

Making Use of European and Structural Funds for Roma Inclusion

A Guide for Local Authorities



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Main Messages (1)

Message 1: Roma inclusion is a duty of local authorities. Above all, it is to the benefit of the entire community, not only to the Roma.

Facts to remember:

- At European level, there is a framework for the National Roma Integration Strategies (NRIS) which insists on action at the local level.
- Your country is due to implement a NRIS which identifies actions and potential territorial areas of focus.
- Promoting Roma inclusion not only saves money and avoids future problems and conflicts, but also brings economic and social returns for the entire community.

Practical suggestions:

- Make Roma inclusion a political priority on the local agenda
- Define a policy strategy for the inclusion of the Roma based on a (local) diagnosis of the situation
- Identify clear priorities and targets
- Involve and empower Roma at all stages of Roma integration initiatives
- Learn from experiences and connect with other villages/municipalities/cities

Main Messages (2)

Message 2: Municipalities can benefit from the ESI Funds for Roma inclusion by developing projects particularly aimed at the integration of Roma or by developing projects that focus on areas with a high Roma concentration

Facts to remember:

- Right now, your country is planning its actions for the financing period until 2020.
- The ESI include objectives related to education, employment, and social inclusion.
- There is one ESF investing priority specifically focusing on Roma and other marginalised communities.
- With the support of the ESI, local authorities can undertake integrated operations aiming at the desegregation of segregated settlements where Roma are living

Practical suggestions:

- Find out how the ESI are being implemented in your country
- Identify the bodies responsible for the implementation of the ESI Operational Programmes
- Benefit from a broad range of organisations that can provide you information and advice on implementing ESI-funded local Roma integration activities

Main Messages (3)

Message 3: There are different ways of addressing Roma needs through EU funds and different needs can be addressed through different funds.

Facts to remember:

- You can access funds for projects that specifically focus on Roma inclusion in the areas of education, employment, social inclusion and fighting discrimination.
- You can access funds for activities in territorial areas where Roma are living.
- You can develop community-led local initiatives involving the local actors.
- You can access funds for capacity building and technical assistance.

Practical suggestions:

- Explore and consider potential options and select the most adequate one for the circumstances of your village/municipality/city
- Learn how other cities deal with Roma inclusion
- Learn from lessons identified in other reports and good practices

Keys to success (1)

- ➔ Sufficient time for planning, plan for the medium and long-term and with the objective of achieving sustainable results, diagnostic analysis, setting measureable indicators in key areas of Roma inclusion
- ➔ Combine actions that address the multiple dimensions of, integrated approach
- ➔ Continuity and sustainability of actions in the medium to long term.
- ➔ Define mandates and responsibilities, leadership
- ➔ Access to employment and housing are the central drivers in urban areas

Keys to success (2)

- ➔ Involve & empower Roma from planning phase onwards, partnerships with CSOs, esp. Roma organisations, capacity-building for all actors
- ➔ Consider particular situation of Roma women (multiple forms of discrimination)
- ➔ Improve knowhow of local staff & raise awareness about prejudice and discrimination
- ➔ Mainstreaming of Roma issues into general policies, adapted mainstream services to Roma
- ➔ Explicit but not exclusive targeting
- ➔ Mobilise all existing resources (human, institutional, economic)

Discussion

- ➔ How could local authorities make use of the information presented in this guide?
- ➔ Which role could EURoma members play in ensuring that the information of the guide reaches local authorities?
- ➔ What are the challenges (in both cases)?



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