

Mission Report

High Level Bilateral Dialogue on Roma: European Commission - Romania

31/08/15 – 04/09/15



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EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL JUSTICE and CONSUMERS

Directorate D: Equality
Unit D.3: Non discrimination policies and Roma coordination

Mission to Romania

Report

- 31/08/15 – 04/09/15 -

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European Commission Delegation:	
Facts finding mission (31/08 - 01/09)	Leading the EC Delegation for the facts finding mission - Lina Papamichalopoulou (DG JUST) accompanied by - Lavinia Banu (DG JUST), Serban Iulia (DG REGIO), Alexandra Tamasan (DG EMPL), Andor Urmos (DG REGIO).
Local authorities event (02/09/15)	For Roma with Roma event - Leading the EC Delegation - Salla Saastamoinen (Director for Equality, DG JUST), accompanied by - Lina Papamichalopoulou (DG JUST), Lavinia Banu (DG JUST), Serban Iulia (DG REGIO), Alexandra Tamasan (DG EMPL) and Andor Urmos (DG REGIO).
High Level Bilateral Meeting (3-4/09/15)	Leading the EC Delegation - Salla Saastamoinen (Director for Equality, DG JUST), accompanied by - Lina Papamichalopoulou (DG JUST), Lavinia Banu (DG JUST), Serban Iulia (DG REGIO), Alexandra Tamasan (DG EMPL), Dominique BE (DG EMPL), Monika Kepe (DG EAC) and Agnes Molnar (DG SANTE).

1. Background – Romania and the context of the High Level Bilateral:

Since 2012, in the frame of the dialogue with Member States on the implementation of the EU Framework for national Roma integration strategies, the Commission has had bilateral dialogues with several Member States' national authorities involved in implementing the national Roma integration strategy. To support Member States in addressing the magnitude of challenges of Roma inclusion, the EU has made available a wide range of legal, policy and financial instruments. At this stage, in order to ensure that effective implementation is pursued in the MS, the European Commission annually monitors the EU countries' efforts and follows-up progress made by them not only in the specific context of the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020 but also within the larger EU agenda context which is Europe 2020.

The aim of these bilateral dialogues is to exchange on progress and reflect upon the areas where further efforts could be placed in order to trigger a decisive impact on the situation of Roma. Such bilateral dialogues should enable to "ensure that National Strategies and action plans are coherent with EU laws and policies and with the specific national situation, including mainstream policies and public sector reforms, and take into account the impacts of the economic crisis; ensure effective use of both national and European funds; and promote and monitor concrete implementation of the strategies."

The Commission organised a bilateral dialogue with the Romanian authorities in **Bucharest on 3 and 4 September**. This dialogue was preceded by two days fact-findings mission in Calarasi County where visits covering seven Roma communities were carried out by the EC Delegation together with the RO NRCP, but also synchronised with a back to back event with local authorities from 10 core countries, organized by a DG JUST outsourced contractor Particip (more details about this event: Annex 1).

The latest developments in Romania, at the political level, showed clear signs of political will, given that in January 2015 the Romanian Government submitted a revised National strategy for Roma inclusion but also through the appointment of a State Secretary in the Ministry of EU Funds having in his portfolio the coordination of the National Roma Inclusion Strategy and appointed National Roma Contact Point in Romania.

Romania is one of the five countries which received Country Specific Recommendations on Roma issues in the context of the European Semester starting with 2013. The first CSR on Roma addressed to Romania was in 2013. (Romania, as a programme country, did not receive CSRs in 2012, when the first Roma CSRs were formulated to BG, HU, SK). This year's Recitals points out the following: "While some improvements were seen in 2014, employment and activity rates continue to be especially low among women, young people, older workers and Roma. Romania faces several challenges in the area of education: the early school leaving rate remains well above the EU average; the availability and access of early childhood education and care services is limited, especially in rural areas and for the Roma community. A strategy on tertiary education has been drafted, the aim of which is to increase the relevance of higher education by aligning it more closely with labour market needs and to improve the accessibility of higher education for disadvantaged groups. Few effective measures were taken to integrate the Roma population. A revised strategy for the integration of Roma was, however, adopted with some delay in January 2015, but implementation is behind schedule".

Romania like all the Member States is bound by the Council Recommendation on effective Roma integration measures, the first EU legal instrument on Roma inclusion, adopted in Brussels unanimously, on 9 December 2013.

This year's assessment (COM report 2015) showed that while some progress has been made, the improvement on the ground is still very slow. The Member States including Romania need to put further efforts and action into addressing Roma inclusion. Further efforts are needed in particular at local level, hence the reason of the very close monitoring of the EC in the MS particularly at the local level. In this sense, the European Commission has initiated a series of missions to Romania aimed to

closely assess the impact at the local and regional level, of all measures put in place over the last four years (since the submission of the first RO NRIS in 2011) and further support Romania as one of the MS with the most sizable Roma population, in its efforts to better address the current challenges. So far, since the beginning of the year, the European Commission carried out in Romania, 16 Roma community visits covering a range of five counties throughout the territory. First mission to Romania took place in February 2015 and covered three counties (Ilfov, Dolj and Mehedinty), more precisely five Roma community visits and 4 different meetings with Roma NGOs and local authorities whilst also attending a hearing organised by Senator Corina Cretu on Roma issues. The second one consists of a more comprehensive mission structured in three main parts: the High Level Dialogue – open session of the EC, RO Ministries with the participation of Civil Society Organisations on 03/09 and the Bilateral Dialogue - restricted session of the EC with the RO Authorities on 04/09; attending an event with local authorities from 10 core countries, organised by a DG JUST outsourced contractor Particip, part of a wider awareness raising campaign "For Roma with Roma"; and finally facts finding mission covering 7 Roma communities in Calarasi County (Frumusani, Soldanu, Budesti, Oborul Nou, FNC Livada, 2 Moldoveni and Blocul Fantoma). The third mission to Romania took place in Cluj-Napoca for 29/09-02/10. It started with a Conference on Roma issues organised in the context of the NGO Fund Programme in Romania - EEA Grants and continued with a facts finding mission in Cluj – Napoca (Bontida and Pata Rat: Coastei, Dallas and Cantonului).

2. Facts finding mission (31/08/ - 01/09):

Roma communities visited: Frumusani, Soldanu, Budesti, Oborul nou, FNC Livada, 2 Moldoveni and Blocul Fantoma in Calarasi County. With the exception of Soldanu, all other six Roma communities visited consisted mainly of illegal settlements or inadequate social housing, all requiring urgent action. Roma without identity documents live in all communities visited. For the whole duration of the visits the EC Delegation was accompanied by the NRCP team and the relevant local authorities.

