



Commission calls for renewed commitment to Roma integration

Brussels, 28 June 2016

Today, the Commission adopted its annual report on Roma integration.

This year's assessment provides, for the first time, an overview of the measures put in place by Member States following the 2013 [Council Recommendation on effective Roma integration measures](#), which required them to develop National Roma Integration strategies to promote access of Roma to education, employment, healthcare and housing.

Frans Timmermans, First Vice-President of the European Commission, said: *"Roma are part of our societies, and they are part of Europe. This report comes as a timely reminder for Member States to show more political determination and implement their commitments to integrate Europe's Roma communities. Member States should use to the full the relevant policy, legal and financial tools to ensure equal opportunities and Roma inclusion."*

Věra Jourová, Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality said: *"There is still more to be done for Roma inclusion in all areas, from education to housing or employment. In the past year, there have been some positive developments, especially in the area of education. At the same time, educational segregation of Roma children persists in some Member States and the Commission had to take action to make sure anti-discrimination legislation is enforced."*

The Commission has stepped up its efforts to ensure correct implementation of anti-discrimination legislation towards Roma, including at local level, by launching infringement procedures when legislation, such as the [Racial Equality Directive](#) is not properly enforced, notably in education. The Commission is supporting the implementation of the Member States' National Roma integration strategies by providing funding under the European Structural and Investment Fund(ESIF) for 2014-2020.

The report shows that Member States have achieved progress in a number of areas, but more efforts are still needed:

- **Member States invested in education as a means of integration:** the majority of Member States reported measures relevant to early childhood education and care, early school leaving, inclusive education and individualised support. But not enough measures were taken against the exclusion from the workplace and forced evictions of Roma have continued in 2015 without any offer of alternative housing.
- **Better use of EU funds for the integration of marginalised communities:**The European Structural and Investment (ESI) Funds support social inclusion measures for marginalised communities, the regeneration of deprived urban areas and investments in human capital. Several Member States introduced a specific investment priority for the integration of marginalised communities, such as Roma, under the European Structural and Investment Fund(ESIF) It allows for explicit targeting and better monitoring of results. National contact points have also facilitated the distribution of the funding.
- **Closer cooperation with civil society and local authorities:**Several Member States have established coordination structures for Roma integration, involving diverse stakeholders. National strategies are increasingly translated into local action plans, and the National Roma Contact Points are more closely involved in making the best use of EU funds. The Commission will support Member States in developing national platforms for Roma inclusion to ensure a more effective cooperation on the ground.

The Commission calls on Member States to step up efforts to enforce anti-discrimination legislation and eliminate segregation in education and housing to prevent forced evictions. The Commission urges Member States to demonstrate greater political will and a long-term vision to combat discrimination of Roma people.

Annex

Horizontal measures to fight discrimination

Measures recommended by the Council	Member States that have
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	reported a measure
Ensure effective practical enforcement of the Racial Equality Directive	BE, BG, CZ, DE, FI, HR, IT, LT, SI, SK, UK
Implement desegregation measures regionally and locally	ES, HR, SK
Ensure that forced evictions are in full compliance with EU law and international human rights obligations	-
Raise awareness about the benefits of Roma integration	AT, ES, LV
Raise public awareness of the diverse nature of societies, sensitise public opinion to Roma inclusion	AT, DE, ES, LV, PT, SI, SK,
Combat anti-Roma rhetoric and hate speech	AT, DE, ES, HR, SE, SK
Combat multiple discrimination of Roma children and women	AT, CZ, DE, ES, HR, HU, PT, SE, SI, SK
Fight (domestic) violence against women and girls	AT, DE, EL, ES, FI, HR, HU, UK
Fight trafficking in human beings	AT, BG, HR, HU, IT
Fight underage and forced marriages, and begging involving children	SI
Support the active citizenship of Roma by promoting their social, economic, political and cultural participation	AT, BE, BG, CZ, DE, ES, FI, HR, HU, LT, LV, PT, SE, SI SK, UK
Promote the training and employment of qualified mediators	BE, BG, CZ, ES, HR, PT, SI
Raise rights awareness among Roma	AT, DE, ES, HR
Other	BE, BG, FR, HU, HR, IT, LV PT, UK

Education access

Measures recommended by the Council	Member States that have reported a measure
Eliminate segregation	BE, BG, ES, IE, IT, RO, SI, SK
End misplacement in special needs schools	BG, CZ, SK
Fight early school leaving	AT, BE, BG, CY, DE, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IT, RO, SE, SK, UK
Promote access to and quality of early childhood education and care	AT, BG, CZ, ES, FI, HR, HU, IT, PL, RO, SK
Provide individualised support	AT, CZ, DE, ES, HR, IT, LT, LV, PL, RO, SK, UK
Promote inclusive teaching and learning methods	AT, BG, CY, CZ, DE, ES, HR, HU, LV, PT, RO, SI,SK, UK
Encourage parental involvement and teacher training	AT, BE, BG, CY, DE, ES, FI, IT, LV, SI, SK
Promote participation and completion of secondary and higher education	AT, BG, CZ, DE, ES, FI, HR, HU, PL, UK
Widen access to second-chance education and adult learning	UK, BG, CY, DE, ES, SI
Other	BE, CZ, ES, FI, DE, HR, HU, IT, LT, LV, RO, SI, SK, UK

Employment access

Measures recommended by the Council	Member States that have reported a measure
Support first work experience, vocational training, on-the-job training and lifelong learning	AT, BE, BG, DE, EL, ES, FI, HR, HU, IT, LT, LV, PL, PT,SI, SK, UK
Support self-employment and entrepreneurship	AT, BE, BG, ES, HR, HU, LT, SI, SK
Provide equal access to mainstream public employment services with individualised support	AT, BE, BG, DE, ES, FR, HR, HU, IT, LV, PT, SE, SI, SK
Eliminate barriers, including discrimination, to	AT, FI, DE, ES, HR, HU, LT, SK, UK

(re)entering the labour market	
Other	BE, CZ, EL, HU, LT, PT, RO, SK

Healthcare access

Measures recommended by the Council	Member States that have reported a measure
Remove barriers to access the healthcare system	AT, BE, BG, CZ, DE, ES, FI, FR, HU, LT, PL, RO, SE, SI, SK, UK
Improve access to medical check-ups, pre- and postnatal care, family planning, etc.	AT, BG, DE, ES, IT, PL, SI, SK
Promote access to free vaccination programmes targeting children, and the most disadvantaged groups and areas	AT, BE, BG, DE, ES, HU, PL, RO, SI, SK
Promote health awareness	AT, BG, CZ, DE, ES, FI, HR, HU, IT, PL, SI, SK
Other	BE, BG, EL, ES, FI, HR, IT, LT, PL, SK

Housing access

Measures recommended by the Council	Member States that have reported a measure
Eliminate any spatial segregation and promote desegregation	CZ, HU, ES, IT, RO
Promote non-discriminatory access to social housing	AT, BE, BG, CZ, DE, ES, FI, FR, IT, SK, UK
Provide halting sites for non-sedentary Roma	AT, BE, FR, UK
Ensure access to public utilities	ES, HR, RO, SI
Other	AT, BE, BG, CZ, ES, HR, HU, IT, LT, PL, PT, RO, SK

For more information

[Communication](#) assessing the implementation of the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies and the Council Recommendation on effective Roma integration measures in the Member States

[Factsheet](#) on the 2016 report

Other [information](#) on Roma in the EU

[Funding](#) by the European Social Fund (ESF) to fight marginalisation of Roma

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