Roma included. However, the success will be conditional on the capacity of the Programme Operators/Project Promoters to design and apply tools to facilitate Roma access and participation as well as strategic communication to the majority to combat exclusion/discrimination.

Based on the interviews, the aspects considered key for the successful Roma integration projects are: to respond to the concrete needs of the Roma communities; to use participatory tools and approaches; to have an integrated approach; to combine social services with interventions targeted on the improvement of social public policies; to continue to generate positive change after the end of funding.

3.4. Sustainability prospects

In the majority of areas, the sustainability aspect is rather superficially described, which leaves much uncertainty for the implementation stage. At this stage, the programmes envisage the following main factors for the future sustainability (not cumulative): co-funding from the Project Promoter; responsibilities to be assumed by the Project Promoter for future sustainability; responsibilities expected to be assumed by the Public Authorities; other sources of funding from other donors (without solid prospects). All sectors in Romania (civil society, public and private sectors) are currently facing financial problems generated by the economic crisis and this may have a negative impact on the four above-mentioned factors and implicitly on the sustainability of the interventions.

The programme documents do not detail enough other factors for future sustainability (e.g. sustainability plans including fundraising and clear financial prospects; strategic partnerships/synergy in view of increasing leverage of the interventions; structural changes to ensure the scale-up of the results; etc). Having in view the advanced stage of the programming, the sustainability of the planned interventions on Roma inclusion will depend extensively on the implementation strategy of different Programme Operators and Project Promoters.

4. Conclusions and recommendations

4.1. 2007-2009 Financial Mechanism

- Roma inclusion was not a priority explicitly mentioned; the practice proved that general priorities may lead to relevant projects for Roma inclusion, however, the number, the size and the impact of these initiatives is limited in the absence of a Roma inclusion priority;
- The three analysed projects are considered relevant for Roma inclusion and achieved good results during the funding period;
- The three analysed projects created a solid basis for future continuation/multiplication of the results in order to obtain the desired changes but the actual continuation remains uncertain in the absence of clear sustainability plans;
- A factor that might support the long term sustainability is the commitment of the organization to work for Roma inclusion in accordance with its mission and objectives.

4.2. 2009-2014 Financial Mechanism

- 10% budgetary allocation for Roma inclusion represents a good practice, with potential for positive impact on the Roma situation in Romania. However, monitoring and reporting of this

budgetary allocation might be difficult if the activities, outcomes and indicators on Roma inclusion are not clear in the programme proposals;

- There are different levels of expertise in regard to the Roma inclusion field in different Programme Operators, with rather limited experience and practice in implementing programmes with a special focus on Roma inclusion in the majority of the Programme Operators public institutions.
- There is no coordination mechanism foreseen between the Programme Operators implementing programmes in the areas relevant for Roma inclusion. This may represent a challenge in view of a consistent, integrated approach on Roma inclusion;
- The Financial Mechanism includes pre-defined projects as a pro-active tool to support strategic interventions and project promoters in different areas; This method was used by the majority of Programme Operators but the strategic role of the pre-defined projects and/or the related project promoters is not clear in all programme areas;
- The programme documents include well designed methods for the development of the bilateral partnerships and the majority of programmes include a Donor Programme Partner. Yet, the communication between the Programme Operators and the Donor Programme Partners was in some cases fragmented and mainly at a distance;
- The general monitoring system includes different structures and methods for monitoring the progress of the programmes/projects implementation. However, two relevant instruments need further development: the indicators to measure the success of the interventions on Roma inclusion and the data collection system to allow easy to use and content related information on Roma inclusion which is a cross-sectorial priority;
- The Financial Mechanism regulation includes provisions related to evaluation tools but further clarification is necessary as regards the concrete plans and responsibilities for evaluation;
- The 12 priority areas considered for the 10% budgetary allocation are relevant for Roma inclusion. Higher potential for relevance in the field of Roma inclusion have the programmes designed in consultation with stakeholders and the programmes that build on previous experience and envisage synergy with other relevant initiatives;
- Important results are expected to be generated by the 2009-2014 Financial Mechanism on Roma inclusion through the specifically targeted components but also through the general/mainstream components. The actual achievement of these results depends to a large extent on: the selection and implementation of the projects that will be funded within the calls for proposal and the capacity of the Project Operators/Project Promoters to facilitate Roma participation as well as to strategically communicate with the majority to combat exclusion/discrimination;
- The sustainability aspect is rather superficially described in the programme documents, which leaves much uncertainty for the implementation phase.

4.3. Short term recommendations (2009-2014 Financial Mechanism)

- In view of results oriented implementation and monitoring, there is a need for increased capacity of the National Focal Point and the Programme Operators with limited experience and practice on Roma inclusion. These institutions may decide to enlarge their teams with Roma experts/external consultants or establish advisory Boards formed of experts in Roma inclusion; The existing Governmental structures could be also useful in this respect (e.g. inter-ministerial group);
- It is important to set-up a platform for the coordination of EEA/N interventions in the field of Roma inclusion. One potential solution is to form a group, including representatives of National Focal Point, the relevant Programme Operators in view of strategizing the interventions, monitoring the implementation and proposing the necessary improvements; From time to time,

representatives of other donors could be invited to attend the group meetings in view of coordination of the financial support;

- In order to ensure outreach to Roma communities, it is recommended that all Programme Operators develop appropriate communication tools that will enable the Roma communities to participate in the funded projects (e.g. information sessions organized also in small communities, coaching for potential applicants, channels for the distribution of the information effective for small remote communities, etc); The communication messages should be designed to avoid a negative reaction of the majority;
- In view of maximising the relevance, results and sustainability of the planned interventions on Roma inclusion, the following aspects are recommended to be considered during the design of the calls for proposals (in particular guidelines for applicants and selection criteria):
 - the geographic coverage defined so that it guides the interventions on Roma inclusion in the most relevant communities (in particular rural communities);
 - the factors considered key for the success of the projects on Roma inclusion highlighted in the guidelines for applicants and analysed during projects 'selection: participatory approach, enabling Roma communities to get involved at all project stages; integrated approach in order to better respond to the identified needs of the Roma communities; strategic partnerships/synergies in view of increased leverage; envisaged interventions to be accompanied by interventions targeting systemic/structural changes in view of scale-up (e.g. advocacy campaigns in view of improvement the relevant public policies);
 - in support for sustainability, clear indication could be included in the guidelines for applicants and considered for the projects 'selection: e.g. attract the interest of the political and economic actors in view of future support for continuation/multiplication; clear sustainability plans including concrete measures and financial targets. Another factor that might support the long term sustainability of the projects is the commitment of the Project Promoter to continue working for Roma inclusion after the end of funding. Consequently, one selection criterion could refer to the mission and objectives of the applicant and how the proposed project advances the applicant 'strategy in the long run.
- It is recommended to further develop the indicators (quantitative and qualitative) for measuring the success of the interventions on Roma inclusion and to define the baselines and targets to enable the measurement of progress;
- In view of monitoring, evaluation and future programming it is suggested to pay specific attention to the improvement of the data collection systems for the Roma inclusion field. In this respect, two steps could be considered:
 - agreement on the main types of information considered necessary: procedural information (e.g. grantee, size of the grant, own contribution, duration, payments, reporting deadlines, etc) and content information (e.g. objectives, activities, geographical coverage, field, outputs, outcomes, products, beneficiaries, etc);
 - development of both the centralized system and the individual Programme Operators systems in order to collect this information at the earliest stage possible.
- Evaluation system – responsibility and budget (who is responsible and what budget is allocated for evaluation), timing (interim/final) and type (general evaluation per areas or Financial Mechanism/thematic evaluation on Roma inclusion as cross-sectorial priority) need clarification in view of evaluations that could support the future programming.

4.4. Long term recommendations (future Financial Mechanisms)

- In view of increasing the relevance, sustainability and impact of the planned interventions on Roma inclusion, the future programming exercise could consider: wider consultation with stakeholders in all envisaged areas (central and local public authorities, NGOs, private sector,

other donors); coordination mechanisms between the institutions involved in the programmes implementation and monitoring for cross-sectorial priorities; capacity and readiness of the institutions involved in the implementation and relevant measures to increase it when necessary; monitoring and evaluation systems including clear roles, responsibilities, strategic data collection systems and indicators;

- In addition, there is scope for more detailed programme documents as regards Roma inclusion: e.g. explain how the planned interventions support the Programme Operator strategy; plan communication tools and geographical coverage in view of outreach at the targeted beneficiaries; describe the capacity and profile of the envisaged project promoters; include capacity building components for Roma local NGOs; include reliable instruments to measure the impact (e.g. awareness campaigns, accompanied by impact studies; training/services accompanied by follow-up on the beneficiaries);
- It is recommended that the pre-defined projects are proposed and selected based on a clear and transparent strategy of the Programme Operator, justified by studies, previous experience and strategic role of the proposed Project Promoter;
- Other pro-active tools of identifying the Project Promoters on Roma inclusion might be considered: e.g. possibility for direct funding for small emergency interventions; very small grants for informal groups or bigger grants for to be implemented by Project Promoters with previous experience in community development and work with informal groups.

V. SLOVAKIA

1. Roma in Slovakia: Contextual opportunities and challenges

1.1. Situation analysis – country specific issues and needs related to Roma inclusion

In Slovakia, similarly to other countries in the region, Roma underreport their nationality during censuses. In the 1991 census, 75,800 citizens of Slovakia declared themselves to be “Roma”. Ten years later, in 2001, this was 105,700. However according to demographic estimates from the year 2001 and field research under the “Atlas of Roma Communities” (2004), the number of Roma in Slovakia were 380,000 (or more than 7% of the Slovak population). The demographic models predict this number to rise to 580,000 by the year 2025.

Most of the Roma in Slovakia live in the Eastern part of the country. A specific feature for Slovakia is the high level of spatial segregation. Unlike other countries where Roma are concentrated in neighbourhoods – but still within the limits of the city or the village, in Slovakia they are often totally isolated in settlements, sometimes kilometres away from the “normal” village. **The spatial segregation is a major driver of exclusion from employment opportunities, social services and most of all, of normal interaction between Roma and non-Roma living in the same area.** It has one “benefit” however – the cleavage between “integrated” and “marginalized” Roma communities is much more explicit than elsewhere. It makes easier to define the “marginalized Roma communities” and formalize them as a group of priority policy relevance (so called “*marginalizovane Romske komunity*” or MRK).

Similarly to other countries, Roma in Slovakia face disproportionate risk of exclusion compared to the mainstream population. Given the uncertainty of official statistics on Roma, the magnitude of exclusion and vulnerability is captured best through integrated household surveys.⁵⁹ The data from those surveys however provide sufficiently level of detail and are being used by the Government in the targeting on Roma inclusion interventions. It can be also used for assessing the relevance of the projects.

The available data show that Roma are facing **multiple deprivations** compared both to the national averages as well as to the non-Roma living in close proximity (and sharing similar socioeconomic conditions).

Education is a major challenge and priority area. Nearly one-fifth of Roma (19%) end their education without completing primary school and nearly three-fifths (60%) of them have finished standard primary school only.⁶⁰ A fraction (less than half percent) has university education. The problems start already at pre-school because only 25% of Roma kids attend pre-school education compared to 56% of non-Roma in close proximity. This is the reason why pre-school has been identified both by international organizations as well as the Government as a major priority in the area of Roma inclusion.⁶¹

⁵⁹ A number of such surveys have been done in the last decade. ... List the surveys with reference to the on-line data.

⁶⁰ Report on the Living Conditions of Roma Households in Slovakia 2010, UNDP 2012.

⁶¹ World Bank report on pre-school education; Roma Decade Action Plan

Unemployment is another obvious challenge. Most of Roma are jobless with irregular incomes. Employment rate of Roma in the age group of 15-64 is only 20% compared to 46% among the non-Roma neighbours. Roma women are hit even harder with only 9% of them in employment. Roma are also facing longer unemployment spells with average length of unemployment for those that have ever worked and are currently unemployed 6 years for Roma men and 8.5 years for Roma women (compared to respectively 2.7 and 4.9 years for non-Roma men and women living in close proximity to Roma).⁶²

Low employment rates and informality of employment inevitably translates into high share of **dependence of social transfers**. The data suggests that the share of employment-related incomes of Roma is only 17% respectively compared to 40% of non-Roma. Respectively, the share of social assistance is reverted: 33% of the household incomes in the case of Roma versus 18% in the case of non-Roma living in close proximity. The total share of state transfers in the case of Roma (unemployment benefits, social assistance and child allowances) reaches 69% in the case of Roma versus 37% in the case of non-Roma.⁶³

Housing is another priority of Roma inclusion in Slovakia. Some 16% of Roma households live in non-standard forms of dwelling, as in a house from wood or an abode from various materials. The high share of Roma without access to improved water source (38%) is unacceptably high for an EU member state. It is considerably higher (more than twice) than in the case of non-Roma living in close proximity. Even worse is the situation on the indicator “access to sanitation” – 44% of Roma don’t have a toilet or bathroom inside the dwelling. It is logically correlated with lack of access to running water in house – 42% of Roma households draw water from sources outside of their own dwelling and have to go more than 50 m for it.⁶⁴

Bad living conditions translate into **health problems**. Half of the Roma population (51%) reports to have had to interrupt⁶⁵ their daily activities as a consequence of common health problems.

1.2. Policy response

The challenges Roma are facing in Slovakia are addressed through defining Roma inclusion as a “**horizontal priority**” in the Government’s social policy. Roma should “appear” in all sector-specific interventions. An important feature of the Slovak approach is targeting “marginalized Roma” – and not “any Roma”, which helps reach the population in most acute need

The spatial segregation of most Roma in isolated settlements (*osada*) makes this approach operationally easier. In addition, detailed information on the number and distribution of marginalized Roma communities exists (the Atlas of Roma Communities elaborated in 2004 by a consortium of NGOs and research institutes⁶⁶ on request of the Slovak Government). It provides precise data on a broad number of indicators related to demography, living conditions, access to basic infrastructures etc. in the Roma settlements and is in fact an Atlas of *marginalized* Roma communities. Thus it is being used as a source of data for funds resource allocation and policy prioritization and is extremely useful instrument for policy targeting those populations that are in most desperate need of support.

⁶² Calculations based on UNDP/WB/EC 2011 data set. See also O’Higgins 2012.

⁶³ UNDP/WB/EC 2011 data set.

⁶⁴ Ibid. See also Peric 2012.

⁶⁵ UNDP/WB/EC 2011 data set. See also Mihailov 2012.

⁶⁶ The consortium was coordinated by the Public Affairs and included KCpRo, S.P.A.C.E supported by and Canadian Aid.

The updated ATLAS will be used also in the next programming period. There is a suggestion a “deprivation index” to be constructed and used to determine the localities in most dire status and a part of the ESF and ERDF for Slovakia to be allocated directly for these localities.

An important element of the Roma targeted instruments are the “field social workers” and ‘assistant to field social worker” who may be often Roma. Those are people with social assistance provision skills whose primary task is to work directly in and with the Roma communities. To certain extent they are “extended offices” of the social safety systems. This system started as a pilot project in 2002, which was mainstreamed as official policy. Until 2006 as a pilot project, these were financed from the state budget. Since 2006 the field social workers were paid through Social development Fund (part of ESF) which were established by the Ministry of Labour, social affairs and family. With the decentralization reform their functions and reporting lines have been moved to the municipalities.

The key policy frameworks are the National Roma Integration Strategy (2012 - 2020) 2020 and the National Action Plan for the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015. The strategy was designed under the requirement of DG JUST and the European Roma Platform. The process was extensively supported by the World Bank and UNDP. Currently in Slovakia a “Roma Reform” is under elaboration – largely driven by the new Government and the new Plenipotentiary for Roma issues.

Both the Strategy and the Action plan are “over-prioritized”. The list of priorities is so extensive that anything could fit as a “priority”.

As a member State, Slovakia is bound to follow the community requirements in regards anti-discrimination and racial equality. Those requirements however often meet with the latent resistance on the side of the government at various levels, central and local. One of the examples in that regard is the “housing improvement” projects in which the old dilapidated and segregated settlements with no infrastructure are being replaced by new housing – but similarly segregated, remote from the non-Roma villages and with no social infrastructure. The replacement of “ghettos without toilet” with “ghettos with toilet” paid from EC structural funds provoked the anger of the EC and precipitated the modification of the regulations prohibiting using EU funding for interventions considered as “segregation”.

The experience in Slovakia in the area of housing proved what the consequences of doing “things for Roma” and not involving the Roma themselves might be. The moment a family moves into a new house, it needs to pay rent and utilities. Without incomes beyond social welfare, the families are doomed to fall into a debt spiral. This is why the new plenipotentiary is eager about “inclusive housing” involving the beneficiaries in the construction process and combining it with skills improvement.

1.3. Donors response

After EU accession, the international organizations and donors scaled down their presence. The World Bank closed its office in 2009 and UNDP is about to close. The former is still involved in provision of technical assistance to the government in support for the social sector reform and to the elaboration of the National Roma Integration Strategy. In 2011 and 2012 the Bank was extremely active supporting and lobbying the Government to adopt more explicit commitments in regards Roma inclusion producing a number of policy papers and analyses (World Bank 2012b, 2012c).

UNDP is currently supporting the Government with its work on monitoring the living conditions, status and the progress of Roma inclusion (under a project with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs). Under this project UNDP is updating the ATLAS of Roma communities and this will be its last project implemented in Slovakia.

2. EEA/N Grants (2004-2009) in Support to Roma Inclusion Processes: Results, Relevance and Sustainability

2.1. General overview – how the projects were selected and funded

According to the official web-site of the EEA/N Financial Mechanism in Slovakia, the assistance provided to Slovakia was 67 million EUR in the period between 1 May 2004 and 30 April 2009 (95% of this amount was provided by the Kingdom of Norway).

The funding was provided through nine **priority areas**: 1. Protection of the environment; 2. Promotion of sustainable development; 3. Conservation of European cultural heritage; 4. Human resources development; 5. Health and childcare; 6. Research; 7. Implementation of Schengen acquis, strengthening the judiciary; 8. Regional policy and cross-border activities; 9. Technical assistance relating to implementation of *acquis communautaire*). The first six priority areas are supported by both financial mechanisms (EEA and Norway) and the last three are supported only by the Norwegian Financial Mechanism.

In addition to the priority areas, the following thematic **funds** were established: NGO Fund; Research Fund; Fund for Support of Cooperation among Schools/Scholarships; Street Lighting Fund; Fund for Cross-border Cooperation with Ukraine (supported only by the Norwegian Financial Mechanism); Technical Assistance Fund for the implementation of the financial mechanisms; and Seed Money Fund.

In Slovakia two modalities of funding were applied in the form of individual projects and through block grants.

The individual projects were bigger in scope with minimum amount of assistance from EUR 250 000. Due to the scope, they were feasible for established organizations with sufficient capacity in project managing, implementation and reporting. The block grants on the other hand were set up to provide access to funding for individuals and small organizations that are too small for the project to be administered in a cost-effective way on an individual basis.⁶⁷

In the case of Slovakia, Roma inclusion was not defined as an explicit priority for that programming period. Despite that, the call for proposals for **individual projects** code 0405 declared by National Focal Point for the applicants from the public and third sector states explicitly that “particular attention will be given“ to the “Support social integration and education schemes for minority groups“⁶⁸. This is the reason why 4 individual Roma-targeted projects appear among the projects funded from the priority area Human resources development.

Roma-targeted projects appear also among the projects funded from the **NGO Fund**. The NGO Fund was divided into three block grants, administered by three different organizations:

- Promotion of sustainable development administered by *Ecopolis Foundation* (2 mil EUR).
- Protection of human rights administered by *Open Society Foundation* (1.5 mil EUR) and
- Supporting social inclusion administered by *Socia Foundation* (1.5 mil EUR).⁶⁹

⁶⁷ The European Economic Area Financial Mechanism And The Norwegian Financial Mechanism in Slovakia, 2004-2009. Information brochure, http://archiv.vlada.gov.sk/eeagrants/data/att/16642_subor.pdf

⁶⁸ http://www.norway.sk/News_and_events/eea-grants/EEA-Grants-2004-2009/Call-for-proposals/individualprojects/#anchor2

⁶⁹ For details on the focus areas of individual funds see http://www.norway.sk/News_and_events/eea-grants/EEA-Grants-2004-2009/Call-for-proposals/ngofund/

The NGO Fund was another major tool for supporting Roma inclusion in Slovakia. It was spelled out explicitly in the call for proposals code 0105 for the intermediaries, especially in the block grant for human rights and its fourth focus area “strengthening the multicultural environment (aimed at minorities and Roma people”).⁷⁰ Nine Roma targeted projects in total were funded and all of them were supported under Human rights protection block grant and five of them were addressing the focus area mentioned above. The other three projects were supported under the focus area: Supporting the rights to Equal treatments and one project was funded under the area: Supporting the protection of human rights.

During the individual interviews it was repeatedly underlined that both type of the projects have been scrutinized and passed long and scrupulous process of assessment. **The ultimate result of effectively supporting 13 Roma related projects was due to the proper targeting and prioritisation of the interventions reflecting on the one hand the priorities of the donor and on the other, the clear formulations of the calls for proposals from the National Focal Point.**

2.2. Selection of the Roma-relevant projects for the current analysis

The selection of the projects to be analyzed was done in several steps. The FMO conducted a mapping of the Roma-relevant projects (based on the information possessed by FMO) and suggested six individual projects as Roma relevant. As a next step, all the projects were thoroughly reviewed and visited on-site. The results showed that out of those 6 projects, one was definitely not relevant (funded under the “Health and childcare” area) and the activities of another one were implemented in a region with high share of Roma population but were not targeting Roma (the project was implemented under “Regional policy and cross-border activities” area). Thus out of the 15 individual projects under priority area “Human resources development “ of total value 9,270,355 EUR, 4 in total value of 2,129,351 EUR are Roma-relevant. This constitutes 23% of the funding under mentioned above priority area.

Roma-targeted projects were funded also under the one of the **seven funds** created in the period 2004-2009 - **the NGO Fund**. Out of the total 87 projects implemented under the NGO fund in Slovakia, 34 were administered by Open Society Foundation. Out of those 34 projects, 9 were determined as “Roma relevant” with the help of the representatives of OSF in Bratislava.

The Roma relevant projects implemented under the NGO Fund were smaller in size in comparison with the individual ones, varying between 21,000 and 58,000 EUR. Their total value is 351,685 EUR, which is 23.8% of the overall funding administered by the OSF (1,478,011 mil EUR). This amounts to 6,9% of the entire NGO Fund for Slovakia for 2004-2009, which was 5,095,567 EUR.

The total volume of the **13 projects** (individual projects and NGO Fund) that are considered as Roma-relevant is **2,481,036 EUR** or **3.7% of the total funding under the EEA/N grants in 2004-2009 in Slovakia which amounted 67 mil. EUR.**

2.3. Overview of the projects’ results

All of the supported Roma related projects have reached their envisaged results and none of them were terminated. Most projects were envisaging “soft measures” facilitating the process of inclusion in various areas. The most prominently represented areas of intervention are education, human rights and mutual understanding (multiculturalism) between majorities and minorities. In the human rights oriented group the projects usually combine educational and advocacy elements. Only “Pure Heart, Záhorie Centre of Hobby Activities” project had an investment expenditures in its budget.