2.1. Visit to Frumusani, Calarasi County 31/08/15

Frumusani has an overall population of 5.859 inhabitants out of which 19, 13% are Roma. The Roma Community is clearly isolated from the rest of the village. None of the Roma living in this community is in possession of property documents whilst typically the improvised dwellings they live in are made out of stiff paper and mud. A big part of the community is not connected to the electricity whilst the sewerage is completely missing for the whole community. In addition to this, another major problem identified at the level of the community is lack of identity documents which naturally precludes access to any other basic services (access to employment, access to healthcare services etc.). The Mayor of the village, who accompanied the EC Delegation throughout the visit, pointed out that recently an electricity connection was executed for one of the backstreets of the community yet still a great range

of the community households, still lack legal connection to the main electricity provider. The social assistant of the community claimed that 90% of the Roma people living in that community are reliant on social benefits. One of the reasons for this situation is the overall lack of employment opportunities at the level of the community. There are apparently some job opportunities coming from Bucharest based companies and enterprises which are being listed directly at the City Hall of the village yet Roma people are not among the target group for these offers as the employers do normally indicate from the beginning that no Roma people are wanted for the enlisted jobs. What was notably worrying at the level of this community, in addition to the strikingly substandard living conditions of the Roma community, was the level of ignorance and lack of empathy of the Mayor which was reflected in a very aggressive and uncivilised attitude towards the Roma people who stood up and voiced their needs and challenges.



Fumusani



Frumusani

2.2. Visit to Budesti, Calarasi County 31/08/15

According to the 2011 Census, Budesti has a total population of 10 000 people out of which 70% are Roma. At the level of the community there are 720 households (improvised dwellings) and in most cases, the Roma families have no property documentation. The state identified in Budesti was among the most alarming situations we found at the local level even though the initial information received indicated that this specific community is perceived as a "best practices" one. A whole family (both parents and two of their children) was infected with HIV and no sanitary or protective measures were put in place for this family in terms of appropriate treatment or measures to further preclude the spread of the disease. Moreover, the situation on the ground revealed an alarming level of ignorance of the local authorities responsible for that community since the Mayor continuously tried to blame the members of the community for the precarious situation on the ground. In doing so, the Mayor

compared the situation of two parallel streets, both inhabited by Roma Romanian citizens but where according to the Mayor the situation on one of these streets was much decent due to the fact that people were hard working and it helped upgrading the living conditions for all of them. Regarding the HIV cases she stressed that people are being taken care off by being regularly informed about their right and hygiene matters. She also stressed that a couple of times the parents of the children were taken to Bucharest with the support of the City Hall in order to be provided with the appropriate medication required in situations like this. At the level of the community the only source of water was a public tap placed in between the scattered houses. None of the streets were paved but covered in pounded stones; the houses were made out of stiff paper and mud whilst some of those who could afford have built out of bricks yet very few of them were connected to the electricity. The lack of identity and property documents was again a problem to be identified at the level of the community.



In the photo: the family infected with HIV: Budesti

The public water tap on the right side of the photo

2.3 Visit to Soldanu, Calarasi County 31/08/15

According to the census, Soldanu has a Roma population of 1.100 but the mayor estimated a population of 1.400 (of which 20 persons without identity documents). Soldanu represented an example of good practice, clearly demonstrating the importance of commitment by local authorities. A Roma mediator and Roma health worker were working with the community. Early school-leaving (ESL) was particularly a challenge in the case of traditional Roma families due to the practice of early marriage. In general, the Roma seemed much better integrated than in all other communities visited (i.e. the mayor had helped several Roma to acquire identity documents, including birth certificates, the houses looked in good condition, there were no altercations between the mayor and the Roma during

our visit). The Roma are registered with a family doctor. The mayor used the public works scheme attached to the Minimum Guaranteed Income to help build/refurbish a kindergarten and a church.



Setting at the entrance of the kindergarten

Kindergarten's playground: Soldanu

2.4 Visit to Oborul Nou, Calarasi County 31/08/15

Oborul Nou is a Turkish-Roma community with a very poor housing area. It is an area developed after 2001 on a type of urban development that focuses on family economic autonomy, although the degree of poverty is high. There are 90 Turkish and Roma families living in Oborul Nou - about 600 people. 90% of residents are guaranteed minimum income beneficiaries, and 10% do not receive any financial support. Problems identified at the level of the communities:

- High rates of school dropout and early marriages.
- High unemployment rates leading to a great dependency on the social benefits packages.
- The local authorities covered the roads with very sharp pounded stones which resulted in a high rate of injured children at the level of the community.
- The placement of a grave yard next to the community, which according to the community members was done on purpose by the local authorities in order to exclude them from the mainstream society.
- Epidemiological issues such as tuberculosis. The area as such is considered to be a real pest hole caused by improper living conditions and extreme poverty.



Members of the community: Oborul Nou



Oborul Nou

2.5 Visits to FNC Livada, 2 Moldoveni and Blocul Fantoma 01/09/15

All three communities/neighbourhoods are identified as urban areas. All of them are considered as hazardous areas. For all three areas, the water, heating and electricity supplies are still considered privileges. Substandard living conditions and lack of responsive measures of the local authorities are to be identified in all three neighbourhoods.

Most alarming situation is to be found in Blocul Fantoma = Ghost Building. More than 70 people, including 40 children are living in unimaginable conditions. The smell of faeces and urine clouds the area from a great distance. The frames for the windows are covered with sheets, blankets, polyethylene or other textiles. Water is leaking from the building's walls and the sewage system is not working properly. The walls are in advanced state of decay because of constant humidity and in addition, the building is also invaded by rats. Due to its precarious state, authorities decided to demolish the building a few years back. However, because eight apartments were privately owned the building could not be demolished without the consent of the private owners (who could not be traced). According to the residents of the building, due to hazardous living conditions the epidemiological incidents are constantly developing and spreading especially among the children.



Exterior Photo: Blocul Fantoma



Inside the building: Blocul Fantoma

2.6 Meeting with the local authorities of Calarasi 01/09/15

For an efficient impact but also for a complete overview of the situation at the local level, the EC Delegation together with the NRCP team organised a meeting with the responsible authorities of Calarasi County but also the mayors from all the communities/neighbourhoods visited.

The meeting was attended by the three representatives of Calarasi County including the vice-Mayor and all the local authorities present at the visits except for the Mayor of Budesti.

The Commission Delegation and the RO NRCP draw the attention of the local authorities to the three main preliminary findings of the visits:

1. The worrying situation of the HIV cases (**in Budesti**) which required immediate attention due to the insanitary conditions of living with no regular access to the appropriate treatment and to basic utilities such as water and sanitary supplies;
2. Secondly, at the level of **Oborul Nou** it has also been identified that the pounded stones scattered on the roads of the community, were of a great risk for children, who were all injured by tripping on the sharp edges of the stones. Removing the pounded stones was recommended as a caution preventive measure given the high number of injured children;

3. The third preliminary finding the EC Delegation together with the RO NRCP concerned the situation in **Blocul Fantoma**. The issues raised during these discussions highlighted the extremely poor state of the building and the risks for prolonged exposure of the population to that type of pest hole with already existent symptoms of diseases (e.g. fever).

