



Permanent Mission of Hungary to the OSCE

Statement of the Delegation of Hungary to the OSCE
at the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

Warsaw, 27 September 2012
Working Session 6

Roma/Sinti and, in particular, empowerment of Roma women

Mr. Moderator,

Hungary fully aligns herself with the statement delivered by the distinguished Representative of Romania on behalf of the European Union.

Hungary is fully committed to the implementation of its commitments undertaken in the framework of OSCE, the European Union and the Council of Europe. I would like to recall that Hungary initiated the adoption of a European Union Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies during its Presidency of the Council of the European Union in April 2011. We equally supported the Strasbourg Declaration of October 2010 which aims at creating a pan-European engagement and cooperation in order to address more effectively the challenges of Roma inclusion.

Accordingly, a National Social Inclusion Strategy for the Roma was adopted last November in Hungary with the aspiration of tangibly improve the situation of Roma people by the end of the current decade. The implementation of the programmes contained in the Strategy has already started. Hungary was the first among OSCE Participating States to present its Strategy in the framework of the Human Dimension Committee in May.

The authorities have made resolute efforts to reach out to NGOs and other relevant stakeholders as well. In order to ensure a thorough consultation on issues related to the development, implementation and monitoring of the National Social Inclusion Strategy, as well as to contribute to the collection of best practices in the field of social inclusion and Roma integration, a Roma Coordination Council has been set up in 2011. The representatives of the Roma minority self-government, NGOs dealing with Roma integration, representatives of municipalities and churches, and the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights are equally participating in the work of the Council. The Council previously discussed the National Social Inclusion Strategy, and plays an important role in the monitoring of its implementation.



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We are glad to note that the implementation of the National Social Inclusion Strategy has started to bear its first fruits, and that is also positively noted in the first assessment of the European Commission on the implementation of the EU Framework Strategy (COM(2012)226 final).

As a specificity of the Hungarian Strategy a Framework Agreement between the Government and the National Roma Self-Government has been concluded with the aim of improving the living conditions and facilitating the social inclusion of the Roma people. The following targets are to be realized by 2015:

- the involvement of 100.000 unemployed Roma in the labour market;
- Realization of a comprehensive education reform which offers the possibility for 20.000 young Roma people to earn a marketable vocation in one of the 50 vocational schools taking part in the inclusion program, support the education of 10.000 Roma young people in high schools and facilitate the preparation of 5000 talented Roma to take part in higher education
- a vocational training of 50.000 Roma adults for marketable vocations and the involvement of an additional 80.000 Roma adults taking part in programs improving basic skills (writing, reading, calculation and informatics)
- participation of 150.000 Roma in preventive health screening as well as with continuous consultancy on healthy lifestyle

The Hungarian Strategy pays special attention to the situation of **Roma women**. This emphasis is based on the recognition that Roma women are suffering from multiple disadvantages. The main priorities of the strategy in this field are therefore promoting Roma women's inclusion in education awareness-raising and employment. Some of the objectives to be achieved are the following:

- creating a crisis map in regard with Roma women in particular, regarding combat against prostitution
- extension to ethnic aspects when identifying victims of trafficking in human beings



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- decreasing the drop-out of Roma women from education (they leave the system for many reasons– maternity leave, lack of motivation, lack of reachable quality education)
- health screening with special attention to Roma women
- improving the inclusion and representation of Roma women in local projects focusing on equality
- access to the European and Hungarian women’s mainstream
- use of European Funds for implementing projects employing Roma people in social and child welfare system

The Ministry of Human Resources pays special attention to employ Roma women in the field of Roma inclusion. It is – among others – running a Roma Women Task Force, which co-operates closely with the representatives of the professional and civil sector.

We also aim to train at least one thousand Roma, primarily women and facilitate their acquisition of practical experiences in social, child welfare and child protection services, and also their training as family support social workers, community developers, employment facilitators and healthcare mediators.

In order to promote Roma inclusion, model programs have been introduced aimed at improving healthcare, housing and related community services. In the upcoming years several similar projects will be implemented with the help of ESF (European Social Fund) and ERDF (European Regional Development Fund).

In February, 2012, the Hungarian government launched a comprehensive program to ameliorate the Roma settlement structures. Those settlements that are inhabited by people living in segregated areas and in deep poverty may apply for 4,7 Billion HUF EU resources. According to Zoltán Balog, Minister for Human Resources approximately 30-50 projects may be implemented from this amount of money that exceeds the volume of the last five years’ similar tenders supplemented by 410 Million HUF from the Hungarian budget. The state appears with concrete measures on the segregated areas, among others they enable easy access to health care and education. The non-segregated inhabitants will also be included, because the program may be successful only with an integrated approach.



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A model program was already launched in Szolnok to secure the breakout of Roma from deep poverty. There are other cities that are included in the program of 410 Million HUF financed from the Hungarian budget: Ózd (Velencetelep and Hétes-telep), Tiszaroff and Szolnok – Motor street and little settlements in Baranya county: neighborhood of Vajszló and Komló, Nyíregyháza: Huszár-settlement, Keleti housing estate.

In April 2012, 1,15 Billion HUF was called for tender for the support of Roma professional Collegiums.

In July 2012, institutions for society, child welfare, child protection that employ Roma people (approximately 700, primarily women) for one year may apply for 1,4 Billion HUF tender.

In August 2012, 80 Million HUF has been separated for the support of students with disadvantages or multiple disadvantages. The comprehensive goals of the „Send-off” scholarship programs include the promotion of equal opportunities for disadvantaged students, the improvement of chances for participation in higher education with highly marketable degrees.

In August 2012, 7,5 Billion HUF has been provided in the frame of the New Széchenyi Plan for development of public education institutions for further development of „School-net” and „Second opportunity” programs.

As another example: In 2011 the Hungarian Government started an internship program aimed at giving a chance to 300 highly educated young people, 37 of whom were Roma, to spend one year in ministries as trainees. After the program many of them received a permanent contract, and now they work in the central administration as civil servants.

We hope that all these measures will further contribute to the improvement of the situation of Roma communities in Hungary.

Thank you, Mr. Moderator.