⁷⁰ NGO FUND - Call for proposals for intermediaries, http://www.norway.sk/News_and_events/eea-grants/EEA-Grants-2004-2009/Call-for-proposals/ngofund/

The individual projects are dominated by educational interventions with two of them explicitly increasing the improvement of the educational level and the competence of the Roma youth population and boost their future employability. The project called “Central and eastern Slovakia - community bridge-building” included requalification with potential of improving employability in 12 municipalities with more than thousand people assisted in employment and self-employment. Under the project “Social integration of Roma children in schools” has trained 900 Roma children who got e-learn competencies and 160 teachers from 40 schools have been trained in multicultural education, anti-bias education for social justice. The „Jarovnice - integration programme for Roma“ project was supporting the children with after-school preparation increasing their chances to gain decent education and in the course of two years more than 100 children have been taken care of and only 20 of them have dropped out from school.

2.4. Relevance to Roma inclusion

The projects identified as “Roma relevant” for the analysis were analyzed in-depth to determine to what extent their results contributed to Roma inclusion. “Relevance to Roma inclusion” is understood as comprised of the following elements:

- Territorial relevance (the projects should be implemented in the regions with high share of Roma population),
- Empowerment of the Roma community (the projects entail direct work with Roma expanding their capacity and responding to the needs of different groups in the diverse Roma society)
- Inclusive institutions and policies (the projects make the institutions more responsive and reflective to Roma specifics)
- Non-discriminative societies (the projects are targeting majority populations in order to decrease the level of prejudice and discriminatory attitudes).

All 13 projects selected for in-depth analysis (individual and supported under the NGO fund) were analyzed for their relevance to Roma inclusion.

Territorial relevance: the biggest share of Roma population is concentrated in the Eastern and Southern parts of Slovakia, where the economic situation is much worse than in Western and Central part of the country. Out of the 13 Roma targeted projects 8 have been implemented in Eastern and Southern Slovakia. 6 of those 8 have broader territorial scope and 2 are local (implemented in single settlements). Five of the 13 projects are of national coverage. **Thus from territorial distribution perspective all the projects are relevant and cover regions with high share of Roma population.**

Empowerment of the Roma community: Education is a major determinant of empowerment. Six projects were dealing with the educational problems and were thus directly contributing to Roma inclusion process. Two of those six addressed problems of minority rights and taught the Roma on their rights. Seven of the 13 projects reached Roma communities directly and involving Roma actively, which is another important aspect of empowerment.

Inclusive institutions and policies: two projects fall directly into this category. Both were funded from the NGO Fund and both addressed Roma inclusion problems at “policy level”. One of the projects (Children from marginalized communities in the process of education) deals with very specific problem of the implications of the educational reform and its impact on the marginalized communities. The second one (Increasing awareness about discrimination and human rights among the public actors working with disadvantaged groups) was more generally focused on deeper understanding of multiple discrimination.

Non-discriminative societies: A lot of the funding – namely, five projects – was devoted to encouraging multicultural understanding and “advocacy”, which is definitely a priority area of the national strategies.

One project stands out adopting an integrated and synergetic approach to Roma inclusion. “Central and eastern Slovakia - community bridge-building” was establishing community service centres

working in provision of social services, education, community development and work with children and youth. In addition their adopted strategy included local authorities as an active partner in the project. This is why this project meets all four “relevance” criteria. It is also financially efficient – the average budget for one community centre established is approximately 69,000 EUR.

This project and the approach behind it have the potential for replication. It established 12 community centres in areas in Eastern Slovakia with high share of Roma population and in each locality the project promoter established cooperation with the local government under which the municipality provides the venue and covers the utilities and ETP Slovakia equipped the centre and ran the respective educational courses. After the completion of the project, 6 of the Centres have been refinanced through SDC. The project promoter is currently raising funding for the remaining centres.⁷¹

Annex 2 provides a detailed description of the individual projects and the implementing organizations.

2.4. Sustainability

We consider the issue of “sustainability” from several angles:

- The organization implementing the projects has Roma issue as a consistent priority in its mission. Out of the 13 projects, 11 qualify as “sustainable under this criterion.
- The organization implementing the projects has weight, trust and record. 11 out of 13 qualify as sustainable
- Direct link with and involvement of the community - 7 out of 13 have such a link and might qualify as sustainable
- Support and involvement of the Municipality - 7 out of 13 have such support.

Most of the implementing partners (project promoters) are big organizations registered in Bratislava but working in support of Roma inclusion – 7 NGOs are registered in Bratislava. The other 7 are local organizations and only 2 of 7 can be considered as “Roma” having Roma among their founding members. They are focused and dedicated to tackle the challenges of Roma exclusion and have long years of experience in that field. One of the projects was implemented by and in a municipality with high share of Roma and is explicitly focused on dealing with the challenges the Roma citizens of the municipality face.

Thus using the criteria outlined above, most of the projects were sustainable. It is also indicative that 10 out of the 13 projects have secured further funding for projects with similar focus, which suggests that the approach they have implemented under the EEA/N Grants was also sustainable.

Important aspect of sustainability is the local capacity developed in the course of the projects implementation. We believe that formal trainings and seminars may contribute to the organizations’ capabilities to deliver results but are rarely effective in that regard. The best way of capacity developing is in the process of real work, through practical experience. The projects funded under the NGO Fund however didn’t make the best use of this opportunity. The NGO Fund could have worked more pro-actively to encourage small, grass-root and new organizations to implement Roma related

⁷¹ During the interview with the ETP management it was clarified that the discrepancy comes from the fact that during the implementation of the project the number of services provided was registered and monitored (cases of advise, support in filling forms etc.) and not the number of beneficiaries. This is why the “Number of socially excluded citizens benefiting from the project” (with initial target 1,200) has been achieved and reported as 94,652. That number is the number of cases of support or services provided to the community and not number of beneficiaries (one person was approaching the Centre several times) . ETP management stressed that it is aware of the problem related to the possible misunderstanding and develops a customized software for maintaining reliable statistics on the implemented projects that would make possible reliable projects outcome monitoring.

projects. Those most probably are the Roma community-based organizations. In reality however the Roma-relevant projects supported under the block grants appear to have been granted to established, big NGOs, which are located in Bratislava or big cities like Kosice. This is why **the NGO Fund didn't act as it could as a tool to support local start-ups.**

2.5. Monitoring and evaluation deficits

Nominally all the projects in 2004-2009 have the necessary M&E attributes (defined outcomes, outputs, indicators). The quality of the M&E infrastructure however is very poor and doesn't allow for estimating the real results of the projects. Most indicators are process-related – and not outcome oriented. By no means this is a problem faced by the EEA/N funded projects only. It reflects a general deficit of capacity and knowledge on monitoring and evaluation, definition of “a result”, distinguishing between “outputs” and “outcomes” etc.

Respectively the monitoring process from the side of the National Focal Point was reflecting these deficits. Virtually **all project beneficiaries interviewed were sharing their dissatisfaction by the fact that the controlling authorities were more preoccupied by the formal compliance with the procedures than by the meaningfulness of the respective expenditure.** In addition, being ultimately responsible vis-à-vis the donor, the general procedures were being interpreted in the most rigid way serving the “reporting comfort” of the managerial body and not the degree to which the interventions actually make sense and improve the situation of Roma.

This is reflected in the approach adopted by the National Focal Point to M&E. All individual projects have been monitored following similar pattern:

Within few months after the beginning of the projects they were visited and subject of substantive and financial monitoring.

At the end of the projects only financial monitoring was conducted.

What is even more important, **not a single monitoring visit has occurred to the localities where the actual activities have been implemented.** The project promoters expressed their frustration about the fact that the National Focal Point has **no idea of the real conditions and the circumstances in which the projects are implemented** – and the financial expenditures occur. The check of the project documentation (the usual content of the monitoring visits) cannot provide that knowledge. This suggests that the National Focal Point is more interested in the formal compliance with the procedures and not in the real results achieved. In some cases Her Excellency the Ambassador of Norway had to intervene.

The entire programming period 2004-2009 was evaluated by an external consulting company, IBS Slovakia LTD. Under “Solving the Roma issue” two projects were evaluated (individual projects “Central and eastern Slovakia - community bridge-building” and „Jarovnice - integration programme for Roma” from the current analysis).⁷² The evaluation report in its Roma-related sections is superficial and formal, process- and procedures-consistency focused. It follows a common matrix and the Roma targeted projects rarely fit into formal matrices. The evaluation contains factological mistakes (the place of the formal registration of the project promoter is presented as the place where the activities took place). It also confuses the intermediary (process related) results with the final project outcomes.

⁷² Evaluation Report ‘Evaluation of the 2004 - 2009 Programming Period of the EEA Financial Mechanism and Norwegian Financial Mechanism’ Prepared by: IBS SLOVAKIA, Ltd., pp. 25-28. Available at http://www.eegrants.sk/data/files/2057_evaluation-report-2004-2009.pdf

3. EEA/N Grants (2009-2014) in Support to Roma Inclusion Processes: Potential and Challenges

3.1. General overview of the EEA/N Grants (2009-2014)

During the new program period 9 programs worth 80 mil EUR will be financed. The programs include: Adaptation to climate change, Green industry innovations, Local and regional initiatives to reduce national inequalities and to promote social inclusion, conservation and revitalization of cultural and national heritage, domestic and gender based violence, cross-border cooperation, scholarships, NGO Fund and decent work and tripartite dialogue. The Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic will be Program Operator of the first 6 programs.

The official EEA/N Grants site lists two programs as “Roma relevant” for Slovakia:

- **SK04** – Local and regional initiatives to reduce national inequalities and to promote social inclusion with budget of 1 mil EUR and
- NGO Fund (**SK03** and **SK10**) with total budget of 6,9 mil EUR.

After signing the contract for the elaboration of the “Study on Roma inclusion”, the FMO forwarded a list of Roma relevant programs, in which in addition to the three listed above, the program **SK09** “Domestic and gender based violence” with its budget of 7 mil EUR was recognized as “Roma relevant”.

Based on the information provided by the FMO in June 2013, two more programmes are referred to as Roma relevant: Cultural Heritage and Cultural Diversity and Public Health initiatives. These programs were not studied but were included for reference in Annex 2. Map of new programs 2009-2014 (below).

3.2. What will be funded under the EEA/N 2009-2014 and how

Under **SK 04** - Local and regional initiatives to reduce national inequalities and to promote social inclusion two predefined projects are envisaged: **an accredited program of extended education specializing on Romani language and culture and the development of the respective teaching materials for the course** that will be implemented by the Institute of Roma Studies at the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. The second predefined project will be implemented by the National Institute for Education and will include the elaboration –of an **accredited program of innovative multi-cultural education for teaching staff of primary schools**. The project also includes: a) development of learning materials for and b) development of textbooks aimed at Romani language and culture for primary and secondary schools. The program envisages also a **Small Grant Scheme** (461,177 EUR) under which local and regional authorities, as well as local schools, will be developing initiatives to strengthen anti-discriminatory measures for vulnerable groups. The small grants will amount between 5,000 and 40,000 euro. The DPP is the Council of Europe.

The second programme considered as “Roma relevant” for the next program period according to the official site of the EEA/N Grants is the **NGO Fund**. In line with article 5.13 of the Regulations the FMO is entrusted to operate the programme. The National Focal Point and the Plenipotentiary for civil society will be consulted during the implementation period. The program is divided into two projects:

- **SK03 – Democracy and human rights** which will be implemented by the *Open Society Foundation* Slovakia and
- **SK10 – Active citizenship and inclusion**. The Programme Operator will be the *Ekopolis Foundation* in partnership with Children of Slovakia Foundation and *Socia – Social Reform Foundation*. Both projects (SK03 and SK10) have equal budgets – 3,451,500 EUR.

SK03 – Democracy and human rights is including the following priority areas of support i) Democracy, good governance and transparency, ii) Human rights, including minorities’ rights iii) Gender equality and Gender based violence, iv) Anti-discrimination and Combat racism and xenophobia. In the program’s description “Minority and Roma” are mentioned as “individually

targeted” group among a longer list of vulnerable groups. The priority areas (ii) and (iv) might be expected to have explicit Roma focus.

Open Society Foundation implements a simplified application procedure for the new program period and thus intends to save applying organizations’ time and resources. For that purpose a two-stage application scheme has been designed. At stage one the applicants will be submitting just a “project idea”. The form for the first stage is simplified to the extent possible and doesn’t require detailed description of the activities and a budget. In most cases the applicant will be choosing among pre-defined options. The project idea will be assessed by the Fund Operator and the candidates that have met the criteria will be invited to develop a Project proposal (a second stage). Since the first round of submissions of project ideas is over, some preliminary results are available: out of 162 submitted ideas, 50 don’t fit the formal criteria and have been turned down. The remaining 112 applicants have been invited to develop and submit project proposals.

The way the application scheme has been designed, it may encourage small and newly established NGOs to submit a project idea. During the interview, the representatives of OSF expressed their readiness to assist the applicants with promising ideas but with little experience and limited capacity to draft a project.. The applicants will be also supported by regional seminars and trainings.

SK 10 – Active citizenship and inclusion. This program is also developed in four priority areas with two of them (“Active citizenship” and “Protection of the environment and climate change”) to be administered by Ecolopolis Foundation. Priority areas “Children and youth, incl. children at risk” will be administered by “Children of Slovakia” Foundation and “Welfare and basic services to vulnerable groups” – by Socia – Social reform Foundation. The “Fund for bilateral relations” has been added to those priority areas under SK10 and one small pre-define project. Roma-related projects are expected to be supported explicitly under the following priority areas: „Active citizenship“, priority area „Social inequalities, poverty and exclusion, including in rural areas“ and “Children and youth”, priority area “Reduction of threats related to children and youth at risk and Roma”.

Ekopolis and partners follow the traditional application scheme and will provide applicants with regional trainings and seminars.

SK 09 “Domestic and gender based violence” with its budget of 7 mil EUR is recognized as “Roma relevant”. The DPP are the Norwegian Directorate of Health (HDIR) and the Council of Europe (CoE). The program has some potential to be Roma relevant. It needs however robust indicators on project level to be developed and applied in the process of implementation of all projects supported under the measures providing grants (measures 2, 3 and 4⁷³).

3.3. Roma relevance

Unlike the previous program period, “Roma inclusion” has been defined as an explicit priority for 2009-2014 by the Donor. If the relevance criteria from the previous period are applied to the current period the picture looks like the following:

SK04: the two pre-defined projects will have questionable effect on the criterion „empowerment of Roma community” because it’s hard to expect that significant number of Roma will be doing Masters Degree on Roma language. The first pre-defined project might marginally improve the inclusiveness of the educational institutions. The second pre-defined project (multi-cultural education of primary school teachers) might strengthen the non-discriminatory attitudes bringing the non-Roma teachers closer to Roma culture and traditions. The small grants scheme is envisaged as extension of the multi-

⁷³ Measure 2: Creation of new services for women at risk of violence and experiencing violence and their children – Counselling; Centres (Small Grant Scheme); Measure 3: Support of existing Counselling Centres for victims of domestic violence (Small Grant Scheme); Measure 4: Support of existing Counselling Centres for women at risk of violence and experiencing violence and their children.

cultural education with practical initiatives involving children and might have high impact on decreasing discriminatory attitudes if the selection criteria explicitly target the grants to ethnically mixed schools or settlements.

SK03: The program is written in a very general and broad manner. The four priority areas are different from those in the previous program period. Despite the fact that Roma inclusion is not specified as a priority area of intervention, there are grounds to expect that the OSF will continue to support actively projects targeting Roma as it did in the past. Those projects fall mostly under two priority areas: “human rights including minority rights“ and “anti- discrimination, combating of racism and xenophobia“. The projects will contribute to Roma inclusion in two ways: making the institutions more responsive and reflective to Roma specifics and targeting majority populations in order to decrease the level of prejudice and discriminatory attitudes.

It is not possible to determine what would be the ultimate volume of the funding that will reach explicitly Roma. However bearing in mind the share achieved in the previous program period and the fact that the Fund Operator is the same, we may confidently assume that it will be at least 900,000 EUR or 26% of the SK03.

SK 10: One priority area envisaged in this program is explicitly related to Roma, namely priority area “Reduction of threats related to children and youth at risk and Roma“. The following activities are envisaged:

- prevention and intervention activities focused at minimisation or elimination of threats related to children and youth at risk;
- education of teachers, NGO staff members, representatives of local/regional municipalities and volunteers in area of improvement of the quality of work with children and youth at risk.

We expect that those two groups of activities will have impact on all factors of Roma inclusion – empowerment, mutual understanding between majorities and minorities, responsiveness of social systems etc. The funding allocated for this priority area is 578,201 EUR and we estimate that some 70% will benefit Roma. In the rest of the program Roma as a target group is defined as a cross-cutting priority. It is confident to expect that some 20% or 84800 EUR of the priority area “Active citizenship” will benefit Roma inclusion also. It makes 489540 EUR in total or 14% of the entire SK10.

SK09: In this program Roma are defined as a target group and as a group to which the implementing partners should apply a „sensitive approach to multiply disadvantaged groups and creation of services for their specific needs“. ⁷⁴ However no description is given of how exactly this group will be reached. In the programme proposal it is envisaged that “extra points for providing services focused also on Roma” will be given but it’s unclear even how „Roma“ will be identified. It may lead to using “Roma points” just for increasing the chances of getting funding with no link to Roma women. It would be possible to establish what would be the Roma component of the programme only post factum, if rigorous monitoring of the service provision by ethnicity is done. A rough estimate of the funding that might benefit directly or indirectly Roma is 1,287 Mil. EUR or 18% of the Donor’s contribution.

4. Conclusions and recommendations

4.1. Conclusions

⁷⁴ Summary of the Programme proposal SK09 Domestic and genderbased violence. Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2009 – 2014, p.39.

Despite the fact that Roma inclusion was not formulated as an explicit priority for 2004-2009, high quality projects targeting Roma inclusion were financed during that period in Slovakia. Four big individual projects were targeting Roma, among which one worth replication on a mass scale. A number of projects addressing human rights and promoting multicultural values were supported through the NGO Fund – and they are also having very positive impact on Roma inclusion in the country.

In the new programming period 2009-2014 Roma is already defined as an explicit priority. All 4 mention Programmes are matching this intention defining Roma as horizontal priority.

Unfortunately the SK04 program's budget is modest and its Roma related elements are not reflecting the most burning priority issues for Roma inclusion as defined by the National Roma Integration Strategy. It is comprised of predefined projects, which makes it “closed” and difficult to modify in the process of implementation.

Few priority areas under the two programmes (SK03 and SK10) that will be implemented under the NGO Fund have explicit Roma component. The other priority areas of both programs are defined broadly and Roma appear as a target group without details on how exactly they will be reached. The success depends on the quality of the projects submitted under the calls of proposal. Both NGO Fund operators stated the intention to provide pro-active support and tailored consultations to potential project implementers.

The situation with SK09 is similar.

Detailed calculation of how much resources would reach Roma exactly is not possible to be done. But a rough estimate is feasible. Assuming that:

- The entire funding of SK04 is Roma-relevant 1 mil. EUR;
- The amount anticipated in support of Roma under SK03 might reach 900,000 EUR
- The amount targeting Roma under SK10 is estimated at 489,540 EUR,
- The estimated Roma-relevant amount under SK09 is 1, 287 mil EUR.

Then the minimum estimated amount that may be devoted to Roma inclusion in the program period 2009-2014 is in the range of 3.6 mil. EUR or 4.6% of the total funding for Slovakia, which is 80 mil EUR. The estimates of the program operators claim that even higher share of the funding will be benefiting Roma. However it is not clear how this claim will be realized and there is a risk that the “Roma targeting” at the end may remain only on paper.

The new programming period is explicitly focused on “concrete results and long-term impacts that can be measured “ with the expected outcomes and outputs of the programme, which serve as performance indicators”.⁷⁵ However it should be clear that measuring “Roma relevance” is a huge challenge. Without clear and strict indicators a, projects addressing general social inclusion challenges applicable to every member of the society might be reported as “Roma relevant” and accounted for as investment into Roma inclusion.

4.2. Recommendations

On “innovativeness” of the interventions:

⁷⁵ EEA and Norway Grants Solidarity and cooperation in Europe. Meld. St. 20 (2011–2012) Report to the Storting (white paper). http://www.regjeringen.no/pages/38114784/PDFS/STM201120120020000EN_PDFS.pdf, p. 45.

It is important to continue looking for “innovative” approaches to Roma inclusion but those shouldn’t come at the expense of the known, tested and working approaches.⁷⁶

On future programs definition:

The experience from the previous program period suggests that a lot of genuinely working approaches to address Roma inclusion appear under the individual projects .That’s why more space for individual projects should be left.

On definition of “Roma targeting”:

Relying solely on mainstreamed approaches is not sufficient, they need to be complemented by actions explicitly targeting Roma communities with Roma-specific targets.

On project selection:

When projects are being assessed and considered for funding, the previous experience and projects implemented already should be given weight among the assessment criteria. Also involving Roma in the work for Roma should be obligatory and traceable.

On orientation at results:

The project promoters capacity in the area of data, monitoring and evaluation and request clear results-oriented indicators needs to be developed. For that matter professional external opinion and advice should be sought. Also ex-ante assessment of the anticipated results of the programs can be institutionalized using external independent opinion – this will make the “baselines” of the project meaningful.

⁷⁶ The desire to share such working experience was explicitly declared by the management of “Wide Open School Foundation” during the interview.