For these three inquires, the local authorities were asked by the RO NRCP to present in writing the measures they will put in place in order to solve the urgent problems. The local authorities of Calarasi have submitted the measures undertaken in response to the issues identified on 06/10/15 and later on shared with the Commission on 16/10/15. In general lines, these are the measures taken by the local authorities:

1. For the HIV cases in **Budesti**, they made sure the children are enrolled to school and registered with the family doctor. They were also brought clothes, backpacks and school supplies. As for the parents they were informed about the implications of this virus and asked to go to Victor Babes Hospital in Bucharest to get proper tests and medications.
2. For the situation in **Oborul Nou** regarding the pounded stone on the roads, the local authorities specify that in fact this material has been used at the level of the entire Calarasi County. During the next Local Council Meeting, an allocation of funds for complementing the mixture of stones on the roads will be discussed.
3. For the situation in **Blocul Fantoma**, they explain that out of the 40 families living in the building, 8 are private owners and the rest have not been allocated the apartments by the City Hall and that they are actually illegally residing in the building. They also explain that based on a seismic assessment it has been proved that the building is at great risk to collapse during an eventual earthquake hence there is no intention to consolidate the building but to demolish it. If the legal means will eventually allow for this to happen (which is unlikely due to the fact that the 8 private owners are untraceable hence no approval for this initiative was given so far) then all the residents will be provided with alternative housing.

Among other things discussed, the local authorities were also informed about the opportunities under the EU Funding and were encouraged to use these opportunities in order to solve some of the issues and challenges at stake within their county. In all the communities visited the EC Delegation was informed about the existence of the local action plans however it was also mentioned that none of these actions plans were in fact budgeted or in course of implementation.

NOTE:

- ✚ On 2nd September, the EC Delegation attended the Local Authorities event with local authorities from 10 core countries, organized by a DG JUST outsourced contractor Particip (more details about this event: Annex 1).
- ✚ On 3 September in the morning the EC Delegation visited the Museum For Roma Culture Romano Butiq

3. High Level Bilateral: **Open Session** with the Civil Society 03/09/15



The open session with Civil Society Organisations of the High Level Bilateral Meeting brought together more than 70 Civil Society representatives. In addition, the meeting was also attended by various ministries such as: Ministry of Education and Culture, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of EU Funds and Ministry of Health etc.

The meeting was co-chaired by the European Commission, Director for Equality, DG Justice and Consumers, Salla Saastamoinen and State Secretary of EU Funds (RO NRCP) Ciprian Necula. The meeting was

structured around the National Roma Integration Strategy with a focus on education, employment, health, housing and as a cross cutting issue anti-discrimination aspects.

a) Issues raised to the field of Education

- Best practices from projects are not mainstreamed into education policy.
- The provision of school meals should continue as it is a tool to fight early school leaving for vulnerable groups, including Roma.
- Lack of sustainability of projects is a barrier especially in the field of education.
- According to NGOs, too often the discussion is about Roma not sending their children to school, but too little is done to ensure that Roma children stay in school.
- The school drop among Roma is equally linked to a very weak educational system.
- All the mainstream policies on childcare should also address and include Roma children.

b) Issues raised to the field of Employment

- Weak dialogue between central level and local level authorities implementing the Roma strategy, as well as insufficient access to monitoring reports.
- Increasing the employment rate of Roma should take into account the limitations of the domestic labour market, including the limited opportunities for educated non-Roma. NGOs argued that self-employment, micro-credits and subsidies to hire Roma are tools to increase Roma employment. There is a need to tackle anti-discrimination in employment policies.
- Roma are indirectly discriminated on the labour market through very high eligibility criteria.
- No "one policy fits all": Roma employment policies should also take account of the differences among Roma groups.

- even with active measures in place the young Roma from segregated communities will still not have access to labour market
- Although 60% of Roma live in rural areas, they are insufficiently targeted by ESIF and agricultural subsidies. Roma experts argued that local action groups (LAGs) could be used to integrate Roma in rural areas provided there is conditionality on Roma i.e. where significant Roma communities exist, their targeting in local action strategies should be mandatory. Moreover, Roma do not benefit from agricultural subsidies due of lack of property rights and the difficulty to lease farming land.
- Financial incentives could encourage private investments in Roma communities.
- Vocational training programmes should conclude with a job offer.
- Affirmative action could also be foreseen on the labour market hence stimulating workforce among Roma population.
- Interventions to increase Roma employment should be pursued in an integrated approach (e.g. training + subsidies + after school for families with numerous children).

c) Issues raised to the field of Housing

- Mayors are reluctant to invest in social housing due to Roma's limited means to pay for rent.
- Investments in social housing should be accompanied by measures to ensure financial means i.e. job opportunities, self-employment, etc.
- 280 housing facilities for Roma families are under construction by the National Authority for Housing. The needs/requests are significantly higher especially when taking into account the high number of forced evictions.
- Very often the lack of property documents among the Roma population is one of the main reasons leading to evictions.
- Further efforts are needed to implement the National Strategy for housing, including adequate staffing at local level or the establishment of an independent office to oversee the policy on social housing.
- Often time, social housing facilities perpetuate segregation and do not meet minimum dwelling standards e.g. too small for the high number of inhabitants.

d) Issues raised to the field of Health

- Some NGOs argued that the Health component is very well covered in the strategy. Much better than any other component.
- Human Capital Operational Programme does not have a health component.
- Health mediators' teams will be established in 45 communities (Ministry of Health).
- Health aspects need long term planning.

e) General Issues raised during the meeting

- The process of consultation for revising the Roma Strategy was not an inclusive one specifically for the local Roma NGOs which were not at all taken into consideration.
- The biggest issue at the local level is the registration issue/ property documents
- Roma inclusion is insufficiently addressed in the Strategy for Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction.
- Segregation should be better defined.

Observations:

- Overall the Civil Society representatives had a constructive approach.
- The dialogue between the Civil Society and the National Authorities is fractioned and inconsistent.
- Accessing EU Funds was identifiable as a common challenge among the NGOs.
- The fragmented cooperation among NGOs was identifiable on two levels:
 1. The RO NGOs seem to have specialised themselves in particular areas of interventions (e.g. employment, discrimination, health, education etc.) thus no common path for interaction.
 2. The Local and Capital NGOs are rather divided and trapped in an ongoing race for funds.
- With some exceptions, the NGOs have the tendency to represent and voice their own interest rather than the interest of the Roma communities.

Recommendations:

- There is a clear need for specific training for Civil Society Organisation on particular areas and fields in order to constructively contribute to the process.
- The National Roma Platforms are fully recommendable in order to establish a regular dialogue process among all the relevant stakeholders.
- The RO Authorities should enable a transparent and even involvement of the Civil Society in implementation and monitoring of the NRIS.

4. High Level Bilateral with the Romanian Authorities 04/09/15

The closed door meeting was co-chaired by the European Commission, Director for Equality, DG Justice and Consumers, Salla Saastamoinen and State Secretary of EU Funds (RO NRCP) Ciprian Necula. The meeting was structured well in advance around the set of questions sent to the National Authorities (responsible ministries) through the National Roma Contact Point one week in advance (set of questions – ANNEX II).

