

NON-PAPER

The purpose is to provide practical guidance to the Member States in the preparation of their national Roma integration strategies or integrated sets of policy measures to be submitted to the Commission by the end of 2011. This reflects the Commission's Communication on an EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies by 2020 of 5 April 2011 and the Council Conclusions of 19 May 2011.

*What are the **substantive elements** of the national strategies or integrated sets of policy measures?*

1) Description of the current situation

The description of the current situation of Roma in the given Member State should include the geographical distribution (mentioning regions, cities, localities); estimates of the Roma population on their territory; description of the socio-economic challenges of Roma with particular attention to the four key areas: education, employment, housing, healthcare, and any other specific issues deemed important within the given national context.

2) National goals

The section should define the national goals and of how they fit into the Roma integration goals defined by the EU Framework. These goals are expected to cover at least the four crucial areas of education, employment, healthcare and housing in order to close the gap between marginalised Roma communities and the majority population, but Member States can add other goals relevant to their specific national context, and to define also intermediate steps. An integrated approach combining actions in a variety of policy areas is strongly recommended. The timeline is 2020.

3) Action plan

This section should include a clear action plan identifying concrete measures in at least the areas of education, employment, healthcare and housing, aiming to improve Roma integration, accompanied by a corresponding time schedule and adequate funding. The action plan should be directly related to the aim of achieving the national goals.

Each measure/action should be accompanied by an indication of the funding and of the sources (national funds, EU funds). The references to EU funds (measures and amounts) should be compatible with the content of the national operational programmes for the structural funds. In addition, other aspects to be taken into consideration when reference is made to the EU funds are: the use of housing interventions under the amended ERDF Regulation; the use of technical assistance to improve the management, monitoring and evaluation capacities of Roma-targeted projects; how and to what extent are global grants used; how the European Progress Microfinance Facility is used.

4) Horizontal aspects

The sections addressing the goals and the action plan should indicate how the goals, the actions, the funding and the outcomes fit into the wider context of the EU 2020 Strategy, national reform programmes, but also in the context of their own inclusion policies. The compliance with the **10 Common Basic Principles for Roma Inclusion** (e.g. attention to the gender dimension, promotion of intercultural aspects, involvement of Roma, etc.) should also be explained.

In those Member States where promoting Roma inclusion is integrated in the general inclusion policies, the document should indicate how specifically the integrated sets of policy measures has impact on the Roma community.

5) Governance mechanisms

This section should explain how the regional and local authorities were consulted and what role they will play in implementing the strategies/policies. It should also indicate how the civil society (including Roma NGOs), social partners and other stakeholders (e.g. educational bodies, associations etc.) have been involved in the design and will be involved in the implementation and monitoring of national strategies or sets of policy measures.

6) Monitoring the implementation of the strategies/policy measures and adjusting them in time

This section should describe the domestic monitoring methods and mechanisms to self-evaluate the impact of national strategies or sets of policy measures. It should also describe the review mechanisms to ensure that the strategy remains flexible and adapted to the changing circumstances.

7) Details of the National Contact Point

The document should indicate the contact point (including contact details) and its mandate to coordinate the development and implementation of the strategy/policies.

What are the areas covered?

The following list is indicative of the potential measures which can be considered in the main field of actions.

Education measures directed at:

- Preventing discrimination or segregation of Roma children at school;
- Providing Roma children with sustainable access to quality education;
- Widening the access to quality early childhood education and care;
- Completion of primary education by all Roma children;
- Reducing the number of early school leavers from primary and secondary education;
- Increasing Roma youngsters' participation in tertiary education;
- Increasing the use of innovative educational approaches such as ICT-based access to learning and skills.

Employment measures directed at:

- Providing non-discriminatory access for Roma to vocational training, to the job market and to self employment tools and initiatives;
- Providing access to micro-credit;
- Employing Roma civil servants in the public sector;
- Employment Services to reach out to Roma by providing personalised services and mediation;
- Attracting more Roma on the labour market (involvement of the social partners/business associations etc.?).

Access to healthcare measures directed at:

- Providing access to quality healthcare, with particular attention to women and children;
- Providing access to Roma to preventive care and social services;
- Involving qualified Roma in healthcare programs (role of mediators).

Access to housing and essential services via measures directed at :

- Providing non-discriminatory access to housing, including social housing;
- Implementing an integrated approach, of which housing intervention is part of;
- Addressing the special needs of non-sedentary Roma population, where applicable;
- Providing details of the means of involvement of regional and/or local authorities as well as local Roma and non-Roma communities.

Are all Member States expected to submit a national Roma integration strategy or integrated sets of policy measures?

In line with the Communication on the EU Framework for National Roma Integration strategies by 2020 [COM(2011)173], the Council Conclusions of 19 May 2011 [10658/11], endorsed by the European Council of 23-24 June 2011 [EUCO 23/11], all Member States are invited to prepare, update or develop a comprehensive approach to Roma integration and to submit a national Roma integration strategy or integrated sets of policy measures within their broader social inclusion policies for improving the situation of Roma, in proportion to the size of the Roma population living in their territories and taking into account their specific circumstances.

To whom, when and in which language should the strategies or integrated sets of policy measures be sent?

In order to ease the internal process and analysis of the information received, national Roma integration strategies or integrated sets of policy measures are expected to be sent to the Commission, if possible, in one of the Commission's working languages (English, French or German).

It is suggested that the documents should arrive around 10 December 2011.

Documents should be sent in electronic format to the following mailbox:
JUST-D4-UNITE@ec.europa.eu

Any other questions?

Should there be any remaining practical questions; the Commission is at the disposal of the Member States by email (JUST-D4-UNITE@ec.europa.eu).