ANNEX 1. Map of funded projects 2004-2009

Bulgaria				
Bulgaria Individual projects related to Roma inclusion funded under the EEA/N (2004-2009)				
<p>Grantee: Municipality Geogri Damyanovo</p> <p>Project: - Renovation of Zvanche orphanage</p> <p>Duration: 18 months</p> <p>Grant size: € 308,852</p>	<p>Health and Childcare</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <p>The project's aim is to support the social integration of 48 children aged 3-7 years residing in the orphanage (40 of them are with Roma origin), to provide them with appropriate living conditions and professional and motivated staff.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <p>The project includes infrastructure renovation, equipment and furnishing, purchase of a bus for the children, staff training and installation of a document management system.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 48 children benefited from improved infrastructure, living conditions and quality care • 21 staff members trained in team-work, work with children at risk, work with parents and candidate adopters • Improved management of documentation and case handling 	<p>Improving the capacities of staff and the living conditions in childcare institutions is definitely needed, as they still accommodate a large number of children – over 5300 in 2011, according to the State Agency for Child Protection.</p> <p>In the long run the project has limited sustainability chances, because the childcare policy in Bulgaria plan for closing all institutions and replacing them with a system of community-based services till 2025.</p>
<p>Grantee: Kyustendil Municipality</p> <p>Project: Together for children at risk - a model for prevention and reintegration in Kyustendil Municipality</p> <p>Duration: 24 months</p> <p>Grant size: € 297,885</p>		<p>Objectives:</p> <p>The project objective is to provide social services for children and families at risk in the municipality of Kyustendil in South-western Bulgaria.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two centres (the Municipal Centre for Social Support of Children and Families at Risk and part of the United Children Complex) refurbished and equipped to create a friendly environment for children in need. • A multi-unit centre for leisure, education and prevention created at the United Children Complex; • Holistic municipal strategy for children at risk, encompassing social services as well as activities and programmes for the reintegration of children and families at risk 	<p>The Municipal Strategy for Social Services for Children and Families (2010–2013) was developed and a year later evolved into Municipal Strategy for Development of Social Services (2010–2013). Both documents address the needs of the Roma population, and especially children, in detail.</p>

Bulgaria NGOs sub-projects related to Roma inclusion funded under the EEA/N (2004-2009)				
General information (Grantee/project/ duration/Grant size)	Field/ Geographic outreach	Short description (objectives/key activities)	Results	Impact and Sustainability
<p>Grantee: Alternatives Association</p> <p>Project: Social Centre for Children and Families</p> <p>Duration: 12 months</p> <p>Grant size: € 31,126</p>	<p>Childcare – children and youth.</p> <p>Local -1 municipality - Aytos</p>	<p>Develop social services for children and youth in risk. Better understanding of the issues within families and communities. Increasing the municipality capacity for helping the targeted group.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided support to 64 people with approximately equal number of ethnic Bulgarians, Roma and Turks. • Educated 20 specialists and volunteers. • Cooperation with local institutions for increasing the awareness on the issues in the municipality. • Media campaign for further publicity, awareness and acceptance of the issue. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 volunteers continue work with Bulgarian, Roma and Turkish ethnic groups within communities. • The centre continues work and is known within the municipality for presenting high quality social services. • Established and continuing new service through partnerships with local authorities and institutions.
<p>Grantee: Community Council on Education – Alternative Montana Association</p> <p>Project: City centre for prevention and support of children at risks</p> <p>Duration: 13 months</p> <p>Grant size: € 18,052</p>	<p>Health and childcare</p> <p>Local – 1 municipality (Montana)</p>	<p>Work in multiethnic education environment for helping integration.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the children and their families. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services provided to 131 children – 41 of each from the Roma ethnic group. • Corrected speech with 69% of beneficiaries and improved with 31%. • Developed and implemented educational techniques for helping people from the Roma ethnic group have equal opportunities for education as others (language learning, social adaptation). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultations with children have continued after the end of the project. • Education of specialists through the project on work with children from the Roma ethnic group and creating a base for their help for such in the future. • The grantee is currently a partner in the implementation of another project for children from the Roma ethnic group.
<p>Grantee: Rakitovo Development Association</p> <p>Project: Prevention of child abandonment and</p>	<p>Childcare</p> <p>Local - 1 municipality (Rakitovo)</p>	<p>Prevention of abandoning of children.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultations and education of mothers in risk; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with all ethnic groups; • Services provided for prevention of early pregnancy and reducing the number of abandoned children; • Improved parents' abilities; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional financing for future for continuing the work and volunteers was raised through a campaign during the project. • Established standards for families in risk that are used for

<p>their placement in institutions</p> <p>Duration: 13 months</p> <p>Grant size: € 13,982</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working on advocacy with local institutions; Overall media campaign on the project and issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Created system for signalling and registering families at risk. 	<p>continuing work on the topic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established municipality partnership for continuing work.
<p>Grantee: SOS Children's Villages Bulgaria</p> <p>Project: Initiative for responsible parentage</p> <p>€ 45,925</p> <p>Duration: 13 months</p>	<p>Childcare - 1 municipality – Veliko Tarnovo</p>	<p>New model for social service for children and families in risk;</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with all ethnic groups; Developed methodology for families group work and education; 6 groups for parents self help created and regular trainings with them established. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change of parents thinking and attitudes on their children development and parents/children communication; 65 families supported, 35 of which from the Roma ethnic group (in 2 of the 4 locations 90% of the population was from the Roma ethnic group); Methodology and system for parents' group trainings created; improved capacity of professionals for such trainings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Centre for work with parents in the municipality continuing work, as well as centres in other municipalities; Continuing usage of new model of work for parents trainings; Disseminated know-how on institutional level that helps future developments on the issue. Continued work of group of volunteers formed during the project.
<p>Grantee: Positive Skills of the Person in the Society Foundation</p> <p>Project: Protected area and reintegration of children victims of different violence</p> <p>Duration: 12 months</p> <p>Grant size: € 35,523</p>	<p>Local - 1 municipality (Pernik)</p>	<p>Improving the care for children that have experienced violence.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development and maintenance of a centre for children and parents in risk of violence. Working on rehabilitation and re-integration of victims. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trainings of specialists on the issues and improving their capabilities; Youth club for more information of the young people on the issues; Executing alternative care for children and mothers; Centre practices reduced the risk of child violence and abandoning; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Centre for children and parents in risk established as a new resource in the municipality. The organization continues to work in the field.
<p>Grantee: Alliance for Regional and Civic Initiatives</p> <p>Project: We All Are Equal, We All Are Different</p> <p>Grant size: € 28,936</p>	<p>Human rights - Multiple locations - Ihtiman, Silistra, Sitovo</p>	<p>Improving integration among different ethnic groups in schools.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction of Educational Theatre methodology (informal interactive education); Training of teachers to apply the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced ethnicity based discrimination practices; Educational Theatre methodology developed; 30% of the beneficiaries from the Roma ethnic group. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educational theatre methodology established and published for everybody who would like to use it; Educational theatre practices continuing after the project in schools; The trained teachers continue to

		<p>methodology;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classes in schools following the methodology. Multicultural and sports events 		<p>work for improved integration in schools.</p>
<p>Grantee: Centre for Rehabilitation and Social Contacts of Children and People with Ocular Disabilities</p> <p>Project: Centre for rehabilitation and social integration of children with disabilities</p> <p>Duration: 17 months</p> <p>Grant size: 33 435,63</p>	<p>Health and childcare</p> <p>Local (two cities – Gabrovo, Varna)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop social services for children with ocular disabilities (Health, professional, and social rehabilitation). Additional health support for children. Education for parents and teachers to help further integration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 centre developed in each city. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successful integration of children in schools and kindergartens. Increased level of education within families with children with ocular disabilities. Follow-up project OPHRD, till March 2012.
<p>Grantee: Naya</p> <p>Project: Integrated help for children and women victims of domestic violence.</p> <p>Duration: 13 months</p> <p>Grant size: 24 359,00</p>	<p>Social services</p> <p>Local – 1 municipality</p>	<p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social, psychological and legal consultations; Help for conducting law suites (11 established, of which 9 successful) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 47 children and 39 women supported, many of them from the Roma ethnic group; A special mobile service created for small Roma communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A model for integrated help for children and women at risk was developed and established.
Czech Republic				
Czech Republic NGOs sub-projects related to Roma inclusion funded under the EEA/N (2004-2009)				
General information (Grantee/project/ duration/Size of grant)	EEA program area/ field of work/ Geographic outreach	Short description (objectives/key activities)	Results	Impact and Sustainability
<p>-Středisko křesťanské pomoci Jihlava</p>	<p>NGO fund, multicultural environment</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <p>Broaden the offering of services to members of minorities, in terms of their</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2,000 flyers were printed and 4 +4 (+1 mobile) information boards were installed with information about the Centre and its 	<p>unknown</p>

<p>Multicultural environment in communities</p> <p>- 12 months</p> <p>- 31 523 €</p>	<p>local level</p>	<p>integration Jihlava society. Improve public awareness about the Roma and foreign communities in Jihlava.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multicultural Education Centre establishment. Used by 31 foreigners. • Public survey was also carried out, focusing on the perceptions of minorities by the public at the start and end of the project. 	<p>activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Czech language was taught to 26 foreigners and Romas and English language to 2 foreigners. • Educational program on PC was organized for 3 foreigners; • 4 multicultural evenings with the active participation of minorities and foreigners - 106 people attending. • Open house days for the Asylum Home were visited by 160 people. • education activities for the centre employees 	
<p>Sdružení Podané ruce, o.s.</p> <p>Working with At-risk Youth, with an Emphasis on the Development of Relations between the Roma and the Majority Populations</p> <p>12 months</p> <p>49 500</p>	<p>NGO fund, multicultural environment</p> <p>local level</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <p>Improving the cohabitation of the majority and the Roma populations in Olomouc.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating Romanodrom Club and low-threshold club for children and youth (NZDM), entailing educational, training, and activating activities, social consulting, social intervention, and crisis intervention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 200 participants in club and project activities - 143 of Roma minority; • Street-work (search, supplementary function, mapping the terrain) – 527 repeated contacts, • 59 clients to use the services of NZDM; • 4 initial workshops, subsequently regular; • 10 discussions on social and cultural issues; • 5 events to enhance traditions and customs; 1 experiential education event; 14 intercultural games; tutoring (for 31 clients). <p>Repeated contact occurred during the project with 4702 people, number of provided social services was with 1348 people. Also 27 get together for the community groups took place. Beneficiary published 500 fliers and 5 press reports.</p>	<p>unknown</p>
<p>Občanské sdružení - Společně – JEKHEANE</p>	<p>NGO fund, multicultural environment,</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <p>Strengthening the multicultural environment in Ostrava's communities,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results of joint teambuilding search for joint and different cultural traditions presented at gatherings at primary and secondary 	<p>Impact: Project has two positive impacts – first on the performing participants, second on the schools / children that attend the presentations</p>

<p>Multicultural environment in communities</p> <p>12 months</p> <p>24 398 €</p>	<p>local level</p>	<p>by helping the Roma and the majority populations to get to know better what they have in common and where are the differences.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <p>Multicultural team, comprised of 5 pupils representing majority and 5 minority, underwent joint teambuilding</p>	<p>schools (for 295 pupils and students in the region).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project results were published on DVD (100), on a website, a brochure (500 pieces), the media (1 article), and through 200 pieces of flyers for schools, institutions, and NGOs. 	<p>Sustainability: This activity wasn't continued but the organisation continues to be active in Roma integration work</p>
<p>Sdružení Romano jasnica</p> <p>The M.C. Zeffirino Club</p> <p>12 months</p> <p>50 000 €</p>	<p>NGO multicultural environment fund,</p> <p>local level</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <p>Strengthen the openness of multicultural communities, in order to develop an intercultural society in the Trmice area.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building a multicultural centre for leisure-time and educational activities. 8 multicultural seminars and a number of promotional materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 brochures with a syllabus of lectures, 200 flyers and 30 posters Multicultural camp attended by 38 6 study trips for 17 children each. The target group included total of 100 children and youth (from the majority and minority populations). Up to 30 children and youth were involved in the project every day, and 5 students underwent internships at the centre. 	<p>Impact: Services provided to different age groups within the local Roma population. Useful after-school activity for children.</p> <p>Sustainability: Organisation continues with its activities for the local Roma (and also non-Roma) and has transformed the club into low-threshold centre (recognized as social service and hence eligible for state subsidies). Follow-up project financed from Ngo fund.</p>
<p>Sdružení Roztoč</p> <p>Feel at Home Here</p> <p>12 months.</p> <p>26 000 €</p>	<p>NGO multicultural environment fund,</p> <p>local level</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <p>Develop the multicultural environment in the region of Roztoky, Libčice, Únětice, and environs. Reduce ethnic prejudices, by searching for mutual inspiration among individual ethnic groups, and enriching others by individual ethnic groups' traditions, habits, and history.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multicultural events and workshops; Promotion through local and regional press. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 multicultural evenings, 1 multicultural event, and 4 open workshops for 8 Roma children. The project was promoted through the local and regional press (website of the organization, 280 flyers and 1400 small flyers, publication summarising the project (100 copies), exhibition of photographs from the project. 70 minority families reached, 30 Libčice Roma colony approached Children and youth from the majority society (11,350 people). 	<p>Unknown</p>

<p>IQ Roma Service</p> <p>Let's meet</p> <p>18 months.</p> <p>63 900 €</p>	<p>NGO multicultural environment</p> <p>fund,</p> <p>local level</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <p>Raise awareness of Roma youth of existence and problems of other minority groups.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants presented their experience at schools, 3 presentations were prepared. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11 multicultural lessons for young Roma from Brno aged 11-16 years; Participants wrote their experiences, which were published on the website, and a magazine published quarterly. They were used for 15 information boards in public institutions and schools, which the beneficiary has administered since 1997. 77 children participated in the project activities, 23 of them took part repeatedly. The exhibition "How I see it" with the use of project outputs took place at 1 elementary school, municipality house and IQ Roma Service. 	<p>Impact: Interesting idea to support co-operation with / interest in other minorities. Measuring of real impact would require more in depth research. Yet the project should be seen as an attempt to enrich quality of organisation's offer of activities for young Roma who attend organization's club.</p> <p>Sustainability: Project wasn't directly continued, yet some activities within the project are continued.</p>
<p>Sdružení Romano jasnica</p> <p>The M.C. Zeffirino Club</p> <p>18 months.</p> <p>75 000 €</p>	<p>NGO multicultural environment</p> <p>fund,</p> <p>local level</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <p>Extending the activities of the Roma community centre, which offers a large number of leisure time activities for children from socially excluded communities, and from communities endangered by social exclusion.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children's camp for 17 children; Photographic course, music and dance courses, computer courses, music festival 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18 "trained" children in photography - calendars for the year 2009 a 2010 and a brochure of best pictures issued. Two Incentive courses were a significant activity planned with the participation of 25 people, which motivated the youth to study at high schools. 	<p>Impact: Part of organization's services provided to different age groups within the local Roma population. Useful after-school activity for children.</p> <p>Sustainability: Organisation continues with its activities for the local Roma (and also non-Roma) and succeeded to transform club into low-threshold centre (recognized as social service and hence eligible for state subsidies)</p>
<p>Organizace pro pomoc uprchlíkům, o.s.</p> <p>Active assistance of bilateral relations between minorities groups and majoritarian society in the South Moravian region</p>	<p>NGO multicultural environment</p> <p>fund,</p> <p>local level</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integration of foreigners and ethnic minorities in the society of the South Moravian Region Mutual understanding of communities living in the Czech Republic. <p>Activities:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 leaflets about the multicultural center and its services were printed and distributed. Consultations and advice were provided to 222 clients (576 interventions). 880 students of primary and secondary schools and universities attended 19 lectures. 20 lectures for the public which focused on 	

24 months 89 000 €		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A multicultural center with a library (purchase of 151 books) was established • Consultations, tutorials, lectures, workshops. 	<p>different countries such as Bhutan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan etc. Attended by 813 people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tutorials - 35 practises, 15 consulted pieces of graduate work; • 12 working meetings/workshops for 217 people in total. • 200 copies of the collection of lectures named "Fragments of the world of different cultures " were published. 	
Člověk v tísni, o.p.s. On the road 24 months 80 000 €	NGO fund, multicultural environment local / regional level	Objectives: Linking the majority and a population of socially excluded localities in Ústí nad Labem and Bílina in the field of education. Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broadening the knowledge and intercultural education at schools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 students trained in the intercultural education • 25 pupils (1401 hours of a practice in educational facilities in Bílina and Ústí n/L) • 9 seminars for 130 teachers • 15 teachers and tutors and 39 pupils from socially excluded groups participated in extra classes. • 52 clients of the community center attended a journalist course; • 9 reports were published in the local media or on the website. • 16 discussions or field trips for 58 clients and two runs of a cultural festival for 245 people • A mutual contact between 376 people from minorities and a majority was strengthened and the awareness of possible obstacles and causes of problems of mutual coexistence was improved. 	Impact and sustainability: Project created connections between majority and minority. About half of the 15 participating students of social work stayed active in field of Roma inclusion. Unfortunately, the co-operation with faculty is no longer continuing due to change of staff within faculty.
Člověk v tísni, o.p.s. School for everybody –	NGO fund, multicultural environment	Objectives: Development of tolerant and stimulating climate in communities in Kladno and Libčice nad Vltavou,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 44 teachers from elementary and high schools trained; • 16 seminars organized; 	Many of the activities developed and used in the project continue to be applied by the applicant organisation.

<p>School for all 24 months</p> <p>80 000 €</p>	<p>local / regional level</p>	<p>through a targeted building and support of inclusive type of schools which are located near these sites.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trainings, seminars; • A manual "Inclusion of children from disadvantaged socio-cultural backgrounds, building a school climate and inclusion of new educational strategies" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 schools were involved in the project and 35 consultations to 25 teachers were provided; • 100 pieces of manual published and distributed to other institutions that deal with inclusive education or are in locations with a strong representation of other ethnic groups. • 40 volunteers and 7 coordinators of extra classes were trained; • 24 teachers, 30 volunteers and 38 children participated in an educational activity called "Žetonek". 	
<p>CHEIRON T, o.p.s</p> <p>Tábor is You</p> <p>25 879 €</p> <p>12 months</p>	<p>NGO fund, multicultural environment</p> <p>local level</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <p>Achieving a change in the lifestyles of children and youth, threatened with social exclusion, primarily among Roma children from Tábor, aged 6 to 26 years.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a functional system of field work that involved children in leisure-time activities. • Joint activities to reduce xenophobia and racism in different part of Tabor; • Secondary school students volunteer programme. • Strategic organizational management training for project employees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following activitiesd were successfully carried out: 35 creative courses, 36 sport events, 17 activities from the "Get to Know Yourself and Your Surroundings" series and several presentations.; • 2 open cultural festivals and 2 exhibitions of clients' works. • 24 volunteers were trained and the beneficiary's capacity was enhanced through its participation in 6 educational courses. • The project had an impact on 50 children, aged 6-10; 75 children, aged 11-15; 50 young Romas, and 70 other young people. Total of 24 volunteers and 6 full time employees were involved. 	
<p>CHEIRON T, o.p.s</p> <p>Operation: Clarification</p>	<p>NGO fund, multicultural environment</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <p>Promoting multicultural environment in Tabor region and support of education and integration of Roma children into</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aafternoon club - 44 children took part; • 2 theater performances for Cheiron employees with the involvement of 12 children, 3 fairy-tale nights and 1 Christmas 	

<p>36 000 €</p> <p>12 months</p>	<p>local level</p>	<p>society.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Afternoon club; • Extra classes in 7 Roma families and extra classes in the community center; • There was created internal manual which includes rules of conduct in the community center based on 29 joint meetings with 78 children and young people from minority and majority. 	<p>night for 25 children, 6 visits of the municipal library with the participation of 24 children.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extra classes - regular attendance of 10 children; • 4 two-hour art therapeutic meetings for 26 children, 25 music sessions and 3-day workshop for the manufacture of a xylophone. 80 dance workshops and 11 public performances. • 42 floorball trainings and 1 tournament. • Primary schools (with 405 pupils) - 17 block programs and art competition connected with 2 exhibitions. • 6 awareness raising programs about Roma minority for general and professional public with a total participation of 101 people and 2 other events for 205 people in total. • The project and its results were presented on 4 events for the public and promoted by 500 stickers, 251 posters, and 600 posters of monthly programs of the community center. The activities addressed about 1200 people. 	
<p>Otevřená společnost o.p.s.</p> <p>Informing State Administration and Municipal Self-Governing Authorities: A Key to Enhancing the Integration Policy of Municipalities</p> <p>50 000 €</p>	<p>NGO fund, human rights</p> <p>national level</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <p>Contribute to the improvement of the situation in the area of human rights and the fight against discrimination and racism through positively influencing the quality of decision-making in public administration, concerning the integration of the Roma minority into Czech society.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualitative survey among 2,600 respondents, focusing on analysing the attitudes held by the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The grant beneficiary used the survey as a foundation for organizing 13 seminars for public administrative representatives with 222 participants. The survey outcomes were summarised in a publication with the circulation of 700 which was also distributed electronically. The data from the survey is available for free. • Also, the grant beneficiary organized 2 gatherings for a total of 14 NGO representatives, and 2 press conferences for 14 journalists. 	