NOTE: None of the questions sent in writing by the Commission Delegation were properly answered during the HL Bilateral, therefore the Commission has sent back the merged set of questions and expects the punctual answers in due time.

Participants RO: NRCP: Ciprian Necula – State Secretary, Dinu Adam –Head of Cabinet Ciprian Necula, Elena Iordanescu, PM Cabinet: Ana-Maria Roman, Dorina Fernolendo, Ministry of Justice (State Secretary Diana-Marielissa Voicu, Depart. For EU Funds), MDRAP (State Secretary Cezar Soare, Florin Prodan,), National Roma Agency - State Secretary Daniel Vasile, President, Ministry of Education – Depart. For Minorities: State Secretary, Andras Kiraly, Ministry for Agriculture (Ioan Utiu), Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry for Labour (State Secretary Ioana Cazacu, Jenny Panait), the Equality body (CNCD- Florin Manole), Ministry for Health: Lidia Onofrei.

a) National Roma Contact Point/State Secretary Ciprian Necula

- NRCP is developing a systemic project under HCOP with the general aim of developing its capacities at central and local level, including by developing a network of experts at local/county level. At present, the NRCP has 4 staff members. NRCP team aims to implement as many projects as possible in the Roma communities following an integrated approach; become the entry point for information and collaboration on Roma file.
- According to SS Necula, the indicative budget planned for the systemic project is € 20-23 M. Discussions revealed that the project was still in its early phases of development at that stage.
- SS Necula stressed that certain issues are not appropriately reflected in the NRIS. The issue of the lack of registration documents among Roma population but also the condition of the Roma children, their seasonal migration are only marginally tackled in the strategy.

b) Feedback from National Roma Agency State Secretary Daniel Vasile NAR President

Relationship National Roma Agency – National Roma Contact Point:

- In the past, the NRA (with the support of PHARE) developed a network of 210 Roma experts at local level. Once the project was completed, several municipalities terminated the activity of the experts in spite of the 3 years sustainability period envisaged. At the same time, other

municipalities hired Roma experts/counsellors. According to the NRA, at present, there are about 200-250 Roma experts and counsellors hired at local level.

- The Roma Agency is also interested in developing a systemic project under HCOP with the aim of enhancing administrative capacities at local level for better monitoring and evaluation of the Roma strategy, including an IT tool (i.e. the Roma Agency is represented in the inter-ministerial committee responsible for the monitoring of the strategy. The Roma offices located in prefectures report to the NRA).
- In many respects, the project idea presented by the NRA was similar to the one of the NRCP.
- The NAR currently negotiates a non-competitive application for funding from technical assistance to enhance the administrative capacity of the structures involved in the M&E system, including an IT tool; when functional, the system should reveal the core challenges and needs.

On the Strategy:

- The drafting was the NAR's responsibility, in collaboration with sectorial ministries. Meetings with NGOs were organised and information on their outcomes is publicly available on the agency's website.
- The strategy is a political commitment of the RO Government and the final version is the outcome of political negotiations. The final draft has also been discussed with civil society representatives, although the NGOs view on the revised version was rather negative.

c) Identity documents, discrimination- Ministry of Labour: Daniela Moroşanu

- Ministry of Labour provided short info on the link between social inclusion of Roma and the Strategy for Social inclusion and the measures taken so far - job fairs, fiscal incentives for the employers, covering the file in the work of the Department for Equal Chances – to reflect the principles of equal opportunities and non-discrimination in all regulatory documents.
- The databases available are based on self-declaration of ethnicity.
- In addition to the above mentioned department, local offices will be set up (county or municipality) with tasks in monitoring discrimination, violence, etc.
- As regards the birth certificates, Ministry of Labour denied a core role in registration and claimed that it's the family's first responsibility and staff in hospitals or medical system should also be involved in these aspects.
- NAR referred to a working group that has been set up in the MEF to address the legislative barriers hampering the issuing of identity cards and birth certificates, including for Roma children not born in Romania.

d) Ministry of Justice: State Secretary Diana-Marielissa Voicu

- Benefits from Norwegians and Council of Europe grants addressing domestic violence, corrective measures for criminal penalties etc.
- Other projects: to enhance Roma's access to justice – 5 offices offering counselling in the territory and 120 judges trained;
- A project with the Administration of Penitentiaries, providing training for the imprisoned to enhance their reinsertion chances; a project to combat discrimination in the preventive arrest, info materials translated in Romani language, etc.

e) CNCD/Equality body – on evictions – State Secretary Florin Manole:

- Despite constant sanctioning by CNCD, eviction and discrimination cases continued. Citizens do not file complaints relating to the discrimination based on ethnicity (64 in 2014, less than 10% from the total at CNCD level) as there is a lack of awareness on rights, capacity to file a petition, etc.
- CNCD concluded a partnership with the Anti-discrimination coalition to offer counselling to victims of discrimination based on ethnicity, including Roma.

f) Education: Ministry of Education – Department For Minorities: State Secretary Andras Kiraly

- **Education** was acknowledged as an important area for Roma integration, although **seen as a long-term development and long-term priority**.
- The 2011 Law of Education provides the legal basis, with the provision of equal treatment. All strategies and measures address all communities in Romania, which the Roma community also benefits from.
- The share of Roma that speak the Romani language is relatively low and less than 3% of the school population speaks Romani. Roma students follow education either in Romanian or in Hungarian, with possibility to mother tongue tuition in 4 hours.
- Segregation is monitored at local level; de-segregation plans are prepared and monitored by the school inspectorates at regional level. However, according to the ministry no notification reaches the authorities regarding segregation and according to the Roma contact point, important is the good quality education and not if 80% of students in a class are Roma. Examples were also cited where de-segregation created bad practice (e.g. 100 km bussing). (Informally, this statement was questioned by the State Secretary for the Education of Minorities.)
- State Secretary Necula emphasized that intentional segregation must be addressed but interfering with school bussing may cause stronger social imbalances, as enrolment is linked to

the traditional areas where Roma communities live. The aim should be on improving the quality of education in the schools where Roma study.

g) Ministry of Health: Lidia Onofrei

- Ministry of Health works with mixed team medical community assistant and health mediators under the project implemented with Norwegian grants (45 municipalities/6 counties, communities with Roma population also covered).
- In addition, although the Ministry of Health opened the call to finance community medical assistants (around 30 mil RON), there is a very low interest from the local public authorities, which did not foresee such posts in their organisational charts. Thus may significantly hamper the deployment of optimal infrastructure and services.
- Ministry of Health prepares a draft revision of law to regulate and provide a methodology for the integrated community centres, in addition to preparing a fiche under the Human Capital Operational Programme to train Community Medical Assistants and mediators. It is planned to cover their salaries under the Human Capital Operational Programme.
- The Community Medical Assistants and the mediators have their salaries paid by the ministry until 2020, but the local authorities need to maintain the infrastructure and cover the costs of the social assistant.
- Sexual education and prevention: there were limited initiatives on contraception, the main focus is still on informing on the risk of unwanted pregnancy; insufficient human resources were mentioned.

h) Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration (MDRAP), State Secretary Soare

- Cadastre: 147 municipalities are planned for systematic registration in 2015.
- MDRAP wants to draw a mapping of informal settlements in consultation with the administrative units which planned to be finalized by the end of 2017.
- The Local Development Programme, National Housing Agency and National Agency for Cadastre provide support for housing.
- Roma youth have non-discriminatory access to housing thus 303 social houses will be allocated for them.
- For Roma 250 social houses are planned to be allocated for 2015 for evicted persons.
- A project is under preparation to revitalize the Ferentari neighbourhood in Bucharest: MDRAP is involved in preparing the application, at the Bucharest Municipality's request.
- A partnership National Roma Agency - National Agency for Cadastre will be established, with NAR providing expertise and the database of organisations to ensure communication & information in the communities.

i) Ministry of Agriculture: Aida Slav

- Managing Authority for National Rural Development Program is currently selecting the local strategies under LEADER.
- Data relating to the involvement of Roma NGOs/communities will be available in the 1st semester 2016.