		Czech population to the tools addressing the issues.		
<p>Český helsinský výbor</p> <p>Monitoring of Internet Extremism, as a Method of Fighting against Discrimination and Racism</p> <p>49 990 €</p> <p>12 months</p>	<p>NGO fund, human rights</p> <p>national level</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <p>Enhancing the sense of safety, raising legal awareness, and improving the image of the members of those groups of inhabitants who are often given discriminatory labels. The project initiated monitoring of Internet extremism – its goal was to weaken the influence of extremist movements and their proponents within the Internet space.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 IT monitoring methodologies, created a list of searched key words, and performed Internet monitoring (2,000 hits). • The project also included the provision of legal advice, provisions of legal information directed towards a remedy (initiated with respect to the provider, the police, etc.). • The outcome had a direct impact for 100 victims of this activity, 70 persons at NGOs and at state authorities. • The project was promoted (40 information items, 1,000 Internet flyers, 200 contributions on the Internet, 10 media outputs, 1 article in the press, 5 banners, 1 Internet publication, and 1 roundtable for experts about the project's results) 	
<p>o.s. Vzájemné soužití</p> <p>You are not alone</p> <p>30 000 €</p> <p>12 months</p>	<p>NGO fund, human rights</p> <p>regional level with national impact</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <p>Increase competences of victims of illegal sterilization in the Czech Republic. The project monitored and identified currently unknown cases of this discrimination, raise public awareness of illegal sterilization, advocate systemic changes against sterilization practices without informed consent, and implement recommendations of the Ombudsman, CEDAW and CERD concerning violation of these women's rights.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project activities were promoted by 14 articles, 2 television reports, and 5 press releases. • Monitoring of unknown cases of involuntary sterilization in the Moravian-Silesian region (43 new women, 22 inputs for the investigation), • mobilization and involvement of illegal sterilization victims (7 group meetings with psychologist, 5 individual meetings with psychologist, the psychologist furthermore present at 4 seminars and 3 exhibitions, two-day meeting for 13 women - teambuilding • Awareness among Roma women and girls (4 basic schools and 5 centers participated, seminars for 112 young people, of which 58 were medical students) and awareness 	<p>Impact: The involuntary sterilization of Roma women represented a very serious human rights violation. The project helped the victims to get organized and to reach national and international audiences. It was very much a bottom-up initiative, directly initiated by one of the victims. The victims reached a apology by prime minister Fischer, yet so far no financial compensation was granted.</p> <p>Sustainability: The group continues to work, but in a more informal setting.</p>

			<p>among hospital and medical staff and the public (3 times for 2 hours in health care facilities for 12 people, 3 times exhibition of photographs for at least 300 participants) was improved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project helped to enforce systemic changes (5 meetings with politicians). 	
<p>Public Interest Lawyers Association</p> <p>Enforceing of accessibility of juristic help at the human rights area</p> <p>26 302 €</p> <p>12 months</p>	<p>NGO fund, human rights</p> <p>regional level</p>	<p>Objectives: Strengthen human rights and eliminate xenophobia and racism in society.</p> <p>Activities: monitoring and analyzing the current situation, counseling, organizing a round table, operation of a website and publishing a bulletin.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One-day course for 24 students of law faculties, 1 round table for 22 participants and website created; 200 leaflets with information about the website, where 28 cases were described, were published and distributed to attorney offices and NGOs. Online counseling center established - 41 emails and 159 telephone queries. Analysis proposing a method of providing legal counseling - consulted at 16 meetings with lawyers and state institutions. There was also an award for availability of legal advice. 8 articles published and 4 bulletins on the availability of legal advice sent to 250 e-mail addresses. 	
<p>Jihočeská rozvojová o.p.s.</p> <p>Individual capacity expansion in the fight against discrimination and breaking human rights</p> <p>44 688 €</p>	<p>NGO fund, human rights</p> <p>national level</p>	<p>Objectives: Raise awareness of inhabitants living in South Bohemia of discrimination and human rights violations, including related socio-pathological phenomena. The purpose was to individually and specifically promote knowledge of the rights and obligations of citizens who has directly experienced discrimination or are threatened by these phenomena.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing legal advice and mediation to 55 people and civic advice to at least 535 people. The existing - well-functioning - system of civil counseling was broadened by providing free legal advice and mediation which comprehensively concluded a range of options for tackling discrimination or human rights' and individual freedom violation. The information about the project, examples of good practice and antidiscrimination approach were mentioned in distributed 	

12 months			through the magazine REVERS (4,000 pieces). 3 counselours were trained in this field, 150 hours of legal advice and 20 hours of mediation was provided, and 1,000 information leaflets were issued.	
Iuridicum Remedium, o.s. On the side of socially disadvantaged – legal aid in individual cases and in pursuing systemic changes 98 734 € 24 months	NGO fund, human rights national level	Objectives: Providing free professional legal assistance to socially disadvantaged groups of citizens and achieving systemic changes in legislation or practice of state administration relating to rights violation of these groups. Activities: Legal assistance with a guarantee of professional standards in all levels - consulting, consultations, preparation of submission, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repeated problems based on case reports were addressed systemically through incentives and lobbying for a legislation change. There were better conditions for the promotion of human rights created, specifically by the media and professional outcomes, strengthening the capacity of the organization and creating a first legal aid toolkit for the public. Legal assistance was provided to 281 clients. There was the first legal aid toolkit on the website (it includes 35 submissions and agreements, etc.), 2 000 information leaflets, 39 outputs in the media, and 4 articles. 	
Poradna pro občanství/Občanská a lidská práva Legal Aid to Minority Communities 12 months 50 000 €	NGO fund, human rights national level	Objectives: Improve lives and law enforcement in communities at risk of discrimination on the basis of racial and ethnic origin, disability, sexual orientation, age and religion or belief. Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 636 consultations provided to members of minority communities; 4 cases of victims of discrimination heard. Advocates, students of law and social branches and a staff of justice and advocacy are other 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faculty of Law (more then 50 consultations provided per month), 2 two-day trainings of consultants (44 employees of the Ombudsman Office and NGOs), and a 4-day summer law school for 35 students. Legal conference for 77 representatives of the judiciary, advocacy and other professionals to ensure the transfer of a good practice from countries with anti-discrimination legislation. A concept of legal aid for members of the minority communities made in cooperation with the Ombudsman Office and other NGOs, and 400 publications "Equality and social rights" are other project outputs. 	

		target groups of the project.		
<p>ICOS Český Krumlov, o.s.</p> <p>You are entitled to your rights</p> <p>12 months</p> <p>50 000 €</p>	<p>NGO fund, human rights</p> <p>local / regional level</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <p>Increase human rights awareness of general public as well as experts. Legal counselling and help including volunteer lawyers for victims of discrimination.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 types of free legal services; • The project was implemented in partnership of Information Centre for the Civic Sector and South Bohemia Development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1297 clients benefited from legal services. • 182 discriminatory and human rights cases was solved as well as two legal actions. • Organisations capacity was strengthened by training of 3 consultants. • The general public was informed through the information sites, websites, and 35 articles published in media. Printed information materials were distributed in the total amount of about 30 200 pcs. The duration of the project was 12 months. 	
<p>Liga lidských prav</p> <p>Fair schools in practice</p> <p>12 months</p> <p>48 500 €</p>	<p>NGO fund, human rights</p> <p>regional / national level</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <p>Support openness and anti-discrimination in Czech primary and secondary schools. The project focused on awareness and motivation of the representatives of schools to the ability to integrate pupils with individual differences (Roma people, foreigners, physically disabled).</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation and organization of training seminars on human rights, tolerance and anti-discrimination for pupils of primary schools and teachers; • The aims and tools of inclusive education were promoted on the web site www.ferovaskola.cz together with questions of teachers (27 in total). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were 10 analysis of school educational programs and 10 analysis of minimal preventive programs processed. • 42 seminars at 20 schools were organized and 926 pupils were trained. • The certificate "Fair school" was used for motivating the schools to make changes and was granted to 10 schools with inclusive approach applied in practice. • There were 4 articles in professional magazines published, a manual on inclusive education (300 pcs) and a handbook (300 pcs) issued. • There were representatives of certification commission from Ministry of Education and Center for integration of minorities in Brno involved. • A conference on inclusive education for 45 people was organized. 	<p>Impact: Project addresses problem of school segregation, by creating new image of diversity as positive value and by supporting schools in handling diversity in the classroom.</p> <p>Sustainability: Certification continues, there is strong demand among schools, exceeding organisation's capacities.</p>

<p>ROMEIA, o.s.</p> <p>Publicity in the media and support of human rights</p> <p>12 months</p> <p>50 000 €</p>	<p>NGO fund, human rights</p> <p>national level</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <p>Secure advocacy for rights and justice in cases where the human rights of specific individuals are endangered, with an accent on Roma members in socially excluded localities.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual legal counselling provision, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> individual legal counselling provision - at least 10 cases provided with this service. The cases were promoted and recommendations and examples of good practices were published on the web site romeia.cz (713 articles), in the magazine Romano Vodí (10 articles in 5 magazine supplements) and at majority media (o.s. ROMEIA quoted in 131 articles). The number of indirect beneficiaries was estimated at 10 000 people. The capacity of the organization was strengthened by acceptance and training of professional staff. 	
<p>Diakonie ČCE - Středisko sociální pomoci v Mostě</p> <p>Field Social Work in At-risk Families</p> <p>12 months</p> <p>43 803 €</p>	<p>NGO fund, children and youth</p> <p>local level</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <p>This project addressed the provision of social prevention services to families with children, whose development was at risk due to the consequences of their adverse social situation, and which the parents were unable to overcome without assistance, and whose development was threatened by other risks.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field social work in families, through the provision of ambulatory services in the counselling centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 32 families reached, including approximately 83 children. Implementation of a group programme for users of services (8 group meetings of approx. 10 persons each). Furthermore, a conference was held focusing on the implementation of this project, informing 30 participants of its goals. A new methodology was created and some of the beneficiary's services were innovated. 	<p>Remark: Roma not explicitly mentioned. Yet geographical setting of project and character of target group seems to make it likely that Roma were among beneficiaries.</p>
<p>Charitní sdružení Děčín</p> <p>An Assistance Service for Families with Children</p>	<p>NGO fund, children and youth</p> <p>local level</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <p>Support children and youth from socially problematic environments in the district of Děčín, and lead to their better integration into the system of social services. A part of the project focused on families to which children</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An assistance service was provided to 18 families; 19 children were involved in the activity "Assistance in Preparing for School". 4 pieces of methodology on cooperation between organizations were developed, as 	<p>Impact: Assistance to families in difficult situations is one of the weaknesses of the Czech Republic's system of social assistance and one of the reasons for large number of children in institutional care. The project did hence react to an</p>

12 months 43 065 €		<p>previously institutionalized were returning.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> task-based partnership of an assistant with a family to increase the competencies of clients to manage and deal with problems on their own, and to ensure adequate conditions for the development of children. 	<p>well as a methodology for the program of education towards employment, for 16 children.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 families were involved in the pilot program for families with institutionalized children, for at least 4 months. 	<p>important deficit. According to the interviewed project manager, the project and its follow-up project did also greatly contribute to the organisation's professionalization in this area, which lowered fluctation and led to better quality of services.</p> <p>Sustainability: There was a follow-up project (see below) financed from NGO Fund. Today, service continues and is financed by state subsidies.</p>
<p>Charitní sdružení Děčín</p> <p>Assistance service for families with children 2</p> <p>24 months</p> <p>100 000 €</p>	<p>NGO fund, children and youth</p> <p>local level</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <p>Prevent removal of children from families and to help children who were taken away coming back to their families.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> field work with families (31 families). 51 cooperation plans were realized during the project. Cooperation between an assistant and a client - main working method. The social service assistants were educated during the project (through 9 trainings, 1 employer studied at high school and 2 studied at the university). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project addressed 41 children in the first year and 69 children in the second year of the project. 64 courses for children organized (16 children attended 10 courses) Cooperation with the educational care center ETOP was developed and the work with families was coordinated and long-term – 12 families during at least 4 months. 5 articles were published in local media. 1 professional article was published and 2 radio shows were realized. There was a new model of work with families with children with educational problems, which combines therapeutic and field work, created. 	<p>See above</p>

Hungary

Hungary Individual projects related to Roma inclusion funded under the EEA/N (2004-2009)

General information	EEA priority sector/	Short description	Results	Impact and Sustainability
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(Grantee/project/ duration/Size of grant)	field of work/ Geographic outreach	(objectives/key activities)		
<p>Project HU0017 - Aba - School Infrastructure for the Integration of Disadvantaged Children</p> <p>PP: Local Government of Aba Village</p> <p>Grant size: €1,755,223</p> <p>Duration: 18 months</p>	<p>Childcare and Education</p> <p>HU211 – Fejér</p> <p>Local – 1 town (Aba)</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce isolation of disadvantaged children and their families from society. Improve access for the same to the labor market; • Integration of disadvantaged children (most part Roma) into art education. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased number of children in education. • Establishing main building of 1 elementary school and expanding the one of another (construction work and purchase of equipment for each). Building 1 secondary school. Integrating 44 endangered children. Integrating 85 Roma children. 	<p>Improving integration of communities, as Additional number of disadvantaged children is offered education. Access for more of them to a position on the labor market.</p>
<p>Project: HU0051 - Szécsény – Children's Opportunity Programme</p> <p>PP: Hungarian Anti-Poverty Network Foundation</p> <p>Grant size: €745,195</p> <p>Duration: 36 months</p> <p>implemented in partnership with the Szécsény Micro-Region Association.</p>	<p>Health and childcare with the focus area of "Integration of multiple disadvantaged youth - including Roma - and of children with special needs".</p> <p>Integrated approach : education, labor market integration and community development initiatives</p> <p>Local level - HU313 - Nógrád</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <p>To promote the implementation of the Hungarian Child Anti-Poverty National Programme (GYENP).</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A regionally-focused pilot project to reduce child poverty and social exclusion in the region of Szécsény - one of the 42 disadvantaged small regions of Hungary with very high poverty and unemployment rates. • Integrated nature and approach involving wide interrelated set of activities: development of 'Sure Start' preschool activities, including setting up children's houses; public education activities to promote de-segregation and facilitate entry into secondary education; initiatives to improve child nutrition and healthcare; implement youth development programs; activities to improve parents' employability and employment opportunities; s 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 1200 people from disadvantaged communities benefited; • Introduced 14 mentors for disadvantaged children to reduce school drop out • Trained 184 people for employment preparation; trained and developed 186 youth helpers and facilitated the renovation and equipment of 22 community spaces. 	<p>A very successful program. Strong potential for long-term impact The project promoter continues work in the same areas</p> <p>Factors for success:</p> <p>Very passionate commitment of the organization/works on antipoverty in the long term</p> <p>multi-dimensional/ integrated approach of the Project, which seeks to tackle the multiple causes of poverty in the region.</p> <p>strong national and regional-level support</p> <p>partnership with the Szécsény Small Region Association provided for adequacy to local needs and potential for replication</p>

		<p>et up IT training and development of IT facilities; promote community development and awareness-raising activities, including setting-up community houses.</p>		
<p>Project: HU0057 National training for social workers</p> <p>Grant size: €352,327</p> <p>Duration: 20 months</p> <p>PP: Budapesti Szociális Forrásközpont</p> <p>implemented in partnership with the Hungarian Red Cross, the Association for Social Work and the Association for Social Innovation.</p>	<p>Human resource development</p> <p>National (3 regions - Central Hungarian, Northern Great Plain, and Middle Transdanubian Region)</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <p>To help the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups of society.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training "Practice Experts" in of innovative social worker skills and empower them to enhance anti-poverty programmes in Hungary; • Training mentors, social workers and teachers. Roma Is one of the several groups that the project reaches. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 44 people from disadvantaged groups trained to be experts; • >7000 from disadvantaged groups benefited from the projects activities. • Training manual for experts established, as well as a program; • Accreditation of the courses and training programme. 	<p>The 'Practice Experts' along with supporting social experts founded a co-operative after the project to ensure income that leads to well-being of the community and its members.</p>
<p>Project: HU0067</p> <p>Budapest - Job placements for young Roma</p> <p>Grant size: €251,140</p> <p>Duration: 14 months</p> <p>PP: Budapest Public Employment Service Non-profit Company (FKFSZ). In partnership with: RomaAssist non-profit association, and Studio Metropolitana non-profit company in Budapest and the Ullevalsveien Skole Norway.</p>	<p>EEA priority sector: Health and childcare</p> <p>Field of work:</p> <p>One municipality: Budapest</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <p>To promote the integration of young Roma into the labour market.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional training, mentoring, coaching, and language courses. • Job placements in municipal institutions and organisations owned by the municipality; • Recruitment and selection; • Development of training materials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 month training completed by 33; • 250 addressed during recruitment; • 35 participating in job placements and 33 completing successfully job placements; • 32 mentors prepared and 24 proposals elaborated by participants to the municipality. 	<p>17 Roma have found regular jobs after completing of the trainings and internships. Roma employment increasing and contribution to the equity of Roma population.</p> <p>The project promoter is a non-profit company of the municipal government, Budapest. It does not continue work as follow up of the project as there is no funding for this. Very low sustainability.</p>

<p>Project: HU0064 - Budapest: "Renovation and extension of Burattino Elementary and Vocational School".</p> <p>Grant: €546,897</p> <p>Duration: 19 months</p> <p>PP: Burattino Elementary and Vocational School and Children Home</p> <p>In partnership with the Family Welfare Service in Csepel, Child Welfare Service in Csepel, Jól - Lét Mental-hygenic Foundation</p>	<p>EEA priority sector: Human resource development</p> <p>Field of work:</p> <p>One municipality: Budapest</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <p>To improve social integration of severely underprivileged children, especially young Roma and children under state care.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roma integrating program - afternoon classes, student council, mentoring; • Drug preventive program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 education institutions constructed or improved (1 of which school); • 1 facility created for children's sports; • 225 children took part in educational programs. 	<p>School sustainability – the upgraded equipment in the school continues to be used by students.</p> <p>Better accommodation and facilities in the children's home for a longer term.</p>
<p>Hungary NGOs sub-projects related to Roma inclusion funded under the EEA/N (2004-2009)</p>				
<p>General information (Grantee/project/ duration/Size of grant)</p>	<p>Field of work/ Geographic outreach</p>	<p>Short description (objectives/key activities)</p>	<p>Results</p>	<p>Impact and Sustainability</p>
<p>2008</p>				
<p>Unbounded Heart Foundation</p> <p>Title: "Our House" community house, bridge where Hungarian and gypsy community shake hands"</p> <p>Duration: 12 months</p> <p>Grant: € 80.000</p>	<p>Field-Social cohesion – health and child care</p> <p>Outreach-Local level</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen the social cohesion in a poor neighbourhood (Esztergom) Roma community; <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • help the process of proper socialization of families: club for woman, family welfare service, study courses, guidelines to find a job, leisure activities • prevent dropping out of school - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decreased class repetition and drop outs of Roma pupils in schools. 15 children received scholarship. • Number of children increased in the after class study group (from 60 to 90) • The organisation helped 12 families to solve their financial issues during the activities of welfare service, club for women. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulties to sustain programs because of financial reasons. • The tutor program has lasted for 1.5 years, the mentor program for 1 year. • The tolerance program is still held periodically but has stopped as permanent program because of lack of human resources. • The scholarship program was only running under the program.

Code: NCTA-2008-S00431		<p>open community house in the Roma street:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wake-up” Program: help children to go to school; Tolerance campaign: teaching university students on tolerance issues in relations to tolerance. 		
<p>Independent Roma Association of Bonyhad</p> <p>Title: There will be a team!</p> <p>Duration: 24 months</p> <p>Grant: € 72.942</p> <p>Code: NCTA-2008-S01430</p>	<p>Field-Social cohesion –health and child care</p> <p>Outreach-Local level</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <p>The aim was also to develop Roma youth self-confidence and self-knowledge and strengthen their will towards sports.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • football team and local indoor football championship; catch-up class for youths in the framework of an after school activity. • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No drop out during the project; • Out of 30 children, 8-10 children were able to continue in a football club with higher division; • 3 children went to play a first class football club in Hungary; • The project reached the parents as well (around 30 families) and formed a fun club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impact of the program was measured in the number of children who were able to get a contract with a professional football team, in the number of parents who participated in the project, in the number of failing, in the number of times the team participated in a football championship.; • Between 2010- 2012 the after school activities were still going. The sport trainings stopped in the end of the support. It was a biggest challenge to sustain the results since the lack of availability of funds in the country.
<p>I Accept You Foundation</p> <p>Title: I learn with you</p> <p>Duration: 12 months</p> <p>Grant: € 40 000</p> <p>Code: NCTA-2008-S00738</p>	<p>Field-Social cohesion –health and child care</p> <p>Outreach-Local level</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support 3-5 age multiple disadvantaged children to start school with an equal opportunity. <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “I study with you” after school daily activities: help to know better the school subjects • Summer education activities to ensure opportunity of the environmental school education outdoors; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help for kids who had difficulty with certain subjects-6 kids helped Ability for writing, reading and calculating assessed and developed with professionals • 2 students prepared for an exam, and got in one of the high schools in Miskolc. Summer English lessons provided also; • Three trips organised for 20 kids 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The activities ended after the project because of financial issues.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family afternoon: family care in systematic approach; Community development programmes 		
<p>Kurt Lewin Foundation Title: 100 poorest</p> <p>Duration:18 months Grant: € 67.513 Code: NCTA-2008-S00817</p>	<p>Field-Social cohesion –health and child care</p> <p>Outreach-National level</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disseminate knowledge about the different forms of poverty and the life of disadvantaged people shaping approaches; increasing responsibility and solidarity; generating social dialogue and voluntary actions in the society. <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> production and distribution of the issue „100 poorest" set up a webpage exhibition, photo contest, guerrilla-campaign, presentations and trainings, voluntary actions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “100 poorest” - 5000 copy of the publication Exhibition - 9 times in Budapest, 14 times in the countryside, once abroad 200 photos taken to the open competition presentation and trainings is in public on www.youtube.com During the project they involved roughly 40 Roma people to the volunteer actions. The project had no direct impact to Roma inclusion. Raised enormous media interest - activities were shown 30 times on TV, and present in many publications. Estimated that the campaign reached 3 million people. 	<p>The volunteers action and guerrilla films could continue after the program from OSI money in 2010. The estimated number of reaching people is 3 million all together with as result of the different activities – The result of the photo exhibition a new program built on it: secondary schools. It generated new photos and exhibitions on the topic;</p> <p>-Publication and webpage with films, activities and photos easy to be found</p>
<p>Romaversitas Foundation Title: Romaversitas project</p> <p>Duration:12 months Grant: € 40.000 Code: NCTA-2008-S03019</p>	<p>Field-Social cohesion –health and child care</p> <p>Outreach-National level</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <p>New ability development programmes to prepare Roma students for finishing their study at University and College. Not only achieve the minimal requirements but motivate high-calibre student to MA and PhD.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open University training at weekend time; Tutoring, Academic preparation, Professional seminars, Language course, IT course, Ability development programmes, scholarship; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 students received scholarship for September; 40 % of students attend MA studies; All students finished their study successfully; Romaversitas receive three times oversubscriptions from Roma students; Before the project 50% of the students did IT exam, during the project the rate increased to 80%; From the graduated students 25% found a job; Before the project 20 % of the students 	<p>During the project they had opportunity to mobilized and find new partners and donors, but they still have financial issues as the new government support policy do not take into consideration the gap filled activities doing by Romaversitas.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership building with other organizations 	<p>participated in other Roma organizations activities, but during the project the rate increased to 50%.</p>	
<p>Szent Márton Caritas Foundation</p> <p>Title: Open House - Complex social integration, community building and employment enhancing program operation at Gilvánfa settlement and micro region</p> <p>Grant: € 79.990</p> <p>Code: NCTA-2008-S02297</p>	<p>Field-Social cohesion- health and child care</p> <p>Outreach-Local and micro-region level</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <p>Promote social integration of disadvantaged and Roma people.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community actions and programs; Services and programs; Support income-generation activities in families 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After school activities for 12-15 persons; English language course for 15 people; weekly football club for 15 persons 	<p>Had difficulties to sustain the project results because of the financial problems.</p>
<p>Foundation Tutor for Helping the Poor and the Sick</p> <p>Title: Social, community development and village rehabilitation Program at Tarnabod.</p> <p>Grant: € 40.000</p> <p>Code: NCTA-2008-S02954</p>	<p>Field-Social cohesion –health and child care</p> <p>Outreach-Local level</p>	<p>Project had two objectives:</p> <p>1 Organizing public education for under-educated people and children in elementary and vocational schools. Re-integration into the labour market.</p> <p>2 Community development with farming in the kitchen gardens, housing and innovative recycling (Retextil program) elements.</p> <p>1 Educational sub-project: - Developing activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dance and movement-therapy for teenagers; Tutoring for the children before final exams; Searching workplaces for long term unemployed people <p>2 Community developing subproject</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kitchen garden farming; House reconstruction; Community based recycling activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Journey to Linchester with 15 children; 10-15 children dance and movement-therapy for. agreement with Agria Human Limited for the employment of 15 disabled people with seven hours worktime; In spite of the financial crisis, the employment continued proceeding the project period. It is a significant success of the project; Agreement was made between local municipality, local minority government, Malteser Charity and the - Beneficiary to set up an organization to support a community based farming program. Unfortunately, this activity could not started for the time being;Eighteen houses have been reconstructed <p>During the implementation of the project 10-14 children took part in the community based recycling training.</p>	<p>Several problems were found in the implementation. The main reason was that the project had not been prepared appropriately. Some of the problems were caused by outside independent factors (i.e as an effect of the global financial crisis, the price of the raw materials - metals - decreased. It caused that the income of their factory decreased as well weakening their employment capacity.) Some other problems were caused by the organisation's challenged administrative capacity. Reports were submitted with late and the lower amount of grant is a result of these late and failed financial reports.</p> <p>Because of the mixed target group not clear how many Roma participated in the project.</p> <p>They failed with the financial reports and did not have capacities to sustain the activities or some results of the</p>