5. General Remarks and Conclusions:

Local and Regional authorities:

- A great lack of knowledge at local level regarding ESIF financing opportunities for 2007-2013 and 2014-2020.
- Local authorities were particularly interested in infrastructure projects: roads, sewage and education infrastructure. Most of the infrastructure investments were carried out with national funding (i.e. National Local Development Programme).
- A complete lack of responsibility and accountability of local and regional authorities translated in minimised interventions in the public domain under their authority.
- At the level of all communities visited, the local action plans foreseen by the National Roma Integration Strategy have been reduced to a bureaucratic procedure, with no implementable interventions/actions and most worrying with NO budget lines allocated.
- A huge gap and lack of liability between the local and central authorities accentuated by a general lack of implementation capacity.

General Findings at the local level:

- The main finding resulted from the visits, is the lack of registration documents among Roma population.
- No infrastructure in place at the level of the communities visited despite all the opportunities available for that.
- Extreme poverty, poor housing conditions, high rates of school dropout, widespread community-level epidemics; and all of these with minimal interventions/responsive actions of the responsible authorities.
- All the projects implemented at the level of the communities were purely NGO initiated yet the local authorities did not take over any of these initiatives hence the lack of sustainability in measures.
- Some ESF projects created a dependency on benefits, questioning the effectiveness of the soft-measures provided. Participants in the projects were interested in the financial incentives rather than in the added value of training and services provided.

- Insufficient/inadequate provision of services (e.g. understaffed community services, insufficient knowledge of Roma mediators on how to solve the everyday problems of the community).
- Weak link between training and employment opportunities due to lack of jobs at local level or mismatch with the labour demand.

National Authorities:

- Despite the information provided by the RO authorities, no evidence was found or any impact was identified during the visits to communities. Consequently, the EC advised the RO authorities to assess the effectiveness of the measures they took so far.
- The inconsistencies and overlapping roles between the National Roma Contact Point and the National Agency for Roma are to be addressed and clarified.
- Defragmentation and lack of cooperation between various ministerial structures further preclude an efficient process on Roma Integration.
- Further support for the NRCP to effectively coordinate the cross-sectoral monitoring of Roma integration policies with a view to their implementation is still to be further addressed.
- The RO authorities should facilitate the use of national and EU funds to support capacity building for local authorities and civil society organisations so that they can effectively implement projects. This could be done through specific training and direct technical assistance.

Main Conclusions and recommendations:

Although the NRIS is in place for 4 years, the Strategy is still very much in the phase of planning instead of implementing and co-ordinating. With a view to promoting a full integration of Roma in practice, the RO Government will need to cascade down all the efforts currently concentrating on planning and bureaucracy towards effective policy measures at the local level.

Implementable action plans accompanied by concrete goals, targets, activities, concrete set of measurable indicators, reporting mechanisms and a transparent involvement of all relevant stakeholders in the process are to be put in place by the Romanian authorities, in line with the Council Recommendation to which Romania has committed to in December 2013.

Adequate social housing interlinked with the registration documents for Roma population could be a starting point for tackling two of the main severe issues identified at the local level.

Strong political will and strong centralised leadership have to be channelled into precise accountability of the local authorities yet not by simply shifting the responsibility but by genuine empowerment and constant support through allocation of adequate funding for the implementation and monitoring of their national and local strategies and action plans. Moreover, the RO Government should support local public authorities so as to facilitate the implementation of sets of policy measures at local level.

Specific trainings for local authorities for accessing funds and info campaigns for the members of the Roma Communities about their rights should be carried out by the RO Government.

In order to benefit from experience based expertise, the RO Government should involve Civil Society Organisations (including the local ones) into the implementation and monitoring of different areas of the Strategy. A good starting point for initiating such cooperation could be the National Roma Platforms.

Annex 1: Report - First Network Exchange event with Local authorities

Summary of the First Network Exchange event

Full day meeting - 2 September 2015

Bucharest, Ibis Palatul Parlamentului Hotel

= Report produced by the Contractor =

Key Points from the meeting

- ✓ The meeting was interactive ensuring close working and cooperation between partners
- ✓ Local Authorities chose their twinning partners
- ✓ Local authority partners began planning their local actions and exchange visits
- ✓ Learning was achieved and acknowledged by participants in the event

Background

On day one, local authorities were introduced. Each provided a short presentation about the situation of the Roma population in their locality; the main issues the community face and the challenges that exist for the local authority. Cooperation between local authorities was ensured through official interpreters, multi-lingual Country Facilitators and team members from Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Czech Republic, Bulgaria and Italy and Spain. Each of the local authorities were invited to complete a template indicating their first, second and third choice of local authority partner. The pairings were consolidated during day two of the event.

Summary of Day Two Sessions

Session 1 - Welcome session by Salla Saastamoinen, Director for Equality, DG Justice and Consumers, European Commission

The EC Director for Equality opened the meeting by welcoming participants to the first networking exchange event taking place in the frame of *for Roma with Roma*. Her speech recognised that European institutions and Member States have a joint responsibility to improve the social inclusion of Roma. She emphasised the importance of local and regional authorities and welcomed those who have joined the twinning component of the initiative. She explained that “The European Commission considers that local and regional authorities as crucial partners for implementation of National Roma Integration Strategies and their consequent action plans to improve integration of Roma communities within Europe. Resources are not only needed, political will and expertise of regional and local public authorities are required to tackle the variety of challenges faced by Roma”. She emphasised that the targeted communication activities to be implemented at local level will help to fight discrimination and stereotypes against the Roma population and looks forward to seeing the outcomes of local actions and the new ideas that will be generated through transnational exchange and learning. Articulating “even though the competences, responsibilities and needs may differ from country to country, I have no doubt that the transnational exchange will bring new ideas, upscale ongoing initiatives and bring visible results in the Roma communities”.

Session 2 – Introduction to *for Roma with Roma* and purpose of the Exchange Event

The Project Coordinator outlined the work of the Consortium and explained the five actions in for Roma with Roma, including the twinning action. She explained the purpose of the first networking exchange event. Setting out that the main actions to be achieved during the day were – (i) connecting with the other local authorities; (ii) selecting a local authority partner; (iii) engaging with that partner; and (iv) starting to plan their local actions and exchange meetings.