<p>Collaboration for Hernádszentandrás Foundation</p> <p>Title: Chance for the future - program for the close up of the children at Hernádszentandrás</p> <p>Grant: € 27.119</p> <p>Code: NCTA-2008-S02447</p>	<p>Field-Social cohesion- cohesion – health and child care</p> <p>Outreach-Local level</p>	<p>Objectives: Enhance the school work of socially disadvantaged students through group and individual training as well as help these students adjust to the society by giving them a chance to close up. The program is based on the involvement of local communities professionals and parents.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • participants selection; • organizing sessions for kindergarten aged children and sessions for school aged children; • organizing excursions and community programmes; • organizing summer camp; • organizing parents club; • organizing psychological sessions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26 children were involved in sessions (kindergarten group: 7; classes 1.-2.: 9; classes 3.-4.: 10). According to the opinion of the head of schools, teachers the kids integrated easier into the community and their performances improved; • 80-100 kids enjoyed the summer camp possibility daily; • Both the excursions and summer camp gave opportunity for the staff of the project to give examples and guidance for parents how they can help the development of their children. • 12 parents attended the parents club; they got feedback on their children's conditions, problems and possible remedy. 	<p>project. Financial issues still big problem for organization.</p> <p>The Foundation facing financial issues and for this reason had difficulties to sustain the project results.</p> <p>In their daily work they continuously help for those people who were involved in the project. They offer social and church services.</p>
2009				
<p>Eight Beautitudes Foundation</p> <p>Title: The presence of volunteers - Voluntarism being present</p> <p>Grant: € 25.000</p> <p>Code: NCTA-2009-S04314</p>	<p>Field-Social cohesion – health and child care</p> <p>Outreach-Local level</p>	<p>Objectives: Involve high school students, introducing them to difficult life and struggles of kids of needy families living in György-telep (a ghetto in the settlement on the outskirts of Pécs) sensitize them and their parents through social dialogue formulation.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment of helpers in high schools; • Methodology development; • Design and testing a webpage; • Workshops at high schools ; • Children's and other joint programmes with the help of student volunteers; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With newly joined helpers the methods of the project were designed, and tasks of the coming 10 months were scheduled. Survey and questionnaires of the project were finalised; • The curriculum of the sensitizing training was tested and refined in high schools; • The webpage provided information on the programme and could be used by the students for enrolment; <p>579 students of 22 classes of 4 high schools participated in 2x45 minutes workshops. More than 286 students wanted to do voluntary work for the organisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1570 hours of documented voluntary work at György-telep; 	<p>It is a successful project with lots of challenges. The voluntary work and youngster's mobilization could show a good practice for other organization. To the camp they bring more children than they could. The approach of project implementation is a very good one in case of social cohesion.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizing summer camp for children from György-telep; Documentation and methodology, promotion of best practice, publication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 45 kids spent their first ever summer camp that was helped 15 volunteers. <p>A survey and study was elaborated on the high school students. The activities, events and results of the project were introduced at a number of occasions.</p>	
<p>Lungo Drom National Roma Organization, Méra</p> <p>Title: First step to a healthy environment</p> <p>Duration: 4 months</p> <p>Grant: € 16.716</p> <p>Code: NCTA-2009 - So3992</p>	<p>Field-Social cohesion- Health and Child care</p> <p>Outreach-Local level</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <p>Hygiene and clean the street where Roma live, also to end the illegal garbage landfill and prevent epidemic. Furthermore to inform Roma community about the risks of not healthy environment and prevent littering.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open day to inform inhabitants about the project; Presentation on health issues to Roma community; set up outdoor toilet; give help for house painting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Those families who agreed to take part in the project got the outdoor toilets and the dye-staff to paint their houses. 	<p>The main element of the project was that those who participated from the community in the project could get the staff to repair and clean their living environment. They had do activities to get them. The organization organized a competition and those who made the most beautiful living environment got some presents.</p> <p>The TV from the region centre made a report on it.</p>
<p>National Roma Police Association</p> <p>Title: We need a place!</p> <p>Grant: € 9.028</p> <p>Code: NCTA-2009-S04579</p>	<p>Field-Social cohesion- health and child care</p> <p>Local level</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <p>Build a bridge between Roma and the police in place where they can meet (a club), and give help in the personal development of disadvantaged youth and train them to become a responsible grown ups who know their rights.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> club activities; human right and crime and drug prevention training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased number of organization member from 70 to 150. Number of young people is 60; in those schools where they held the workshops, the behaviour of the children became more disciplined based on the teachers report; children who attended the club were able to get in places like the Police station even to secret places; they held workshops in 6 secondary schools in Budapest; Under the project the Roma Police Association reached all together about 300 children, usually 30-40 people at one time, 	<p>As the result of the project their popularity has grown and people trust them.</p> <p>The Roma police Association became famous and accepted in Hungary: for example they get a hundreds of messages on Facebook every day.</p> <p>-The children who attended the club are still meeting and asking them when wills the program continue.</p> <p>Holding crime prevention workshops in secondary schools for Roma and non Roma is a new innovative best practice. They call it "sensitive trainings" where the main aim was to affect the personality of the</p>

			<p>parents and children together organised a children's day with 120 people which was presented in the newspaper;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> around 500 people participated In the club activity 	<p>youngsters.</p> <p>After the project finished only the HR and drug and crime prevention workshop continued periodically. They could not get fund to continue. (They go sometimes on their own expenses.) They asked the OSI and the REF to help but, their tender was turned down.</p>
<p>Foundation for the College of Social Theories</p> <p>NCTA-2009-S03960</p> <p>Title: Social construction camp</p> <p>Grant: € 11.766</p> <p>Code: NCTA-2009-S03960</p>	<p>Field-Social cohesion –health and child care</p> <p>Outreach-Local level</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <p>Implement an experimental program, based on inter-sectoral cooperation, and intended to be widely applicable to help improve the living conditions of the tenants of municipality owned housing with rent arrears, who are willing to work to repay their debt, and are ready to act as a group, recognizing their shared interest.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keeping contact and negotiating with the Nagykanizsa town council and the municipal asset management body; Contacting potential sponsoring companies in building and construction; Consulting an architect; Contacting locals, creating a local network. Structural appraisal of the site; Recruiting volunteers; Selecting participants; Organizing groups; Preparing informational booklet and disseminating experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreement with the town council regarding the conditions of implementing a social housing work camp and crediting the working hours of locals against their payments in arrears; In October 2009 they won the support of Habitat for Humanity for on-site construction supervisors, necessary equipment, and recruitment of international volunteers; Members of the Architecture Students' College and professional architects appraised the condition of the houses at the site, defined the range of activities to be carried out per day, and prepared a detailed work plan; 36 locals worked with them. They selected participants based on the amount of their rent in arrears, and their apparent level of cooperativeness; They worked with 70 volunteers based on needed skills; Brochure about the social working camp, mapping municipally owned social housing around the whole country and looking after possible partners in future projects. 	<p>They involved 60 inhabitants to the project, and al together worked with 130 volunteers and reached 500 people thought the publication.</p> <p>The project been the worst because of their financial reporting was not adequate. Nevertheless their activities have been one of the most interesting.</p>
2010				
Mediawave International	Field-Social	Objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The projects measured its success in the 	After the project stopped, the

<p>Visual Art Foundation Title: "Together, black and white" youth art workshop for community creation and understanding Grant: € 19.990 Code: NCTA-2009/2-S05851</p>	<p>cohesion – health and child care Outreach-3 locations</p>	<p>Fight against prejudice between Roma and non-Roma people and groups by organizing art workshops in 3 towns (Győr, Szombathely, Kisharsány) and educate Roma and non Roma youth together and give them the opportunity to create visual and art centred films, photos and music as one community. Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Győr: "Roma is beautiful" and "coproduction" workshop; • Szombathely:"that's how you live" and workshop; • Kisharsány: "one to ten/1:10" 	<p>number of film, photos and in the number of concerts were made during the workshops Rom, a non Roma together and individually in the number of Roma and young participants, and in the number of workshops.</p>	<p>activities stopped but all of the lines are continuing from the project in different ways in the different field of art. They are still working together with those talents with whom they got to know trough the Norway project and they get them involved in the new projects of the Mediawave (for example invited a Roma singer to a summer workshops). They supporting Roma also financially: like Roma can study for free in their educational visual trainings.</p>
<p>National Association of Former Children is State Care Title: The game of life Grant: € 19.250 Code: NCTA-2009/2-S06057</p>	<p>Field-Social cohesion- health and child care Outreach-Local level</p>	<p>Objectives: Resolve problems of maturation of personality of 12-20 years disadvantaged young Roma people, living in a state care in Tiszadob. Strengthen young people's sense of responsibility and simultaneously develop their individual and community competencies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities: Choose trade groups; The labyrinth, build the „game of the life”; The „game of life”;The trainings;Prepare the helpers, who are at the same age 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They had organized 8 different trainings and build a labyrinth together with the young; • The number of thrinings 20 (aggregately in 460 hours); • They worked with 30 young and rate of average clients was 80%. 	<p>The organization has financial issue and the sustainability of the project was not possible for them.</p>
<p>Artemissio Foundation Title: With community art for social cohesion against exclusion Grant: € 20.000 Code: NCTA-2009/2-S06619</p>	<p>Field-Social cohesion – health and child care Outreach-3 locations</p>	<p>Objectives: Strengthen the cooperation and dialogues between the Roma and non-Roma young people through processing common problems (dialogue circles) in two country villages (Sajókaza, Biri), and in Józsefváros (Budapest).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between 2010.04.15-2010.05.21 in all of the three sites dialogue circles took place. All three locations held them on three separate occasions. Józsefváros - 16 people attended, Biri - 15 people attended, Sajókaza - 11 people attended. Exclusion and acceptance, peaceful coexistence and community cohesion were addressed; 	

		<p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circles of dialogue; • Elaboration of the workshops specifically designed for the local context; • Workshops for community development; • Preparation and implementation of the intercultural exhibition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The facilitators of the circles created a methodological guide for external use. • The foundation prepared the topics of the community developer workshops and related exercises for it; • Exhibition: the number of visitors reached 350 within one week. The exhibition reopened between January 24 and February 6, 2011 in the Budapest Cultural Center. It was planned that the exhibition will be shown again in May 2011 during the Equal Opportunities Festival at Túzraktár. 	
<p>Association of Roma Youth of Drava Valley Title: Sibling kindergarten Grant: € 12.565 Code: NCTA-2009/2-S06622</p>	<p>Field-Social cohesion- health and child care</p> <p>Outreach-County level</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <p>Compensate the isolation of a tiny village (Lakócsa) with a series of programmes (with the help of a number of NGOs) organized for its kindergarten in cooperation with a fellow kindergarten in Pécs (the fifth biggest city in Hungary).</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organised different activities for two nursery schools where in one (Lakócsa) 60% of the children were disadvantaged children (70 % with Roma origin) and in the other nursery school in Pécs (so called elite): was a high quality nursery school with middle classed non Roma children; • The children in the two nursery school organised programs together in order to get to know each others life and also get to know the nature around them (Drava valley) in common trips and special days like (Trees and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The participants who worked in project got to know the nature around them (Mecsek, Dráva, together with Roma and non Roma, children and grown- ups together. They shared many common meaningful experiences. Together they organized seven events between April and November of 2010. For example the elite nursery school in Pécs, made a play called about the Roma culture, performed in different nursery schools. • The people from the project got in contact with families from the middle class • The local Roma organization contacted seven NGOs active in nature protection and in environmental issues and asked them to help to organize seven days for the kids of the two kindergartens; • The partner NGOs either hosted joint programmes or they themselves organized activities; • The main result of the project was that it made a difference in the attitudes of the middle class non Roma people towards Roma; 	<p>The program has stopped because the lack of financial support. They had a promise from the University of Pécs that they will get support to continue. They were many people who worked voluntarily in the program: the president of the organisation the parents, the nursery school teachers so on to be more sustainable.</p>

		<p>flowers day, so on);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The kindergartens mutually visited/hosted each other event by event and they involved parents in the programmes; The two kindergartens agreed on the project milestones and shared responsibilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project was able to get the parents involved in the activities 	
Romania				
Romania NGOs sub-projects related to Roma inclusion funded under the EEA/N (2004-2009)				
General information (Grantee/project/ duration/Size of grant)	Field/ Geographic outreach	Short description (objectives/key activities)	Results	Impact and Sustainability
<p>- Roma Centre for Health Policies – Sastipen</p> <p>- Evaluating the access of Roma ethnics to public health services</p> <p>- 12 months</p> <p>- 73.488 Euro</p>	<p>Health, Research, Advocacy</p> <p>National</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To evaluate the access of Roma to public health services in a number of 45 local communities in 3 regions of the country; To draft a general policy recommendation regarding the improvement access of Roma to public health; To run an advocacy campaign in order to promote policies aimed at improving access of Roma to public health services (3 seminars at regional level and a meeting at national level); 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A study on the access of Roma ethnics to public health services, realized in partnership with 9 local Roma NGOs; A general policy recommendation on improving access of Roma to public health services; An advocacy campaign organized; 	<p>The study and the policy recommendations were realised as planned and may support future advocacy campaigns. However, the findings and recommendations were not seriously taken into account by the relevant public authorities. In this respect, a stronger advocacy campaign would support the future sustainability and impact of the project. The continuation/finalisation will depend on the capacity and the future strategy of the organization. A positive factor in this respect is that the NGO is well connected and Roma inclusion is central to its strategy.</p>
<p>-Komunitas Association</p> <p>- Closer to future</p> <p>- 14 months</p> <p>- 13.500 Euro</p>	<p>Non-formal education</p> <p>Local (one school)</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <p>To generate on the children from disadvantaged areas a positive change on 3 issues: the lack of participation of the youth in decision-making related to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 90 pupils had the chance to express themselves through games, urban explorations, trips, photography, exhibitions, and creative enterprises; Also, the Roma youth have been connected 	<p>The activities of the project and the short term results are in accordance to the objectives. However, the continuation/multiplication of the project (as regards Roma children) will depend on: the capacity of the</p>

		<p>their habitat and future of their cities; the lack of solidarity among different socio-economic categories and generations of youth; the low access to suitable education, self-representation and self-expression about visions of the future. Activities:</p> <p>The project focused on School 136 in Ferentari district of Bucharest with the majority of students belonging to Roma minority.</p>	<p>to other socio-cultural categories, with whom they worked together;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project brought into focus concepts like non-formal education, active learning, civic education, decision-making. 	<p>organization to develop strategic partnerships and to attract other funding sources. Currently, the organization does not have access in the same school due to the fact that another NGO started to implement similar activities in the school and the attempts for cooperation failed. A weak point as regards the potential for continuation is that Roma inclusion is not one of the priority areas of the NGO; a positive factor is that the NGO proved the capacity to attract other sources of funding for the same methodology and multiplied the project in other schools in Bucharest but without a focus on Roma;</p>
<p>-Ruhama Foundation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consolidating the NGO sector in Bihor County in the field of social inclusion and services, - 16 months - 64,498 Euro 	<p>Capacity building, Partnership, Advocacy</p> <p>Local (county level)</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To consolidate the NGOs' capacity to provide quality social services and social inclusion programs in response to the beneficiaries' needs; To consolidate and promote the network of social services providers at county level; To promote the consultative role of the NGOs in the dialogue with the public authorities and in elaborating local public policies in social field; To increase the public resources allocated to the social services and social inclusion programs developed by NGOs, including co-financing of the structural funds projects; To promote the public-private partnership to develop social services and social inclusion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 social NGOs with direct or indirect focus on Roma people and communities benefited of the project interventions, training and technical assistance for: Identity, Promotion and Advocacy; Management Staff Competences; Accessing European Funds; Accessing Subsidies; Project Manager Competences; Social Contracting; Meetings with constituents, supporters and allies; Qualification of Social Workers; 6 working groups constituted and the conclusions drafted within the groups transmitted to the Oradea City Hall and inserted in the City Development Strategy, Social Work Section. 1 of the 6 groups consists of organisations working with and assisting Roma people and communities. The secretariat of this group is hosted by Ruhama Foundation; The project supported the accreditation of the beneficiary NGOs as social services providers which facilitates their access to 	<p>This project built capacity in some social/Roma NGOs, which increased their chances to access funds. In addition, the project supported the NGOs active contribution to the improvement of local public policies, which will continue to produce positive changes after the end of the EEA/N funded project. The continuation/multiplication will depend on the capacity of the project promoter and beneficiary NGOs. At the interview stage, the project promoter mentioned difficulties generated by the cash-flow problems within an ESF funded project (due to delays in reimbursements). However, the organisation seems committed to continue the work for the Roma/social inclusion as it is part of its strategy.</p>

		programs.	public funds.	
Slovakia				
Slovakia individual projects related to Roma inclusion funded under the EEA/N (2004-2009)				
General information (Grantee/project/ duration/Size of grant)	Field/ Geographic outreach	Short description (objectives/key activities)	Results	Impact and Sustainability
<p>1. Central and eastern Slovakia - community bridge-building</p> <p>- Civic Association ETP Slovakia - Centre for Sustainable Development</p> <p>-21 months</p> <p>- 828.351 Euro</p>	<p>Field-Human resource development</p> <p>Outreach-Kosice region</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Project's purpose is to introduce training activities in 12 towns and municipalities in central and eastern Slovakia. Roma are significant part of the target. <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> courses for children, youth and young mothers on: preschool preparation, maternity, sexual health, drug abuse, culture and history of Roma, after-school activities and financial advice courses for adults and professionals on: personal development, financial advice, tackling poverty, social integration; employment support services, retraining, construction and refurbishment training; management and publicity; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A network of 12 municipal community centres was established, equipped and staffed providing a range of complex services 'from the cradle to the grave'; Targeted 1200 socially excluded citizens and dealt with 94652 cases; Number of bodies in socially excluded locations involved – 30 262 trained professionals; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The realisation of the project is an extension of the main strategy of ETP and is also a natural continuation of past activities and projects implemented of the Association. This individual project can be regarded as a small block grant because of its volume, specificity and complexity. The fact that ETP has successfully implemented the project is a proof itself of the capacity and the organisational maturity of the Organisation, which is a major element of the results' sustainability. Local authorities, resources and leaders have been mobilised in the realisation of the project. Adequate learning has been obtained for the future projects. From the 12 community centres created, 6 have already been refinanced through the Swiss Development Agency (SDC). The activity has not ceased in any of the 12 projects. All these aspects suggests that the

				project is highly sustainable as it meets both, the criteria of the Strategy for the Integration of the Roma in Slovakia, as well as the criteria of the region that it is being implemented in. Both resources from the EU Funds, as well as from SDC could be used.
<p>2. Jarovnice - integration programme for Roma PRO DONUM -21 months -628.898 Euro</p>	<p>Field-Human resource development Outreach-Local (one settlement – Jarovnice)</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purpose of the Project is to develop the Wild Poppies integration programme in the Roma settlement of Jarovnice in Eastern Slovakia, with the overall objective of providing educational and integration opportunities for Roma children to develop their skills and talent. <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 workshops led by professional tutors were organised. Each of the tutors was responsible for a group of 20 children working in various classes (singing, theatre, dancing, sports and arts) Two summer Academy were implemented in 2009 in city of Modra and in 2010 in Senec; Final concert took place in December 2010 in The Roman-Catholic Church in the village; Various publication and trainings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual plans were elaborated for children, which were continuously adjusted according to their individual needs. 100 Roma children integrated in activities; 10 trainings, 3 program activities, 6 tutors; Number of Roma children in Summer Academy – 160; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project has explicit and monitorable results. Implemented in extremely difficult environment (one of the biggest segregated Roma settlements in Slovakia - 5000 inhabitants, of which half are children). The organization provided educated Roma with the opportunity to work directly with and in the Roma community with the children and their families. It has accumulated replicable experience. It has also the experience of attracting celebrities in support of Roma inclusion as well as a web-based platform for fund-raising for scholarships and support for talented Roma children both from businesses and from individual contributors.
<p>3.- Pure Heart, Záhorie Centre of Hobby Activities; - The community of Velké Leváre;</p>	<p>Field-Human resource development Outreach- Bratislava region</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purpose of the Project is to broaden the offer of after-school activities for youth and children in Velké Leváre, with the overall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A modern Centre for afterschool activities has been created 30 people from disadvantaged groups benefited from activities; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project is <i>de facto</i> oriented towards Roma children and youth. The centre is visited mainly by Roma children, which creates some tension with the majority that in turn stops their children from

<p>- 24 months; - 349.850 Euro</p>		<p>objective of preventing negative social effects on children and youth (addictions, criminality, truancy, early school leaving, drop-out).</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need of renovating, refurbishing indoor and outdoor premises and purchasing equipment related to the activities. Various regular and summer after-school activities and workshops in the area of the Zahorie region. 	<p>A specific system to motivate the children has been created during the realization of the Centre's activities - since all children want to play on a computer and the computers are few, each child receives one token for one piece of homework done.</p>	<p>participating in afternoon and afterschool activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Centre has a great potential for future development, as well as financial support from the municipality. However, the location of the centre is in a region, where the possibilities for financing of Roma-targeted projects are practically zero. The region is neither eligible ESF-funded intervention, nor falls in the scope of priorities of the SDC or other donors.
<p>4.-Social integration of Roma children in schools - Wide Open School Foundation - 24 months - 322.252 Euro</p>	<p>Field-Human resource development - School Education Outreach-National level</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop a support system of social integration for Roma pupils in primary schools. This will include teacher and teacher assistant training in the area of multicultural education, anti-bias education for social justice in schools with the highest numbers of Roma pupils; <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To increase the quality of education for Roma children and eliminate stereotypes and prejudices in the education system - new competencies for Roma pupils in IT skills and multicultural integration • IT and communication courses • Roma and non-Roma children collected information on history of the Roma people and culture, published on the web portal "Through the Eyes of Pupils"; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A shared web portal "Through the Eyes of Pupils" was created which connected 1 000 pupils and 160 teachers from 40 primary schools in Slovakia. • Teachers and teachers assistants were trained in the area of multicultural education, anti-bias education for social justice; • A practical manual on intercultural education and on standards of social integration of pupils for primary school teachers was produced. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project promoter is a "Roma" organisation committed to continue the work on Roma integration issue. During the interview the need to support project that: • include parents from segregated Roma communities as the main 'agents' of change in their communities was mentioned; • the important role of "home pre-school education" with main actor Roma mothers/grand-mothers was underlined; • The Wide Open School Foundation is well positioned and very powerful organisation with long history and a lot of implemented projects behind.
<p>5.-Southern Slovakia -</p>	<p>Regional policy</p>	<p>Objectives:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A big number of organisations in the region 	<p>The objectives of this project do not</p>