Session 3 - Twinning – pairing of local authorities

During this session the local authorities were paired as follows:

BE - Ghent	BG - Tundzha
BG - Samokov	DE - Hamm
BG - Aitos	SE – East Gothenburg
CZ – Bruntál	SK – Presov
CZ - Karviná	HU – Kisvárda
DE - Berlin	RO – Bistrita Nasaud County
ES - Torrent	IT - Monserrato
FR - Nantes	RO – Harghita County
HU - Nagykálló	SK – Kosice Saca
IT - Bologna	RO – Cluj County

actions they considered of most value.

This session brought the new ‘twins’ together to (i) identify three common challenges in both localities and (ii) share a good practice action previously applied in each locality.

The discussions took place in small groups of local authority representatives, National Roma Contact point representatives, European Commission team and the Consortium team. At the end of the discussion participants were invited to vote for the

The top five will be translated into case studies and disseminated between the authorities. They were as follows:

- Torrent - continuous education and literacy program for Roma women - second chance school (11 points)
- County of Cluj - mobile team to issue personal identification (11 points)
- City of Ghent - policy participation for Roma and dialogue (10 points)
- City of Gothenburg - lectures for different organisations / TV broadcast dedicated to Roma culture / history (7 points)
- City of Berlin - mobile contact points. (street workers) (6 points)

Session 4 – Planning local actions to achieve results

The aim of the session was to consolidate partnership working, to share ideas and to initiate joint planning of the actions. The work was divided into several components:

1. A short lecture, explaining efficient project planning procedures to deliver effective and tangible results based on the principals of Project Cycle Management,
2. A participatory planning session: a template was distributed to each partnership to identify the local need and then the aim, purpose, objective and expected results that could be achieved from their proposed local actions. This included two indicators to measure achievement of the expected results.



The planning templates were collected by the Country Facilitators to process post-event to ensure effective ongoing planning of each planned twinning action.

1. A show and tell session: each local authority partner prepared a poster, to show what action they plan to implement and what result it will achieve.

Partners shared ideas and translated their twinning ideas into an illustration. The posters were exhibited around the room and shared between partners. The collection of images provided a visual illustration of the content of the two days of meetings.

The European Commission team and the Consortium Core Team tweeted about the event and the posters produced by the transnational cooperation meeting.



Session 5 - Engaging with the media

Examples of two posters produced during the event

The aim of this session was to provide information about the planned action under task 1.3 of the contract. It encompasses training and in-field briefing for media in the eight core countries and a press pack disseminated in the other 19 EU Member States. The session provided background about press reporting on Roma in the eight target countries. Research carried out by the consortium has found that:

- Italy, Bulgaria and Czech Republic are the most negative reporting countries on Roma population
- There is no Roma voice in media
- Social issues, crime and housing are most reported about Roma population.

Participants were asked to identify local interventions making a genuine positive change for Roma in their community. Then they discussed if any of the ideas offer a good local story to interest and engage the media about the Roma population.

Session 6 – future planning

The final session was about local authorities making agreements for future cooperation. A template was completed by participants to collect information about what they will deliver, when they will deliver, who will be the main contact, and when they plan to have their exchange meetings.

Annex II: Set of questions re-sent to the Romanian Authorities

Follow-up - High Level Bilateral with Romanian Authorities

Email sent on: 09/09/2015 with a settled deadline for: 09/10/15

To be noted that the RO authorities have not yet replayed to the Commission .

Questions for the National Roma Contact Point

Issues regarding the National Roma Integration Strategy and the National Roma Contact Point and the coordination of the process:

Romania has submitted in January 2015 a revised National Roma Integration Strategy. The strategy is a step towards fulfilling the relevant ex ante conditionality for the implementation of European Structural and Investment Funds 2014-2020. Although the strategy is well structured in terms of objectives, proposed actions and monitoring indicators, the allocation of a proportionate budget and the actual implementation are to be seen.

As it was already identified that there is a serious weakness in respect of action plans, we strongly recommend that local action plans are amended to include specific activities, objectives, indicators and budgets.

- 1. What are the envisaged specific plans to increase cooperation with local authorities? Please give us details of any activities planned at the local level.*
- 2. Since the revised Strategy clearly indicates for concrete sets of targets to be reached during a first intermediate stage on 2016, could you please share with us, where do you stand with the implementation of the new strategy and its action plans?*
- 3. Does the new strategy reflect the lessons learnt from the implementation of the previous Strategy submitted in 2011?*
- 4. Could you please share with us what are the lessons learnt and what type of measures you put in place in order to overcome possible obstacles?*
- 5. How will the Civil Society be involved in the implementation and monitoring of the strategy? Can you inform whether and if yes, how do you support the capacity building of Roma civil society?*
- 6. How does the NRCP plan to increase their capacities at local level/county level with the support for ESIF? (Q addressed by EMPL)*
- 7. Is the NRCP aware of final list of financed projects (investment, TA, training) dedicated to ROMA communities split by different financing sources. If yes, to please present the main conclusions.*

REGIO related issues

Developing and funding projects in support of marginalised groups, in particular Roma, has been actively pursued by REGIO under the 2007-2013 Regional Programme in Romania, financed by the ERDF. Pilot projects for housing, social centres and educational/health and employment infrastructure have been prepared and will be implemented in three areas (Braila, Galati and Cluj). These pilots - 9 projects for a value of +/- EUR 10.5 million - are part of an integrated territorial approach for the concerned areas. However, ERDF support exclusively for Roma was not envisaged. A key lesson was the necessity for integrated approaches with intense, longer term assistance to local authorities and stakeholders. A lack of know-how and administrative capacity was combined with many bureaucratic, political and behavioural hurdles. For 2014-2020, investments in social, health and education infrastructure (TO 9 and 10) are framed by the provisions of the Partnership Agreement, setting a clear link to CSRs. ERDF allocations under the Regional OP (ROP) amount to EUR 521.2 million for TO 9 (including the CLLD axis) and EUR 361.7 million to 10. Roma are one of the target groups for investments under TO9 and TO10 in the Regional OP. Infrastructure investments under the ROP are complementary to soft measures financed under the ESF.