<p>Regional development and cross-border cooperation</p> <p>-Civic Association Fundament –</p> <p>- 24 months</p> <p>- 321.272 Euro</p>	<p>and cross-border activities</p> <p>Southern Slovakia</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training programs for NGOs (including those in rural areas) based on transfer of Slovak best practice; • Implementation of a training programme for the integration of disabled people in the labour market; • Transferring know-how to NGOs on functional models of community funds and self-support mechanisms in local communities; • Pilot project on eco-tourism within the Slovak Karst national park); • Provide information on the EU and funding schemes to NGOs, schools, and local communities in the border regions of Southern Slovakia; 	<p>were networked – 560;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different training programs were implemented and 40 participants took part in them; • A database was created of the organisations operating in the Slovak-Ukrainian border region; • 12 participants took part in the training programmes for newly established and advanced organisations; • Šerpa eco-tourism program in the Slovak Karst national park was implemented; 	<p>directly relate to Roma, though indirectly relate to a broad range of minority groups as well as marginalised groups. Despite the fact that all the envisaged indicators have been reached, there is no evidence that the project results had any impact (direct or indirect) on the Roma population. According to the beneficiary, despite the proactive attitude of the Association, neither Roma NGOs nor Roma leaders have been trained because lacking interest.</p> <p>The project is not continuing. At the moment only a data base is being maintained. The project promoter has shifted its focus on provision of paid services in the area of training and education to the public.</p>
<p>6.- Extension of Slovak Cord Blood Registry</p> <p>Slovak placental stem cells registry Eurocord-Slovakia</p> <p>- 42 months</p> <p>- 346.107 Euro</p>	<p>Health and childcare</p> <p>National</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build up a strong public Cord Blood Registry for unrelated haematopoietic cells • To increase efficiency of cord blood banking targeting minorities or genetically different populations; 	<p>The purpose of the Project was to increase the number of Cord Blood Units (CBU) stored in national and international databases. It was achieved as the number of submitted CBUs databases was 570.</p>	<p>The project is typical example of an intervention responding entirely to the expectations of the assessing consultant (and thus the donor). The project objectives were defined in a “smart” way referring to “minorities” and when appropriate – mentioning “Roma”. In reality no attempts to reach out to Roma have been made. However the inclusion of other ethnic groups that are “minorities” in Slovakia provides the grounds for considering the project formally successful.</p> <p>“Roma targeting” was used in this case just as a promotion element increasing the chances of the project to receive funding.</p>

Slovakia NGOs sub-projects related to Roma inclusion funded under the EEA/N (2004-2009)				
General information (Grantee/project/ duration/Size of grant)	Field/ Geographic outreach	Short description (objectives/key activities)	Results	Impact and Sustainability
7. Carpathian Foundation; - 53.608 Euro	Field - Strengthening the multicultural environment; Outreach - Eastern Slovakia	Objectives: Improve the relationships in the multicultural society of East Slovakia Protect and advocate the interests of the socially disadvantaged. Activities: Various workshops and round tables or representatives of socially disadvantaged groups; One public event – NGOs MARKET where the local NGO represented their aims and activities.	Three competitive projects designed. One targeting Roma poverty in Bardejov region;	As a sustainable result from the project could be seen the creation of the Roma related project which was approved and financed by ESF under the Ministry of Labor, Social affairs and family in Slovakia. One of the project activities has been also established as a long running - The NGO MARKET. It has been organized every year and is one of the most famous campaigns promoting NGO sector in the city.
8. Law for (absolutely) everyone Milan Simecku Foundation - 58.851 EUR	Field - Democracy, human rights, discrimination Outreach - Eastern Slovakia	Objectives: Raise the legal awareness among young individuals coming from marginalised Roma communities and those living in social facilities.	New methodology of legal education for young Roma has been created; 6 facilitators were trained; The various methods of informal learning were tested; Young people from 12 localities have been trained on issues of fundamental rights;	The project promoter works actively in the area of human rights and minorities. The sustainability of the project was insured by the dissemination of the methodology and the similar projects among other Community Centers in Slovakia.
9. We live in one city -CKR Nitra - 23.186Euro	Field - Strengthening the multicultural environment Outreach - Local – city of Nitra	Objectives: Gradual improvement of the relationship between Roma and non- Roma mothers of the city of Nitra.	A “Mother Centre” for Roma mothers was established and it tried to create links with the non- Roma Mother Centre in Nitra; Different common activities were created in aim social integration and mutual cooperation to between Roma and non-Roma mothers.	The organization couldn't be reached or found. During the interview with OSF the interviewee shared the opinion that during the implementation of the project the difference in the age and background of the mothers prevented

				the mutual cooperation and the dialogue between Roma and non-Roma mothers.
<p>10. Multicultural ART – Get to know the culture of minorities</p> <p>People in peril Foundation</p> <p>-23.983 Euro</p>	<p>Field- Strengthening the multicultural environment;</p> <p>Outreach-Eastern Slovakia</p>	<p>Objectives: Encourage multicultural understanding in different regions of Slovakia and for better tolerance for minorities (Roma people, the Hungarians, legal aliens, economic migrants).</p> <p>Activities: Training teachers to teach multicultural lessons in their schools (didactic material edited by PIPA)</p> <p>Autumn school of art and multicultural issues;</p> <p>Survey of majority population attitudes towards the local ethnic minority.</p>	A methodology of the multicultural education.	<p>The project has explicit Roma aspects and Roma issues have been exposed to the broad public.</p> <p>The project promoter is a big and established organization. It is well positioned and the Roma inclusion is central to its strategy.</p>
<p>11. Multiculturality in Zemplin</p> <p>NGO New Way</p> <p>-28.215 Euro</p>	<p>Field- Strengthening the multicultural environment</p> <p>Outreach-Eastern Slovakia</p>	<p>Objectives: Encourage more peaceful coexistence between different communities of the Zemplin region and create room for public discussion on the issue of multiculturalism.</p> <p>Activities: Workshops, campaigns, photography exhibition;</p>	Conference for representatives of all different communities and a discussion on multiculturalism.	The project promoter is a grassroots Roma organization. The organization is well known and very supported at local level. The main concern shared by the project promoter was the lack of financial resources on local level.
<p>12. Increasing awareness about discrimination and human rights among the public actors working with disadvantaged groups</p> <p>Institute for public Affairs</p> <p>-21.978 Euro</p>	<p>Field-Supporting the rights to equal treatment;</p> <p>Outreach-National</p>	<p>Objectives: Encourage respect for basic human rights and civil liberties and raise awareness about human rights issues among the public.</p> <p>Activities: Info-campaign on human rights for non-governmental activists in the field of human rights;</p> <p>Research on the issue of multilayered discrimination</p>	Results of the research and workbook for non-governmental activists were published.	<p>The project promoter is a big and established organization, perhaps with the longest and strongest record in Roma research in Slovakia. It has been implementing the first edition of the ATLAS of the Roma communities in 2004.</p> <p>The entire project is focused on policy level.</p>

<p>13. Children from marginalized communities in the process of education reform;</p> <p>Slovak Governance Institute</p> <p>- 57.205 Euro</p>	<p>Field-Supporting the rights to equal treatment;</p> <p>Outreach-National</p>	<p>Objectives: Improve the access to high-quality education for socially-disadvantaged pupils – the most striking problem of the Slovak educational system.</p> <p>Activities:Creating new website for effective assistance to teachers and their assistants.</p>	<p>Possibilities were identified for an improved access to high-quality education for socially-disadvantaged children.</p> <p>Monitoring the implementation of the Educational reform with focus on children from marginalized Roma communities.</p> <p>Providing drafters of the Educational Reform with a comprehensive feedback;</p>	<p>The project promoter is a big and established organization and works primarily on policy level.</p>
<p>14. MULTICULTI into school– developing intercultural educational environment in Slovak schools</p> <p>Milan Simecka Found.</p> <p>- 30.688 Euro</p>	<p>Field-Strengthening the multicultural environment</p> <p>Outreach-National</p>	<p>Objectives:Encourage systematic transformation of the traditional model of education into a multicultural one.</p> <p>Activities:Online-course – “Multicultural Education” created and tested with 16 selected teachers and schools from all Slovakia regions;</p>	<p>The impact of the Curriculum reform after its implementation was analyzed;</p> <p>The key areas of transformation were defined;</p> <p>Innovative elements of informal learning were introduced and a webpage www.multikulti.sk was created.</p>	<p>The project promoter is a big and established organization with a long record in minority issues. This is a second project of the same organization funded under the NGO fund. The web page has existed and the project promoter has worked dedicatedly on the Roma inclusion task.</p>
<p>15. Pro Gender E-Quality</p> <p>Pro Choice Civic Association</p> <p>-53.971 Euro</p>	<p>Field -Supporting the rights to Equal treatments</p> <p>Outreach-National</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <p>Change public opinion through gender equality training. Roma women are a group especially vulnerable to gender inequality.</p> <p>Four cycles of training courses organized for representatives of Roma NGOs;</p>	<p>The quality standards for gender equality training programs were defined and a professional discussion was initiated.</p> <p>Two of the educational activities have been accredited by the Ministry of Education.</p>	<p>Participating NGOs were equipped to include gender equality in future projects. As coordinators of the project have worked as pedagogy in schools, they will disseminate the knowledge further to their pupils.</p>

ANNEX 2. Map of new programs 2009-2014

BULGARIA			
General information	General objectives	Components, Activities and Tools (CFP/PDP) related to Roma inclusion	Potential outcomes on Roma inclusion
<p>BG05 Funds for Non-Governmental Organisations</p> <p>Grant: € 11,790,000</p> <p>PO: Open Society Institute, partner – Workshop for Civic Initiatives Foundation</p>	<p>Strengthened civil society development and enhanced contribution to social justice, democracy and sustainable development.</p>	<p>The Programme has 4 thematic areas, each of them identifying separate priorities. The announced 10% allocations for <i>Roma or activities, related to Roma inclusion, e.g. advocacy, antidiscrimination, etc.</i> is not limited to specific thematic or priority areas. Those which are most appropriate for Roma inclusion projects are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Democracy, Human Rights and Governance, priority areas Democratic values promotion, including human rights, and Involvement of NGOs in policy and decision-making processes with local, regional and national governments • Social Inclusion and Empowerment of Vulnerable Groups, priority areas Empowerment of vulnerable groups and Widening the range of services for improved welfare • Thematic area Capacity building for NGOs, priority area Advocacy and watchdogging <p>In the first Call for proposals these areas receive 64% of the total re-granting budget.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better planning and decision making regarding Roma integration, including NGOs and citizens participation, advocacy campaigns, etc. • Increased quality of services targeting Roma, including the introduction of innovative services, integrated services and establishment of models; • Increased protection of Human rights – e.g. monitoring of violation of human rights, provision of legal aid, antidiscrimination and tolerance campaigns; • New knowledge on the issues of Roma communities – analyses and research, including Transfer of knowledge between NGOs and Public Authorities; • Increased capacity of NGOs.
<p>Other comments: The potential of the Programme for impact is increased by the priority given to actions in rural areas and involving groups of the population in these areas.</p>			
<p>BG06 Children and Youth at risk</p> <p>Grant: € 7,860,000</p> <p>PO: Ministry of Education, Youth and Sciences</p>	<p>Improved well-being of children and young people at risk</p>	<p>Three Components, all having relevance to Roma. 1 PDP (third component)</p> <p>First component is a call for proposals for Municipalities for establishing 4 pilot Youth Centres with Council of Europe Quality Label. 25% of the YC target groups should be Roma, and every YC should employ two Roma mediators</p> <p>Second component – Call for proposals of municipalities or associations of municipalities for increased access of vulnerable children to kindergartens, including implementation of support community based services. Total of 8</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involving Roma youths in informal learning initiatives and services (%of min. 100 vulnerable youth out of a total of 400 persons); • Improved quality of other services for Roma children and youth, including introduction of methods and approaches from other EU member states (% of 8 services) • Increasing the capacity of youth workers from local NGOs and Roma mediators (8

<p><u>DPP:</u> Council of Europe</p>		<p>projects will be funded, each with at least 5 kindergartens</p> <p>Third component, backing up the first two: Capacity building of kindergartens' and Youth Centres' staff</p> <p>Comments:</p> <p>The linkages of the Youth Centres with existing community based initiatives and practices are not well defined. It may be difficult for the candidate municipalities to offer the most relevant programmes for addressing the needs of RI, moreover Roma are not a separate target group but part of the vulnerable children and youth. The Programme could more explicitly address needs of Roma target sub-groups, e.g. drop-outs, youth with low educational level, young offenders, etc.</p> <p>The trainings under Component 3 will bring a lot of CoE expertise and will be delivered jointly by CoE and local experts. In terms of results all of the above will be undoubtedly important for achieving the objectives of the programme and, hence, contributing to Roma inclusion. At the same time, based on interviews, there is a room for optimization of the budget of the component, e.g. reducing the costs for the trainings and saving on unnecessary translations of materials in Romani language.</p>	<p>Roma mediators + other involved in trainings)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased knowledge about the issues and need of young Roma, including identification of risk factors and groups (4 reports) • Increased capacity of local administrations to address Roma inclusion issues (% of 12 municipalities) • Increased enrolment of Roma kids in kindergartens (% of total 200 underprivileged) • Implementation of supporting community based programmes targeting vulnerable children, e.g. preparing children for school, work with parents and community stakeholders; • Enhanced effectiveness of the programmes and involvement of the communities through employing school mediators (20 mediators, 2 per project, to be trained in Component 3); • Increased capacities of pedagogical specialists to work in multicultural environments and to deliver intercultural education. • Increased capacities of min. 20 staff in the Youth Centres; • Increased capacities of min. 120 teachers and other staff in the kindergartens for working with disadvantaged children and their parents • Min. 20 Roma mediators trained under ROMED curriculum • Relevant resource materials of CoE made available in Bulgarian • A team of local trainers prepared to deliver
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			trainings to youth workers, mediators and staff in preschool institutions to work with Roma and other disadvantaged communities.
<p>BG07 Public Health Initiatives</p> <p><u>Grant:</u> € 13,415,000</p> <p><u>PO:</u> Ministry of Health</p> <p>Programme partner: WHO</p>	<p>Improved public health and reduced health inequalities with a focus on 5 areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reproductive health; • Child health protection; • Mental health; • Improvement of governance in healthcare; and <p>Specific health challenges for the Roma.</p>	<p>Three out of the 5 priority areas are highly relevant to the needs of the Roma population: Reproductive health, Child health protection and Specific health challenges for the Roma. Some of the measures within the Improvement of Governance in Healthcare area are also relevant, esp. those related to creation of databases of immunizations and of persons with specific diseases.</p> <p>The measure that was designed to target explicitly Roma is Scholarship Programme for Medical and Other Healthcare Professions for Roma Students. The programme will prove its relevance only after the educated professionals start practicing in their communities or at least start working in Bulgaria.</p> <p>A concern shared by NGOs and Roma experts is shared that the Programme proposal does not provide for support for the Health mediators network. The Health mediators are justly included in HSPBVEM as one of the most significant instruments for access to the Roma communities and a number of measures rely on their contribution. This is valid also for the measures in the Programme proposal, and the MH has indicated that it will aim at synergy between the Scholarships program, the mediators and Patronage Centres, the last two being financed by other sources. The concern is whether the funds for Roma mediators secured by the national budget are appropriate – according to the interviews they are definitely not.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased access to healthcare of young (10-19 years) people in the area of sexual and reproductive Health (% of 6000 STI tested youth, 72 medical and psychological consultations, 80 health education events); • Increased access of children with specific diseases to new or alternative health services (% of 1000 children and 1000 individual treatment and rehabilitation plans); • Increased capacity of parents of children with specific diseased to provide specialized care (% of 1500 families); • Increased access to homecare for pregnant women and children (0-3) (? of 3200 home visits, % of 2000 vaccinated children, % of 1900 children registered with GP); • Increased number of Roma professionals in the healthcare (20 scholarships to students studying for physicians and 75 for other professions); • Improved information services (? of Roma included in the planned National registers of immunizations and patients with specific diseases); • Improved quality of prenatal and neonatal care.
<p>Other comments: The figures for the results are derived from the programme proposal and the indicators, which are currently under negotiations with the FMO.</p>			
<p>BG12 Domestic and Gender-Based Violence</p>	<p>To increase the efficiency of the Bulgarian law enforcement</p>	<p>The programme is in a process of substantial revision, which will affect the planned Roma-related activities. The last version of the Programme Proposal (PP) and the Programme Scheme (PS) prepared by the PO differ.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased capacities of Police officers to communicate with Roma and adequately address specific Roma issues, e.g. prevention of early marriages (PP and PS)

<p><u>Grant:</u> € 4,000,000</p> <p><u>PO:</u> Ministry of Interior</p> <p><u>DPP:</u> Council of Europe</p>	<p>authorities in the prevention and reduction of Gender-Based violence and domestic violence (...).</p>	<p>The following measures are designed to address Roma in the Programme Proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training of Police officers on “Prevention of the early marriages among the Roma” and “Specifics and prejudices in the communication with Roma” within PDP. Included in the Working paper of the NFP. • (CFP) Support services for victims of domestic violence – € 123,000; • (CFP) Increasing the awareness and sensibility of the society with special focus to vulnerable ethnic groups and children – € 125,000. Included in the Working paper of the NFP. • (CFP) Support services for victims of trafficking – € 120 000 • (CFP) Establishment of crisis centre for victims of trafficking € 580 000 <p>The Programme Scheme envisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training of Police officers (same as above) • Trainings and ToT for social workers focused specifically on working with Roma women in their communities • (SGS) Awareness raising activities with a special focus on the Roma and other vulnerable communities • (SGS) Research and data collection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased access of victims of DV and GBV to adequate support – services (PP) and a crisis centre (PP) • Increased capacities of 27 social workers in the field of social inclusion and antidiscrimination, and specifically in working with Roma women in their communities (PS) • Access of social workers to follow-up trainings on the topics above through trained trainers (PS) • Access of professionals and decision-makers to new research on aspects of DV and GBV in the Roma community; • Increased awareness within the Roma communities and intolerance to DV and GBV (PS). <p>For all results proper indicators and baselines should be identified.</p>
<p>Other comments: The opinion on the outcomes is based on the Programme proposal, the Programme scheme and the interviews. Formally, the 10 % requirement will be met even if only the awareness raising activities are implemented (€ 240,000). The programme can have great potential to address Roma inclusion if the other results are kept and even strengthened. The programme will also benefit a lot from increased cooperation with NGOs.</p>			
<p>BG14 Judicial Capacity Building and Cooperation</p> <p>€ 3,000,000</p> <p><u>PO:</u> Ministry of Justice</p>	<p>A fairer and more efficient judicial system</p> <p>Roma relevant PDPs:</p> <p>PDP 4: To improve the access to primary legal aid for vulnerable groups in two locations</p>	<p>The programme offers clear implementation design, planning for 5 PDPs, one of them directly aimed at improving access to justice of Roma (PDP 4: <i>Improving access to justice for vulnerable groups, (particularly Roma), via the implementation of a pilot scheme for “primary legal aid” and amendments to legislation</i>), and a second one (PDP 5: <i>Improving the capacity of the General Directorate “Security” staff to fulfill their mandate in line with international human rights standards</i>) having a training component related to summoning and transfer of individuals who refuse to appear in criminal cases as defendants or witnesses (most of the people who are subject to compulsory bringing to court are Roma). A third PDP also has some relevance to Roma – trainings for magistrates on topics directly related to access to justice, the right to a fair trial, non-discrimination and equality, minority and vulnerable groups’ rights. (PDP 1 <i>Capacity building and</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate access to PLA in two of the Municipalities with concentration of Roma population – Sliven and Vidin (over 350 beneficiaries of the pilot PLBs and the hotlines) • Long-term access to PLA in Vidin and Sliven (the two PLBs and the hotlines will stay, funded by the PLAgency) • Long-term access to NPLB through envisioned legislative changes, and

<p><u>DPP</u>: Council of Europe</p>	<p>with high share of Roma population – Vidin and Sliven</p> <p>PDP 5: Improve the training of staff and draft amendments to the legislation to improve the GDS staff capacity to fulfill their mandate in line with international human rights standards</p>	<p><i>Human Rights training of magistrates at the NIJ</i>. The choice of Primary Legal Aid as the measure directly targeting Roma has been made after consultations with NGOs with in-depth experience in the area and after analysis of relevant data and research. Additional merit of the PDP is that the two planned PLBs and the hotlines will be established in Sliven and Vidin – municipalities with considerable Roma population.</p> <p>PDP 3 (<i>Support towards strengthening of domestic remedies to alleged violations of tile provisions of the ECHR and the capacity for the execution of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights</i>) was not indicated as Roma inclusion relevant, and in fact it can be, as it can increase the level of Bulgaria’s execution of the judgments of ECHR</p>	<p>improved management system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased capacity of GDS staff to abide international standards for ensuring compulsory bringing to court and implementation of restrictive measures in accordance with the ECHR to persons brought by force (80 trained officers) • Increased knowledge of Magistrates and expert staff of the Ministry of Justice in human rights (300)
<p>Other comments: Certain challenges may be expected as regards primary legal aid. Could the planned use of Roma mediators threaten the confidentiality of the client-attorney communication? What should be the balance between engaging attorneys (expensive) and other professionals? Should the PLBs be located in the Roma community or outside (if inside – ease of access, but less security of the clients – everyone will know that a beaten wife, for example, is seeking help. In meeting these challenges the partnership with OSI and other NGOs will be significant, fortunately realized by the PO.</p>			
<p>BG08: Cultural heritage and cultural diversity</p> <p>Grant € 14,000,000</p> <p><u>PO</u>: Ministry of Culture</p>		<p>Current proposal foresees 10% of the SGS (cultural diversity) to be targeted at Roma – Roma contemporary art topic produced and presented by Roma However, it is expected that 10% of the Regular Grant Scheme for conservation should also to be used for this aim.</p>	
<p>Other comments: The program was not assessed in detail – no documents were available. The information is derived from FMO and the Working Paper.</p>			
<p>BG09 Scholarships</p> <p>Grant: €1,500,000</p> <p><u>PO</u>: Ministry of Education, Science and Youth of Bulgaria</p>		<p>The programme is approved with condition for contributing to reaching the target of 10% of the total allocation to go towards improvement of the situation for the Roma population, as agreed in the MoUs. The PO is requested to submit a plan for the use of the 10% allocation to Roma. This plan should be discussed with relevant stakeholders and be submitted to the Donors for approval. The PO’s opinion as expressed in the interview is that the Programme design is not appropriate to address Roma. The Programme is not included in the Working Paper</p>	
<p><u>DPP</u>: The Icelandic Centre for Research (RANNIS), National Agency for International Education Affairs (AIBA),</p>	<p>Other comments: The program was not assessed in detail – no documents were available. The information is derived from FMO and interviews.</p>		