- 1. What mechanism, implementation frameworks have been identified to avoid further isolation of Roma communities in the scope of ESI Funds programmes? Is there any strategy to combat segregation of Roma communities regarding ESI Funds investments in education and housing?*
- 2. How will the ESI Funds measures supporting the Roma integration goals be implemented? Has there been an implementation strategy prepared, including capacity building, establishing expert networks, action plans, budget allocations, etc.?*
- 3. What support will be made available to Roma communities to prepare viable projects? How you can ensure involvement and 'real' participation of Roma in CLLD measures? What kind of safeguard mechanisms are developed?*
- 4. Please explain who has the competence and responsibility to monitor the implementation of the National Roma Integration Strategy (NRIS)?*
- 5. How are the measures of the NRIS linked up with the ESI Funds programmes? Is there any specific document which describes how the NRIS measures are translated to the ESI Funds programmes?*
- 6. How will the complementarity between ESF and ERDF supported measures be ensured? Will the call of the ESF and ERDF programmes be timely synchronized, or is there any condition to support the comprehensiveness?*
- 7. Will the ERDF supported measures be always accompanied with 'soft' ESF measures? In the case of investment in housing infrastructure, ESF and ERDF measure are foreseen for employment, education and health?*
- 8. What kinds of conditions have been identified to avoid further isolation of Roma communities in the scope of ESI Funds programmes? Is there any strategy to combat segregation of Roma communities in education and housing?*
- 9. Is there any available study or report conducted recently on the segregation of Roma in education and/or housing? Have these data been used for strategy making?*

- 10. How will the mapping of deprived urban neighbourhoods (prepared by the World Bank) be used for urban regeneration programmes? Can it be used for tackling spatial segregation in the framework of ESI Funds measures?*
- 11. It is the EC understanding that the WB mapping was made on a voluntary basis of each community; do the Romanian authorities intend to continue the mapping (using the same WB methodology) for the entire territory?*
- 12. Will thematic experts (education, housing, employment, etc.) with substantial records in Roma inclusion and financially supported by the EU Commission help design calls and other measures? In the case of educational and spatial segregation – taking into account the currently issued Guidance Note on desegregation – would a thematic expert help to draft the calls?*
- 13. How you can ensure involvement and 'real' participation of Roma in CLLD measures? What kind of safeguard mechanisms are developed?*

EMPL related issues

According to the 2014 Annual Implementation Report of the Human Resource Development OP (POS DRU) 2007-2013, out of 1.35 million participants, 182.590 (14%) were Roma. This is a significant number of Roma participants even in the case of double counting i.e. (the same person benefitting from several interventions).

- **To what extent do you believe that these projects have effectively managed to improve the situation of Roma?**

Roma inclusion is particularly relevant to reach three national targets of the Europe 2020 Strategy: 580.000 people out of poverty, reducing early school leaving to 11,3% and increasing labour market participation to 70%.

- *What are the main interventions planned by the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Education in this respect?*
- *What will the approach be at central level and in what ways will it be different from 2007-2013?*
- *What are your views on considering Roma inclusion as a macroeconomic necessity? i.e. taking into account the increasing share of Roma, including in share of new labour market entrants.*

In its latest assessment on the implementation of the Romanian NRIS the Commission noted that implementation and mainstreaming of many legally adopted policies and programs in the field of social inclusion have been delayed, due to a lack of implementation capacity and funding and the absence of strong commitment by public authorities and a constructive dialogue with civil society, as well as close cooperation with local and regional authorities should be ensured.

- *Given that local authorities often lack the understanding of what an active inclusion approach implies and tend more generally to lack the administrative capacity required to design and implement effective policy measures, in particular for Roma integration, which kind of support does the government intend to provide to local authorities in this regard?*
- *Given that local authorities, in particular in small municipalities, often lack information about EU funding opportunities, and if they are informed lack the internal capacity to apply for funding or the resources to pay a consultant to help them to apply, which support does the government intend to provide to local authorities to facilitate access to EU funding?*
- *Given that in the 2007-13 period the sustainability of many grassroots (pro) Roma NGOs was jeopardized by their inability to comply with EU and national administrative rules related to EU funds and very long reimbursement procedures, which measures does the government intend to implement to avoid similar difficulties in the 2014-2020 period?*

EDUCATION related issues Questions which fall under the remit State Secretary for School Education

The 2015 CSR calls on Romania to increase the provision and quality of early childhood education and care, in particular for Roma and to take action to implement the national strategy to reduce early school leaving. Romania adopted the National Strategy on Early School Leaving on 4 June 2015.

Background: According to the UNDP/World Bank/EC Regional Roma survey (2011), the early school leaving rate of Roma is almost twice as high as in the non-Roma population. About 14 % of Roma older than 10 are illiterate and about 20 % of Roma have not attended school. According to the UNDP/WB/EC in 2011, the pre-school enrolment rate of non-Roma children is almost twice as high as for Roma living in the same community (37 % in case of Roma children and 63 % for Non-Roma neighbours). In upper-secondary education (pupils aged 16-19) the enrolment rate of non-Roma is almost 4 times higher than among Roma.

- *What is the current state of play in the start of implementation of the National Strategy on Early School Leaving adopted on 4 June 2015, in particular as regards:*
 1. *the coordination of the implementation at the regional and local level and collection of feedback from the main actors at the school and local level and*
 2. *the establishment of a Research Group that will be in charge of the monitoring and evaluation strategy?*

Social measures for students enrolled in public or private institutions coming from a poor socio-economic family background including EURO 200 (financial support for the acquisition of a personal desktop computer), Student learning supplies kit (financial support for the acquisition of learning supplies - pencils, books, schoolbags, etc.), and Croissant and milk programme (supporting food supplies for all students enrolled in public and private compulsory schools) have been ongoing for the last few years.

- *Given that these measures have been retained in the Strategy on Early School Leaving, even though they do not seem to have had an effect on reducing the rate of early school leaving (in 2014 ESL increased to 18.1%, the highest rate since 2005), are there plans to evaluate these measures, in order to understand how such measures can be improved to have an positive impact on the rate of early school leaving?*

An integrated information system of education is a key element for the implementation of the strategy. An integrated data collection and analysis system at the national, county and school level is planned. The Integrated Information System of Education in Romania - SIIE is already designed based on a new set of national indicators for education, including ESL. The module of primary education is already operational.

- *When will the system be fully operational and provide reliable data (consistent compared with other data collection systems of the National Institute for Statistics - NIS) that can be utilised to identify specific characteristics of groups who are most at-risk and thus better targeting the ESL measures?*
- *What actions are planned to strengthen the administrative capacity to sustain a coherent data collection system and to secure availability of sufficient government funding or international funding for the database infrastructure developments, maintenance, monitoring and updates?*

A recent study conducted by the Institute of Educational Sciences and UNICEF Romania on school budgetary allocation based on the new per capita funding mechanism, concluded that schools located in disadvantaged communities have limited resources and usually fail to implement any additional support activities targeting students at risk of school failure (repetition, absenteeism, dropout, etc.). According to the same study, state funding is the core financial resource of these schools; in some cases, it constitutes their entire annual budget. Under these circumstances, schools can only cover their basic needs (administrative costs and teachers' salaries), with clearly insufficient resources to initiate specific activities focused on supporting students at risk of drop-out. These conclusions are relevant for schools with Roma population as most of the schools included in the sample had over 10% of Roma children.

- *Are there plans to increase the equity of financial allocation in case of disadvantaged schools?*

According to the Regional Roma Survey data (2011), Romania had the second highest share of children attending 'all' or 'nearly all' Roma kindergartens (46%), after Slovakia (48%), indicating a high degree of segregation in early education. In Bulgaria, Czech Republic and Hungary, segregation is much lower (18%, 16% and 21%, respectively). The high degree of segregation is related to the

location of pre-schools in Roma settlements: 43% of Romanian Roma children enrolled in pre-school education attend a kindergarten located in their nearby Roma settlement. Yet the enrolment rate of Roma in pre-schools lags seriously behind the majority population.

- *What actions are being undertaken to increase access to quality pre-school education for Roma children?*
- *Segregation is also present in primary and lower secondary system of education. In line with the legislative framework aimed at combating segregation, what actions, including monitoring, are being undertaken to reduce segregation?*

HEALTH related issues

In the Council Recommendation of 9 December 2013, Romania committed to take effective measures to ensure equal treatment of Roma in access to healthcare services.

The focus should be:

- removing any barriers to access to the healthcare system accessible for the general population
 - improving access to medical check-ups, prenatal and postnatal care and family planning, as well as sexual and reproductive healthcare
 - improving access to free vaccination programmes targeting children in particular those living in marginalised and/or remote areas
 - promoting awareness of health and healthcare issues.
- *Which concrete steps do the Romanian authorities plan to take to ensure that socially disadvantaged people (including the Roma) will have an equitable access to healthcare and that good quality and appropriateness of care is provided?*

Roma Health Mediation Programme has proved to be one of the effective targeted programmes in addressing access to healthcare services for the Roma population and improving their health. Romania has long term experience of this programme (starting in mid-1990'). Institutionalization of this programme in 2002 seems to be a success story in Romania. However, there are many factors which may limit effectiveness of health mediation (e.g. insufficient training, funding, wages and working conditions, lack of monitoring and evaluation system).

- *What is the approach of Romanian authorities towards Roma Health Mediators? Which concrete programmes are in place/are planned in this area?*
- *How is the sustainability of the programmes ensured? What are the main obstacles?*

The Council Recommendation of 9 December 2013 highlights the specific situation and need of protection of Roma children and women.

- *How do Romanian authorities plan to ensure that pregnant women and children are provided with minimum healthcare regardless their status/ the lack of compulsory health insurance?*

It is well known that reporting on the health status of Roma faces some practical data collection obstacles. One of the main and most discussed obstacles is the lack of ethnically disaggregated data on health status. Systematic data collation and assessment of Roma health data is very limited in most Member States. However, monitoring progress in health status without appropriate data collection is difficult.

- *How do Romanian authorities plan to overcome this challenge?*
- *Are there any plans for development of specific health surveys?*

Annex III: Roma projects financed with EU Funds in the visited Roma communities

Project Code	Beneficiary	Area of implementation in accordance with the financing request		Localitate de desfasurare a activitatii conform cererii de finantare	Status project
POSDRU/23/2.2/G/37632	Parohia Parc Plumbuita	Bucuresti, Ilfov	Bucuresti	Bucuresti	Finalized
POSDRU/91/2.2/S/53701	Fundația Dezvoltarea Popoarelor	Bucuresti, Ilfov, Nord-Vest, Sud-Muntenia, Sud-Est	Bucuresti, Soldanu (Calarasi)	Bucuresti, Cluj, Dambovita, Galati, Calarasi	Finalized
POSDRU/91/2.2/S/55876	Fundatia Roma Education Fund Romania	Centru, Sud-Muntenia, Nord-Est	Bucuresti, Frumusani, Budesti (Calarasi)	Calarasi, Bucuresti	Finalized

POSDRU/9 1/2.2/S/611 79	Organizația Salvați Copiii România	Bucuresti, Ilfov, Centru, Nord-Est, Sud –Est, Sud- Muntenia, Sud- Vest Oltenia	Bucuresti, Calarasi	Alba, Brasov, Covasna, Harghita, Calarasi, Bucuresti, Buzau, Braila, Galati, Constanta, Vrancea, Tulcea, Arges, Dolj Gorj Olt	Finalized
POSDRU/1 07/1.5/S/82 729	Scoala Nationala de Studii Politice si Administrative	Centru,Nord-Est, Nord-Ves,t Sud- Est, Sud- Muntenia, Sud- Vest Oltenia, Vest, București, Ilfov	Bucuresti	Brăila, Iași, Călărași, Cluj, Alba, București, Olt, Timiș.	Finalized
POSDRU/1 62/2.2/S/13 2996	Fundatia "Roma Education Fund Romania"	București, Ilfov, Sud-Muntenia	Frumusani, Soldanu, Budesti (Calarasi)	Bucuresti, Calarasi	Ongoing
POSDRU/1 62/2.2/S/13 3664	Salvati Copiii Romania	București, Ilfov, Centru, Nord-Est, Nord-Vest, Sud- Est, Sud- Muntenia, Sud- Vest Oltenia, Vest	Bucuresti, Calarasi	Hunedoara, Bucuresti, Calarasi, Arges, Constanta, Dambovita, Suceava, Iasi, Neamt, Cluj, Mures	Ongoing
POSDRU/1 54/1.1/S/13 7140	Fundatia Copii in Dificultate	București, Ilfov, Sud-Vest Oltenia, Sud-Muntenia	Bucuresti, Calarasi	Argeș, București, Dolj, Ilfov, Calarasi	Ongoing

POSDRU/1 62/2.2/S/14 0080	Fundatia "Roma Education Fund Romania"	București, Ilfov, Centru, Nord-Est, Sud-Est, Sud- Muntenia	Bucuresti, Budesti, Frumusani, Soldanu (Calarasi)	Bacău, Botoșan,i Brăila, Brașov, București, Buzău, Cluj, Galați, Giurgiu, Ialomița, Iaș,i Ilfov, Mureș, Prahova, Sibiu, Suceava, Tulcea, Călărași.	Ongoing
POSDRU/1 63/2.2/S/14 0875	Fundatia pentru Educatie	București, Ilfov	Comunele Vidra si 1 Decembrie (Ilfov)	Bucuresi, Ilfov	Ongoing
POSDRU/1 88/2.2/S/15 5384	Asociatia Hercules	Sud-Muntenia, Sud-Ves,t Oltenia,	Calarasi	Argeș, Călărași, Dâmbovița, Dolj, Giurgiu, Gorj, Ialomița, Mehedinți, Olt, Prahova, Teleorman, Vâlcea.	Ongoing
POSDRU/1 88/2.2/S/15 5410	Parohia Jilava	București, Ilfov, Sud-Muntenia, Sud-Est	Bucuresti, Calarasi	București, Ilfov, Giurgiu, Dâmbovița, Prahova, Buzău, Vrancea, Galați, Calarasi.	Ongoing
POSDRU/1 88/2.2/S/15 5461	ISJ Hunedoara	Nord-Vest, Sud- Muntenia, Vest	Sarulesti Gara, Frumusani, Razvani (Calarasi)	Bihor, Călărași, Hunedoara.	Ongoing

POSDRU/1 88/2.2/S/15 6081	Asociatia Sanse Egale pentru Integrare	Sud-Vest Oltenia, Sud-Muntenia	Calarasi	Argeş, Călăraşi , Dâmboviţa, Dolj, Gorj, Mehedinţi, i Ol,t Prahova, Teleorman.	Ongoing
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