Liechtenstein, Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education (SIU).			
BG13: Schengen Cooperation and Combating Cross-border and Organized Crime, including Trafficking and Itinerant Criminal Groups <u>Grant:</u> € 6,000,000 <u>PQ:</u> Ministry of Interior, <u>DPP:</u> Council of Europe (CoE) and the Norwegian Police (POD)		Roma focus will be included in a pre-defined project to follow-up BG National Action Plan of Roma Decade, i.e. “on the job training of police officers in HR protection and ethnic issues”. A training is planned for police officers in legitimate use of force, human rights protection and (further) development of skills necessary for working in a multi-ethnic environment. Joint project with the CoE. Content and budget to be discussed and agreed between the parties, and approved by the NMFA. Additional impact on Roma is expected from the planned improvement of the national system for assisting victims of trafficking, i.e. collaboration between public institutions and the civil society.	
Other comments: The program was not assessed in detail – no documents were available. The information is derived from FMO, the Working Paper and interviews:			
BG15: Correctional Services, including Non-custodial Sanctions <u>Grant:</u> €7,000,000 <u>PQ:</u> Ministry of Justice <u>DPP:</u> Council of Europe (CoE)		The programme is approved with condition that prisoners of Roma origin are not discriminated against when it comes to decisions on granting probation or electronic monitoring. Furthermore the PO shall report on the number of people of Roma origin who receive those alternative sentences. The programme also aims at improving the living conditions in Bulgarian prisons investigative detention facilities to ensure respect of human rights. This will positively affect Roma who are over-represented in the prisons	
Other comments: The program was not assessed in detail – no documents were available. The information is derived from FMO, the Working Paper and interviews=			
CZECH REPUBLIC			
General information	General objectives	Components, Activities and Tools related to Roma inclusion	Potential outcomes on Roma inclusion
CZ03: NGO Fund <u>Grant:</u> € 9,810,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support NGOs in pursuing public interest in their operations. Support for democracy, human 	Activities that are relevant for the objective of Roma inclusion are likely to be supported in three of the four priorities – human rights, youth and children at risk, and social inclusion.	As the exact outcomes will depend both on the topics of the received applications by NGOs and the decisions of the selection committee it is at this point only possible to offer assumptions based on experiences

<p><u>PO:</u> NROS Foundation and Environmental Partnership Foundation</p> <p><u>DPP:</u> N/A</p>	<p>rights and gender equality;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening NGO capacity • Focus on needs of minority, including Roma • Environmental protection • Work with children at risk 	<p>In the case of the social inclusion priority, which has the stated aim to support the integration of Roma children in the educational mainstream, Roma will be directly and explicitly targeted. It is however at the same time the priority with the lowest number of estimated grants (10 grants out of 146).</p> <p>In the case of the two other relevant priorities, human rights (87 projects) and children at risk (19 projects), it can be assumed that Roma will at least in some regions relatively strongly represented among the programme beneficiaries, because Roma are overrepresented among the populations at risk that should be target by the supported activities. Roma are explicitly mentioned as one of the target groups in case of the human rights priority, which includes a special category “protection of human rights and multiculturalism”.</p>	<p>from NGO fund in previous period and the programme document.</p> <p>Roma-relevant activities will mostly focus on the important area of children and youth and have the form of projects with a duration of 1 – 2 years. It seems realistic to expect that a total of 25 Roma-relevant projects with an average volume of € 60,000 will be realized.</p> <p>As the situation of Czech NGOs is increasingly difficult, the programme is expected to contribute significantly to the continuation of activities by NGOs, which have a vital role in the process of Roma inclusion.</p>
<p>Other comments: Co-financing is lower (10%) than in other programme areas and should be acquired by the grant owner from non-EU sources. The proposal developed by NROS foresees that in difference to the past programme period, beneficiaries will be allowed to contribute also through voluntary work.</p>			
<p>CZ04: Children and Youth at Risk</p> <p><u>Grant:</u> € 4,298,000</p> <p><u>PO:</u> Czech Ministry of Finance</p> <p><u>DPP:</u> N/A</p>	<p>Having been strongly criticized for the high share of children who were taken away from their parents and are living in care institutions, the Czech system for the protection of children is expected to undergo a thorough transformation in the coming years. The programme combines a pre-defined project (focusing on preparation of legislation) with two grant calls. The objective is to enhance the quality of services related to work with</p>	<p>The Focus Point explained in reaction to the FMO’s request that a very high share of children in institutionalized care are of Roma origin. This information is correct. Making use of official data, a recent report by the European Roma Rights Centre concluded that about 30% of all children under three years of age living in infant institutions and homes for children are Roma while only three percent of all children in the same age group are Roma. There are no official estimates concerning the ethnic composition of older children in care institutions. However, as there is very widespread reluctance among members of Czech majority population to accept children of Romany background for adoption, it has to be assumed that the disproportion is even higher when it comes to older children.</p>	<p>The expected results are not ethnically defined yet do concern Roma in a specific way, as Roma families and children are disproportionately strongly affected by the mechanisms of child institutionalization and the negative impacts of the current system for the wellbeing of the families and children concerned. The expected results are both legislative changes and a contribution to the practical transformation of the care system:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of two new laws (codification the problems of support for families, foster care and the system of care for vulnerable children) and accompanying amending law, their submission to the Parliament and subsequent approval • Procedures (methodology) for the involvement of children and young people in different types of decision-making processes • Training programmes for employees of institutions of social and legal protection of

	families and on increasing stakeholders' involvement in decision-making processes.		children, judges etc • Creation of services on the field and ambulant basis, primarily for the group of children under 3 years of age
<p>Government Office's pre-defined project "Campaign against Racism within CZ05: Local and Regional Initiatives to Reduce National Inequalities and to Promote Social Inclusion"</p> <p><u>Grant:</u> € 1,242,000</p> <p><u>PQ:</u> Ministry of Finance</p> <p><u>DPP:</u> N/A</p>	<p>1) improvement of young people's awareness about the issues of hate violence,</p> <p>2) increasing the capacities of local actors for effective prevention and combating the manifestations of extremism and racism,</p> <p>3) transfer of good practice and increase of awareness about successful social inclusion between representatives of local authorities and the general public.</p>	<p>Realized by the Czech Republic's Agency for Social Inclusion (part of the Government Office) as the only activity of programme CZ 05, the pre-defined project combines the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nationwide media campaign Against Racism and Hate Violence • Spreading good practice in socially excluded localities • Research • Regional educational activities in schools in the Ústecký and Moravskoslezský Regions • Regional educational activities for the police in the Ústecký and Moravskoslezský Regions <p>Even though none of the listed project components targets primarily Roma, all of the activities are relevant to Roma as they are meant to contribute to a societal climate in which the goal of Roma inclusion is more accepted by the public.</p>	<p>-• Young people are expected to be reached by the nationwide media campaign about the manifestations of racism and hate violence as well as about the means of how to face them with personal attitudes and by supporting the inclusive policies.</p> <p>• The research of new forms of money lending and migration in socially excluded localities is expected to provide new information on how to combat these phenomena.</p> <p>• The educational activities in the Ústecký and Moravskoslezský Regions aimed at local authorities, teachers and policemen is expected to result in a better awareness about social risks of extremism and racism and how to prevent them, including the willingness to stand up against activities which lead to violence, and support for implementation of pro-inclusive measures. The local authorities, teachers and police will be trained to efficiently pass on these anti-discriminatory and pro-inclusive attitudes among other council members, children aged 10 - 15 or other policemen.</p>
<p>Other comments:</p> <p>1. While the activities in schools can certainly bring benefits, it seems less certain if the campaign-type activities that should be realized with the help of professional PR agencies will be able to change attitudes of young people. While the concrete outcome will of course depend on the quality of the campaign and the chosen PR strategy, there is clearly a risk to end up with unintended negative effects, as citizen with negative attitudes towards Roma might perceive the campaign as another example of wasteful spending.</p> <p>2. Most of the spending will be realized through public tenders. This will limit the possibilities for Roma organizations and other local NGOs to benefit from the resources.</p>			

	3. In case of some programme elements (e.g. educational programmes in schools, development of new teaching methodology), it seems unrealistic to realize the full scope of planned activities with the planned resources. The programme could benefit from incorporating the wide range of programmes and methods that already exists.		
<p>CZ06 – Cultural Heritage and Contemporary Art</p> <p><u>Grant:</u> € 21,490,000 (€ 2,500,000 for contemporary art)</p> <p><u>PO:</u> Ministry of Finance</p> <p><u>DPP:</u> Arts Council Norway</p> <p>Programme partner: Ministry of Culture</p>	<p>Two programme priorities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conversation and revitalization of Cultural Heritage 2. Promotion of Diversity in Culture and Arts within European Cultural Heritage 	<p>The Ministry agreed to give special attention to minority issues in an open grant scheme for the support of cultural activities. There is no specific allocation for this purpose. Projects that plan to “allow for the participation of individuals or groups of socially excluded persons” as “artists, promoters or advisers” (up to 4 extra points) or audience (up to 3 points) and projects that “support cultural expressions of minority groups or their cultural history” (up to 3 points) will earn additional points in the assessment of the applications. The maximal amount of points is 100. There does not seem to exist any mechanism that would ensure Roma / minority participation in case that the additional points are not sufficient to ensure that minority-related projects will be selected.</p>	<p>In view of the other selection criteria, which stress the applicants experiences with similar projects (up to 10 points), it will be difficult for non-professional artists from the Roma community to participate in the project.</p> <p>The grant scheme’s regulations might on the other side lead to the co-operation between professional cultural institutions and individuals and / or initiatives in Roma communities. Such co-operations might help to overcome the social isolation of segregated communities.</p>
	<p>Other comments:</p> <p>Suggestion: The ministry might actively encourage potential applicants to create partnerships with persons and initiatives in socially excluded Roma localities. This strategy could include the highlightening of positive examples of social art projects and the providing of information and contacts (e.g. non-government organisations, local consultants of Agency for Social Inclusion).</p>		
<p>CZ14 Schengen co-operation and Combatting Cross-border and Organised Crime</p> <p><u>Grant:</u> € 7, 400,000</p> <p><u>PO:</u> Ministry of Finance</p> <p><u>DPP:</u> Czech Ministry of the Interior – Police Presidium</p>	<p>Improvement of efficiency of co-operation between relevant government bodies.</p>	<p>The aim of the programme’s Roma relevant component is to improve the police work in relation to socially excluded communities. This should be achieved through trainings of policemen, working visits and the production and dissemination of materials.</p> <p>Reacting to demands by the FMO, the police headquarter agreed to revise the programme by including a sub-project that should improve police work in socially segregated Roma locations (analysis of situation, work visits of Slovakia and other neighbouring countries, training of policemen and police management, publicity / outreach). 500,000 € of the total budget of 7 mil. € (7,1 %) will be used for these activities.</p>	<p>Minority members living in segregated localities become in many cases disproportionately often the victims of crime. Security problems, real or felt, are also a key trigger for the rise of ethnic tensions. While this clearly are important reasons to focus on the questions of security, police interventions are on the other side often perceived as intrusive and culturally insensitive. The programme’s impact on Roma communities will therefore depend mostly on the kind of philosophy to be taught in the planned trainings, which is characterized in the current draft of the programme proposal only in the form of key words, such as “mutual trust”, or “law and justice import to specific environment”.</p>

	<p>Other comments:</p> <p>1. It seems surprising that the exchange of international experiences focuses mainly on Slovakia. While there is a large Roma minority in Slovakia, the country is not known for particular innovative approaches in the area of police work. It might have been a better idea to learn from the experiences of Norway or other Western European countries and to address also the issue of the police force's ethnic composition.</p> <p>2. A close co-operation with programme CZ05, which includes similar activities, is strongly recommended. This will avoid replications of activities and will also allow to tap the Agency for Social Inclusion's specific know-how concerning socially excluded communities.</p>		
<p>Gender Equality and Domestic and Gender-Based Violence</p> <p>Grant: € 840,000</p>		<p>1)_The programme will have a special focus on domestic violence in Roma communities and other minorities</p> <p>2) Partnerships will be encouraged between organizations active in Roma inclusion and organizations working with victims of domestic violence.</p>	
<p>Other comments: The program was not assessed as no information was provided at the time of the study. The information above is derived from FMO data provided in June 2013.</p>			
HUNGARY			
General information	General objectives	Components, Activities and Tools related to Roma inclusion	Potential outcomes on Roma inclusion
<p>HU06 Children and Youth at Risk</p> <p>Grant: € 11,216,000</p> <p><u>PO:</u> National Development Agency Managing Authority of Human Resources Programmes</p> <p><u>DPP:</u> Council of Europe</p>	<p>Improved well-being of children and youth in vulnerable situation through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reinforcement of the professional work of institutions to adjust the quality of services, • provision of equal opportunity access for children and youth at risk, through three preventive programs-Complex interventions on the field of social exclusion targeting children and youth at particular risk 	<p>The reinforcement of co-operation:</p> <p>Call for proposals: project size € 170,000-334,000; open to social care institutions, higher education institutions, CSO. Main activities will include: development of methodology, collection of good practices, Research, Adaptation, trainings and networking assisted by the CoE as DPP, to serve all the other components</p> <p>Preventive programmes</p> <p>1. Programme of integration to sport - € 3,189,788</p> <p>Primary target group: Children/youth living in the child protection/child care system in vulnerable situation including Roma, disabled and multiple-disabled.</p> <p>Call for proposals: grants between € 170,000-175,000; open to education institutions and sport schools; Activities: Establishment of local sport integration offices in the sport schools, Event organization, Community development, Networking, Trainings, Mentoring</p> <p>2. The prevention of early school leaving (ESL) of disadvantaged, multiple disadvantaged children, mostly Roma girls. € 2,666,667. Focuses primarily on Roma girls in elementary and secondary schools and those who plan to further</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality of child welfare systems and protection measures effectively improved, relaying the views of relevant stakeholders and society at large through high quality and participatory debate • Effective and efficient measures addressing vulnerable groups of children and youth facing particular risks implemented <p>Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and youth directly benefiting from the sport integration projects (participated on the events, trainings, involved into the communities • Disadvantaged, multiple disadvantaged children, mostly Roma girls, who took part in the projects successfully, received services, and stayed in the school system • Young people supported on leading an

		<p>pursue the level of higher education. Mentors to work with girls and families. Call for proposals; projects size between € 50,100- 66,800 Euro, open to elementary and secondary schools, civil society organizations, social and health care actors, child protection institutions, juvenile custody centres, children's home</p>	<p>independent life (received services, trainings, developed skills)</p>
<p>Other comments:</p> <p>Combines a set of preventive programs of different scope, target and level of addressing Roma issues. Some like the prevention of early school leaving especially of Roma girls is directly targeting Roma. Integration through sport - can have a potential in regard to Roma inclusion, but so far there are not enough specific details of how Roma communities will be actually involved. In general - the programme has a mainstream approach with only one component clearly directed to Roma. The rest of the measures that may relate to Roma miss clarity on how this will be actually done.</p> <p>Projects that will be supported within the preventive programs will be longer term - 2 years which will provide more space for the initiatives</p> <p>Sustainability (social, economic) very broadly described.</p> <p>Critical area - the cooperation with CoE. They will provide the methodological guidance and expertise for Axis I which is serving all the other programs. This needs to be done in a timely and adequate manner. Issues in communication; question of whether and how local expertise will be also involved.</p>			
<p>HU12 Public Health Initiatives (ACH)</p> <p><u>Grant:</u> € 16,640,000</p> <p><u>PO:</u> Managing Authority for Human Resources Programmes of the National Development Agency,</p> <p><u>DPP:</u> Norwegian Institute of Public Health</p>	<p>Improved public health and reduced health inequalities</p>	<p>The programme has a special focus on the general health status of the marginalized groups and the reduction of the health inequalities between different social groups in the country. Two components are of more relevance to Roma:</p> <p>600 000 EUR allocated for the pre-defined project is the "Improvement of the working conditions of health visitors active in Roma communities"</p> <p>909 500 EUR will be allocated for the open call is "Physical activity awareness among vulnerable and disadvantaged groups"</p> <p>The program will have 6 calls open mostly to state health service providers.</p> <p>The pre-defined project has a part which will create an Integrated health inequality action plan based on participatory approaches and local consultations. It will be developed as pilot on county level and disseminated</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced inequalities between user groups • Improved access to and quality of health services, including reproductive and preventive child health care • Life-style related diseases prevented or reduced • Improved mental health services <p>Roma mentioned among the target group, but concrete indicators missing</p>
<p>Other comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme is linked to the national strategy for social inclusion. Synergy with structural funds programs - equipment provided to health visitors will 			

	<p>optimize the usage of the reporting system developed by the Early Childhood Headline Project 6.1.4 of the Social Renewal Operational Programme (SROP), which is financed by the Structural Funds. While technical equipment to boost the efficiency of the health visitors system is envisaged, the design is missing some “soft measures” - sensitizing, training and raising skills of the health visitors/nurses working in a multicultural environment. May be this will be provided by the overarching predefined project and call for proposals together with the CoE.</p> <p>• NGOs and specifically Roma NGOs are not eligible applicants in the calls in the components related to Roma.</p> <p>The open call is <i>“Physical activity awareness among vulnerable and disadvantaged groups misses clarity on how Roma will be included.”</i></p>		
<p>HU05 NGO Fund</p> <p><u>Grant:</u> € 12,610,000</p> <p><u>PO:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Hungarian Environmental Partnership Foundation, • the Foundation for Development of Democratic Rights, • the Carpathian Foundation-Hungary • the Autonómia Foundation. 	<p>strengthen civil society development and enhance contribution to social justice, democracy and sustainable development</p>	<p>The NGO fund has a very well designed complex strategic framework with diversified funding instruments of macro, medium and micro grants to address different segments of civil society, levels of intervention and thematic fields. Grants will be also combined with systematic capacity building services.</p> <p>. <i>Roma Integration</i> /empowerment of vulnerable groups is one of the seven specific sub-funds (specific calls). 9% of the overall budget (or €1,040,000)</p> <p>A second sub-fund which may be of high relevance to Roma inclusion is the <i>Provision of welfare and basic service to vulnerable groups</i> (€1,135,620).</p>	<p>Fostered active citizenship and empowerment of vulnerable groups by expanding the constituency base of Roma organizations, their outreach and interaction with communities, volunteerism, cooperation and civil dialogue between the public and Roma NGOs</p>
<p>Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage</p> <p><u>Grant:</u> € 11,210,000</p>		<p>The programme will have a small grants component of €1,100,000⁷⁷ which will be supporting cultural diversity and promotion of Roma – non-Roma dialogue. The FMO expectations are that a minimum of € 600,000 will be targeted towards Roma relevant projects.</p>	<p>Other comments: The program was not assessed as no information was provided at the time of the study. The information above is derived from FMO</p>

⁷⁷ http://www.nfu.hu/kulturalis_es_termeszeti_orkseg_megorzese On the link shows a document for the social dialogue on the planed programme (world document in Hungarian).

data provided in June 2013.			
SLOVAKIA			
General information	General objectives	Components, Activities and Tools related to Roma inclusion	Potential outcomes on Roma inclusion
<p>SK 04: Local and Regional Initiatives To Reduce National Inequalities And To Promote Social Inclusion</p> <p>Grant: € 1,000,000</p> <p>PO: Government Office of the Slovak Republic, department of management and implementation of the EEA/N Financial Mechanism;</p> <p>DPP: CoE</p>	<p>The objective of the Programme is strengthened social and economic cohesion at national, regional and local levels.</p>	<p>The first component - an accredited program of extended education specializing on Romani language and culture - is planned as the pre-defined project implemented by the Institute of Roma Studies at the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. A development of learning materials and textbooks for trainees of the extended education is also included.</p> <p>The second component - an accredited program of innovative education for teaching staff of primary schools. The project also includes: a) development of learning materials and b) development of textbooks aimed at Romani language and culture for primary and secondary schools. This component is planned as the pre-defined project implemented by National Institute for Education</p> <p>Call for proposals for small grants for schools to enhance implementation of intercultural education and Romani language and culture will be organized.</p>	<p>Local and regional as well as private and civil society actors are developing initiatives to strengthen anti-discriminatory measures for groups vulnerable to social and economic exclusion.</p>
<p>Other comments:</p> <p>Unfortunately no links between the project outputs and activities, on the one hand, and the defined outcome, on the other have been seen. This programme is an explicit example of an intervention in an area that is listed under the priorities of Roma National Action Plan but at the bottom of the list.</p>			
<p>SK03: NGO FUND - Democracy and human rights</p> <p>Grant: € 3,451,500</p> <p>PO: Open Society Foundation</p>	<p>Strengthened civil society development and enhanced contribution to social justice, democracy and sustainable development</p>	<p>The program is realized through four priority areas of intervention with each area having its own specific focus.</p> <p>1. Democracy, good governance and transparency (€ 962,760.67)</p> <p>2. Human rights including minorities rights (€ 481,380.33)</p> <p>Area 2 is targeted at securing respect of human rights, incl. of minorities, improving the situation of people in vulnerable situation due their nationality, race, ethnicity, religious affiliation, age, sex, sexual orientation or health status as well as strengthening multicultural dialogue.</p> <p>1. Gender equality, gender –based violence (€ 962,760.67)</p> <p>2. Anti – discrimination and combat racism and xenophobia (€ 481,380.33)</p> <p>Projects targeted at achieving zero tolerance of cases when the principle of equality is infringed.</p>	<p>Active citizenship fostered</p> <p>Increased involvement of NGOs in policy and decision-making processes with local, regional and national governments</p> <p>Democratic values, including human rights, promoted</p> <p>Empowerment of vulnerable groups</p> <p>Programme priority areas are not individually targeting minorities and Roma. It is anticipated that a big number of projects will be supported so that the outcome “empowerment of vulnerable groups” is achieved</p>
<p>Other comments: Minorities and Roma population are mentioned as a specific target group but there is no explicit and specifically designed program area</p>			

	for Roma. They appear as a cross-cutting priority. This is why an attempt was made to describe in detail the entire program.	
<p>SK10 NGO FUND – Active citizenship and inclusion</p> <p><u>Grant:</u> € 3,451,500</p> <p><u>PO:</u> ECOPOLIS Foundation; partners: SOCIA – Social reform Foundation and Children of Slovakia Foundation</p>	<p>The project consists of 4 priority areas: “Active citizenship”, “Protection of the environment and climate change”, “Children and youth, incl. children at risk”, and “Welfare and basic services to vulnerable groups”.</p> <p>Roma inclusion activities appear explicitly in priority area 3, “Children and youth, incl. children at risk” with the following Expected Outputs :</p> <p>Increase in activities of organizations, which are focused on reducing threats to children and youth at risk, including Roma</p> <p>And</p> <p>Education of teachers, NGO employees, local/regional government representatives and volunteers in the fields of active participation and reducing threats to children and youth at risk, including Roma.</p> <p>Activities focusing on Roma inclusion are expected to accomplish outcome 4: Empowerment of vulnerable groups, with total allocation of €568,561, although specific allocation is set for Roma.</p>	<p>The expected outcome for Roma inclusion is defined as “Empowerment of vulnerable groups” through</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase in active involvement of children and young people in the life of community and 2. Increase in community involvement in the field of dealing with needs and problems of children and young people at local level; Greater cooperation between NGO organization and local authorities.
<p>SK 09 Domestic and gender based violence</p> <p><u>Grant:</u> € 7,000,000</p> <p><u>PO:</u> Government Office of the Slovak Republic, department of management and implementation of the EEA/N Financial Mechanism</p> <p><u>DPP:</u> Norwegian Directorate of Health and CoE</p>	<p>The project aims to create a strategy for an effective support to women experiencing violence and to improve the quality of the specific assistance for these women in accordance with the CoE standards. This will be achieved by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establishment of Coordinating Methodical Centre, 2. Support of new and existing services related to gender based violence and existing services related to domestic violence; 4. Support to the women shelters meeting the CoE standards. 	<p>Gender-based violence reduced</p> <p>Domestic violence reduced</p>
	<p>Other comments:</p> <p>The program is addressing a general issue of gender domestic and gender-based violence but does not provide specific information on how the general issue will be translated into the specifics of the Roma community. The distribution of the future shelters will be based on an analysis of distribution of gender violence and part of the shelters will be in regions with high share of Roma population.</p>	
<p>SK Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage</p> <p><u>Grant:</u> € 11,920,000</p>	<p>The selection criteria shall take account of the principles of equality and anti-discrimination and shall foster the submission of project applications supporting cultural diversity and cultural expression of minority groups.</p>	
	<p>Other comments: The program was not assessed as no information was provided at the time of the study. The information above is derived from FMO data provided in June 2013.</p>	

SK Public Health Initiatives <u>Grant:</u> € 13,410,000			
Other comments: The program was not assessed as as no information was provided at the time of the study. The Programme is included in the list of Roma relevant programmes based on FMO data provided in June 2013.			
ROMANIA			
General information (Programme area/ PO/ PP/DPP/Budget/Status)	General programme objectives	Components, Activities and Tools (CFP/PDP) related to Roma inclusion	Potential outcomes on Roma inclusion
RO09 Funds for Non-Governmental Organisations <u>Grant:</u> € 30,000,000 <u>PO:</u> Civil Society Development Foundation Romania in partnership with Romanian Environmental Partnership Foundation and Roma Resource Centre Approved. The programme was launched in April 2013	To strengthen civil society development and enhance contribution to social justice, democracy and sustainable development.	Rural interethnic communities development – Call for proposals for NGO projects for the development of integrated community actions that generate economic and employment alternatives through sustainable use of local natural and cultural resources (participatory approach); PDP - a Social Atlas of Roma Communities in Romania, an updated dataset on Roma communities having as preliminary objectives: defining typologies and profiles of Roma communities; locating Roma communities by localities and regions; identifying the social problems of the Roma communities; 25 young Roma activists trained to act and participate actively in society, initiate development plans and coordinate projects for improving the living conditions of Roma communities and to successfully represent the interests of the community at national and international level (out of the interview); One regional conference on Roma (Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, Czech Republic, and Bulgaria);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active citizenship fostered • Empowerment of Roma • Development of the disadvantaged communities and improvement of Roma situation in interethnic communities; • Social Atlas of Roma Communities to support future allocation of financial support based on the community needs; • Consolidated advocacy role of NGOs in view of better public policies <p>Other components of the programme may have also potential to contribute to Roma inclusion through capacity building; intra and inter-sectorial partnership; contribution to social inclusion - conditional on the access to funds of projects/organizations targeting Roma inclusion</p>
Other comments: (a) PO not included in the MoU, tender organized by the FMO in view of selection, (b) PP for PDP not pre-defined, (c) PO builds on previous experience			
RO10 Children and Youth at Risk and Local and Regional Initiatives to Reduce National Inequalities and to Promote Social	To strengthen social and economic cohesion at national, regional and local levels	Call for proposals for small projects of Local Public Authorities (in partnership with Roma initiative groups, optional with NGOs with relevant experience in working with Roma) developing integrated measures targeting Roma children & youth in risk situation living in compact Roma communities. The focus will be on measures contributing to the improvement of the access to formal and non-formal education - e.g. educational centres (pre-school centres, day-care centres,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated measures addressing vulnerable groups of children and youth facing particular risks implemented (Roma: 2000 children, 800 young people, 3000 parents/tutors, specialists/staff) • Improvement of the school attendance,

<p>Inclusion</p> <p><u>Grant:</u> € 22,000,000</p> <p><u>PO:</u> The Romanian Social Development Fund</p> <p><u>DPP:</u> Council of Europe</p> <p>Potential PP for PDP – National Council Combating Discrimination in partnership with the Council of Europe</p>		<p>"after school" centres, multifunctional centres for children and young people, etc.) at community level The construction or rehabilitation of the buildings where the educational activities will be carried out, their connection to utilities, rehabilitation of access roads, and the operating costs of these centres and other activities directly linked with the objectives of the projects are eligible. Complementary actions like improving the access to health services, education for health, education for a clean environment, promoting the intercultural understanding, solving particular needs of the Roma children and youth that prevent them to go to school are eligible to be financed from the projects as well.</p> <p>The calls for large projects is aiming to support larger initiatives, addressing more systemic issues (among which the child protection system), oriented to solve systemic problems for a larger number of beneficiaries (including Roma) living in a multicultural environment, facing marginalization and sometimes discrimination. It is addressed to public entities and NGOs with relevant experience and high capacity of implementation and sustainability.</p> <p>Innovative projects and projects targeting Roma from areas with high percentage of Roma will have priority.</p> <p>Potential PDP including training for local public authorities and local NGOs to increase the capacity of fund beneficiaries and other stakeholders involved in social inclusion to manage discrimination issues;</p>	<p>especially among Roma children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raised awareness about the need for education among Roma family members and local community in general • Local and regional authorities, as well as private and civil society actors, develop in cooperation initiatives to reduce inequalities and strengthen anti-discriminatory measures for groups vulnerable to social and economic exclusion • In case this PDP will be implemented, staff from the public institutions and NGOs better prepared to manage discrimination issues;
<p>Other comments: (a) PO builds on previous experience, (b) the information on the PDP was received during the interview - not included in the programme proposal.</p>			
<p>RO11 Mainstreaming Gender Equality and Promoting Work-Life Balance</p> <p><u>Grant:</u> € 4,519,478</p> <p><u>PO:</u> Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Care</p> <p>FMO appraisal</p>	<p>To improve the work – life balance</p>	<p>No specific components on Roma inclusion, mainstream approach</p> <p>Call for proposals for Local Public Authorities projects to increase the number of education and care services for the children of 0 to 3 years of age and of the social services for the children with disabilities aged 0 to 7.</p> <p>Programme documents mention that within the projects, compact Roma communities will be identified and workgroups will be organized with the Roma representatives in view of presenting data and information on advantages and disadvantages of the women participation to the professional and social life.</p>	<p>The general potential outcome at the programme level is: balance between work, private and family life improved.</p> <p>Even Roma population from compact communities located in major cities is included in the target groups, the outcomes relevant to Roma inclusion cannot be predicted as, at this stage, there is no concrete information on how the Roma access to the developed services will be facilitated/encouraged/enabled; There are not planned specific outputs and indicators for Roma inclusion.</p>

<p>RO12 Conservation and Revitalization of Cultural and Natural Heritage</p> <p>Grant: € 14,000,000</p> <p>PO: National Focal Point</p> <p>DPP: The Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage</p> <p>PP for PDP – ASTRA Museum in partnership with Museum of South-Trøndelag AS</p>	<p>To safeguard, restore, conserve and make publicly available the cultural and natural heritage in Romania</p>	<p>Call for proposals for small NGOs and public institutions projects (150,000 Euro distinct allocation for Roma community projects) aiming at increasing cooperation among Romanian institutions in the field of culture, and between Romanian and Donor States institutions, practitioners in the field of cultural heritage but also supporting small scale restoration activities. Main themes expected to be addressed are related to: modern conservation techniques, documentation, protection, conservation, revitalization and promotion of cultural heritage; combating threats to cultural goods; cultural heritage management and contribution to development of local communities;</p> <p>PDP - Open Heritage. Increased public accessibility to multi-ethnic values in ASTRA Museum with the main objective: Creating large audiences accessibility to multi-ethnic heritage values in ASTRA Museum. The activities more related to Roma are: Creating the cultural program for meaningful symbolic accessibility: one Roma traditional house restored; activities meant to promote Roma culture and traditional hand-crafts (out of the interview); Documenting ethnic minorities' cultural heritage through bilateral actions;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural heritage restored, renovated and protected with an aim towards strengthening cultural identity of ethnical, social and cultural minorities, including Roma population • Local communities further developed and economically sustainable livelihoods established through the revitalization of cultural and natural heritage • Ethnic minorities heritage safeguarded, documented, promoted and thus made publicly accessible towards large audiences through bilateral actions
<p>Other comments: Out of the interview and programme documents it resulted the intention of the NFP to transfer the role of PO to the Ministry of Culture.</p>			
<p>ASTRA Museum has a good strategy and record of work in the Roma inclusion field and works with one expert on Roma;</p>			
<p>RO13 Promotion of Diversity in Culture and Arts within European Cultural Heritage</p> <p>Grant: € 6,818,750</p> <p>PO: National Focal Point</p> <p>DPP - Arts Council, Norway</p> <p>FMO appraisal</p>	<p>To increase cultural dialogue and foster the European identity through understanding of cultural diversity</p>	<p>Call for proposals opened to individual artists and professionals and NGOs (70,000 Euro distinct allocation for Roma community projects) aiming at increasing cooperation between Romanian and Donor States practitioners in the field of cultural diversity and to promote diversity (e.g. organization and participation at pitching sessions, fairs and festivals, exchange of information and cooperation with artists and professionals from Donor States). Special selection criterion and special section of the call will be dedicated for projects involving Roma community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raised awareness on cultural diversity and strengthened intercultural dialogue; • Cultural history documented - enhanced cultural history of minorities (Events/productions involving minorities) • Other call for proposals (bigger projects) may have also potential to contribute to Roma inclusion, conditional on the access to funds of projects targeting Roma inclusion
<p>Other comments: Out of the interview and programme documents it resulted the intention of the NFP to transfer the role of PO to the Ministry of Culture</p>			
<p>RO14 Research within Priority Sectors</p> <p>Grant: € 20,000,000</p> <p>PO: National Authority for Research</p>	<p>Enhanced research based knowledge development in Romania through increasing research cooperation between Norway, Iceland,</p>	<p>No specific components on Roma inclusion in the programme documents</p> <p>Call for proposals for big Joint Research Projects realized by researcher(s) from Romania jointly with researcher(s) from at least one of the EFTA States. Eligible applicants will be: Universities (public and private); Research organizations; Small and medium-sized enterprises.</p>	<p>The general outcomes planned for the programme are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased research cooperation between Romania and EFTA States; • Strengthened research capacity in

<p>Implementing Agency: Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding</p> <p>DPP – Norwegian Research Council – NRC (Norway) and the Icelandic Centre for Research – RANNIS (Iceland)</p>	<p>Liechtenstein and Romania</p>	<p>The following thematic areas will be addressed: Renewable energy to fight climate change; Health and food safety; Environmental protection and management.</p> <p>Interdisciplinary approaches and projects addressing the societal challenges in the thematic areas from the perspectives of social sciences and humanities will also be eligible for funding.</p> <p>Out of the interview, it resulted that social sciences and humanities will be perceived as an individual area and might include projects relevant for Roma inclusion.</p>	<p>Romania and increased application of research results through research cooperation between Romania and EFTA States</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased share and role of young researchers employed in RDI sector <p>At this stage, based on the programme documents, it is not possible to identify/predict the outcomes on Roma inclusion as there are not specific activities, indicators and results planned for Roma inclusion.</p>
<p>Other comments: The PO works in consultation with one Roma expert</p>			
<p>RO15 Scholarships</p> <p><u>Grant:</u> € 4,000,000</p> <p><u>PO:</u> National Agency for Community Programmes in the Field of Education and Vocational Training</p> <p><u>DPP:</u> The Icelandic Centre for Research – RANNIS (Iceland), the National Agency for International Education Affairs – AIBA (Liechtenstein), and the Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education – SIU (Norway).</p>	<p>To enhance the human capital and knowledge base in Romania</p>	<p>No specific components on Roma inclusion in the programme documents, except potential positive discrimination for projects involving people with special needs, coming from disadvantaged groups such as Roma, etc (e.g. specific provisions to allocate priority points in the selection process and potential positive discrimination in the selection process, including a higher grant allocation)</p> <p>Calls for proposals</p> <p>The largest part of the budget (more than 2/3 of the total) will be allocated to students and academic staff mobility;</p> <p>Another part of the budget (almost 20%) will be allocated to inter-institutional cooperation projects between HEIs from Romania and Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein</p>	<p>The general outcomes planned for the programme are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased higher education student and staff mobility between Romania and Donor States; • Increased and strengthened institutional cooperation at the level of higher education sector between Romania and Donor States <p>At this stage, based on the programme documents, it is not possible to identify/predict the outcomes on Roma inclusion as there are not specific activities, indicators and results planned for Roma inclusion. In addition, during the interview, the PO expressed concern regarding the difficulty to allocate and report a significant budgetary allocation for Roma inclusion, based on the low percentage of Roma university student applications received in previous scholarship programmes;</p>
<p>RO19 Public Health Initiatives</p>	<p>The improvement of public health and the reduction of the health inequalities</p>	<p>Call for proposals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 awareness campaigns on relevant topics in the communicable diseases sector, targeted on Roma minorities; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved awareness, prevention and treatment of communicable diseases (including HIV/AIDS and TB), including the disadvantaged and Roma minorities;

<p><u>Grant:</u> € 8,104,000</p> <p><u>PO:</u> Ministry of Health</p> <p><u>PP for PDP:</u> The Integrity Department within the Ministry of Health in partnership with AID (NGO)</p> <p>FMO appraisal</p>	<p>The Programme is focusing on the primary health-care and will approach mainly specific needs of minorities, with a special focus on the Roma minority</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training for experts in the field of communicable diseases for 10 individuals that are part of Roma minorities; <p>Eligible applicants will be: Ministry of Health and its decentralized entities; Authorities of local public administration; NGOs with relevant activity in the field.</p> <p>For the technical-financial evaluation there will be a score that will favor the projects targeting the issue of public health in the disadvantaged communities (especially the Roma community)</p> <p>PDP - National initiative to increase the capacity of the Ministry of Health to monitor and improve the quality and access to health services in Romania – no specific focus on Roma inclusion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other outcome of the programme (e.g. Life-style related diseases prevented or reduced, including the disadvantaged and Roma minorities) may be relevant for Roma inclusion, conditional on the actual activities and beneficiaries. At this stage, no specific output and indicators on Roma inclusion are planned for this component.
<p>Other comments: Out of the interview it resulted that there are changes in the team of the Ministry of Health. The new team intends to propose changes (e.g. geographic limitation, community care centres, other PDP)</p>			
<p>RO20 Domestic and Gender-based Violence</p> <p><u>Grant:</u> € 4,000,000</p> <p><u>PO:</u> Ministry of Justice</p> <p><u>DPP:</u> Council of Europe and the Norwegian Police Directorate</p> <p><u>PP for PDP 1:</u> General Inspectorate of the Romanian Police</p> <p><u>PP for PDP 2:</u> National Agency against Trafficking in Persons</p> <p>FMO appraisal</p>	<p>To prevent and tackle domestic violence and trafficking in human being in Romania</p>	<p>Trafficking in human beings</p> <p>PDP 2 with the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing an assistance centre for victims of human trafficking; • Improving and developing governmental and civil society partnership in the field of victims' assistance; • Creating a rapid and coordinated response for victims' referral for specialized assistance; • Improving the anti-trafficking assistance national system. • To raise awareness on the risks associated with trafficking in human beings within Roma communities. <p>For the last specific objective, the main activities consist in: a research on the main causes generating the vulnerability to trafficking and possible solutions at community level to prevent THB, with emphasis on child begging; a national prevention campaign for reducing the vulnerability to trafficking in human beings within Roma communities (app. 15 direct meetings organized nationwide to identify the main causes, which generate the vulnerabilities to trafficking of human beings (THB); a documentary movie on THB; 4 street events expressing an anti-trafficking message to Roma communities);</p> <p>Domestic and gender based violence. No specific components on Roma inclusion in the programme documents, except the request for the funded projects to consider some principles: e.g. explicit, but not exclusive targeting of the Roma; Projects, where possible, should describe how they plan to promote</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased awareness of the Roma and other vulnerable communities on the dangers of trafficking, in particular forced begging; • A research report focusing on the main causes generating the vulnerability to trafficking and possible solutions at community level to prevent THB, with emphasis on child begging • The domestic violence component, which will use a mainstream approach, may also support Roma inclusion but in the absence of planned specific activities, outputs and indicators it is difficult to predict the outcomes.

		<p>integrated approaches leading to avoiding the risk of segregation and, where possible, involve Roma communities or NGOs promoting the rights of the Roma, etc.</p> <p>Call for proposals opened to Central and local Public institutions and NGOs for the following types of projects: Supporting the network of units in the framework of the Law on domestic violence; Awareness and sensitizing activities; Training activities for the professionals activating in the field of DGBV</p> <p>PDP 1 with the objective to enhance the capacity of the judicial authorities in Romania in fighting domestic, gender-based violence and discrimination – no special focus on Roma</p>	
Other comments: PP for PDP 2 builds on previous experience			
<p>RO21 Schengen and Cooperation and Combating Cross-border and Organized Crime, including Trafficking and Itinerant Criminal Groups</p> <p><u>Grant:</u> € 5,000,000</p> <p><u>PO:</u> Ministry of Interior</p> <p><u>DPP:</u> Norwegian National Police Directorate, OSCE</p> <p><u>PP for PDP 4</u> - General Inspectorate of Police in Partnership with the Council of Europe and Norwegian Mediation Council + an NGO specialized on Roma</p> <p>FMO appraisal</p>	<p>Increase citizens' security through the improvement of the efficiency of cooperation between law enforcement authorities in the Schengen Member States in fighting organized crime, including trafficking in human beings</p>	<p>PDP 4 - Integrated approach for prevention of victimization in Roma communities</p> <p>The PP intends to work in partnership with a Roma NGO with experience in the field of monitoring human rights and having territorial representation at the national level. The NGO has not been selected yet.</p> <p>The general objective of the project is to improve the knowledge of all relevant national/European actors regarding the crime victimization within Roma communities, as well as preventing or diminishing the victimization that affects the citizens of Roma minority, especially victimization which is generated by cross-border and organized criminal activities, but also the hate crimes.</p> <p>Main activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-depth review of the state of crime victimization research • Prevention campaign for Roma communities. Using the results of the victimization survey, a team of experts will design and test a prevention campaign for Roma communities (6 public events, 1 video spot, 10000 brochures, at least 20000 people informed) • Trainings in countering hate crimes and advanced interviewing techniques for Romanian police officers • Study visits for Romanian police officers at international institutions with extensive expertise in countering hate crimes • International workshops in Romania in the field of victimization/countering hate crimes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased knowledge on Roma crime victimization; • Increased awareness of members of Roma communities on victimization; • Increased capacity of Romanian Police to protect Roma communities of crime, with focus also on hate crimes; • Increased expertise transfer in the field of preventing and countering victimization in Roma communities
Other comments: PP builds on previous experience and intends to create synergy with the project on Roma that will be funded by the Swiss fund.			

<p>RO22 Judicial Capacity-Building and Cooperation</p> <p><u>Grant:</u> € 8,000,000</p> <p><u>PQ:</u> Ministry of Justice</p> <p><u>DPP:</u> Norwegian Court Administration and Council of Europe</p> <p><u>PP for PDP 3</u> – Superior Council of Magistracy FMO appraisal</p>	<p>Create a more fair and more efficient Romanian judicial system in the context of the substantial reform of the judiciary entailed by the adoption of four new codes</p>	<p>PDP 3: Improving access to justice. An integrated approach with a focus on Roma and other vulnerable groups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support activities for improving the access to justice for citizens, including vulnerable persons, such as victims, minorities, minors (explicit but not exclusive targeting on Roma) • awareness raising: 15 community events, in locations reflecting a large community of Roma, to inform vulnerable groups (Roma and other) about their rights according to the new Codes • creating an integrated access to justice information centre (available on SCM website); the new tool will pay special attention to the needs of vulnerable categories in terms of content and accessibility 	<p>improved access to justice for vulnerable persons (including Roma)</p>
<p>Other comments: PDPs documents not available. The information was gathered from the main programme proposal and interview</p>			
<p>RO23 Correctional Services, including Non-custodial Sanctions</p> <p><u>Grant:</u> € 8,000,000</p> <p><u>PQ:</u> Ministry of Justice</p> <p><u>DPP:</u> Norwegian Correctional Services</p> <p><u>PPs for PDPs - ANP,</u> Ministry of Justice through the Probation Department and the IGPR in partnership with Council of Europe</p>	<p>Improving correctional services systems in compliance with relevant international human rights instruments</p>	<p>6 PDPs - General activities – mainstream approach: expanding national systems for alternatives to prison; improving conditions and staff competence with regard to vulnerable groups, e.g. women and juvenile offenders; ensuring education and training of inmates; developing recruitment strategies and further developing the training of staff; improving preparations for release and reintegration into society; improving material conditions.</p> <p>Activities for Roma:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing a mentoring service centred on supporting Roma offenders under probation supervision, as well as volunteer mentors recruited to act as supportive person, role model, advisor and friend for this vulnerable group in order to promote positive change and to improve the decision making and overall well-being of the Roma offenders under probation supervision; • promoting ways of preventing the discrimination in the pre-trial detention centres; • training of the police staff that work in the pre-trial detention centres in speaking Romani language in order to ensure a better application of human rights and access to justice of the Roma detainees; • relevant informative leaflets translated in Romani language in order to ensure a better access to information of Roma ethnics; programmes/instruments/tools developed for vulnerable groups of inmates (Roma ethnics, along with juveniles, women) aiming at assisting their psycho-social recovery, supporting education, and enabling their social reintegration; - training in eco-construction and traditional crafts; 	<p>General outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overcome challenges connected to growing prison populations and prison overcrowding; • Increased application of alternatives to prison; • Increased focus on vulnerable groups in prison; • Improved competences of both inmates, prison and probation staff <p>More specific for Roma</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create the premise of improving the situation of the Roma ethnics who are subject of custodial/non-custodial sanctions, or detained within the pre-trial detention centres by enabling a better social reintegration, through supporting their education, specialization in jobs/crafts and personal development, engaging Roma offenders in pro-social activities, by promoting anti-discrimination and a better access to information of this ethnic group, as well as by improving the material conditions within the places of detention.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • awareness events aiming at improving the general perception of the society regarding the inmates and ex-inmates (especially Roma people) and at facilitating their reintegration process. <p>Furthermore, the Roma detainees will benefit, along with other categories of detainees of the investments carried out within the proposed projects, such as renovation of a prison for minors and youngsters, establishing a therapeutic community for women, renovation of the pre-trial detention centres etc.</p> <p>Moreover, in the framework of strengthening the bilateral relations between the Donor State and Romania, it is envisaged to organize activities tackling the issue of improving the situation of Roma population under the bilateral relations fund, by carrying out activities with the participation of stakeholders from Norway and Romania in order to debate and find solutions for improving the situation of this vulnerable group.</p>	
<p>Other comments: (a) PDPs documents not available, (b) PP builds on previous experience</p>			

