

Roma and structural funds in the EU

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1. Roma in the EU: the framework

- Consequences of European enlargement
- The fulfilment of the Copenhagen criteria
- The consequences of mobility and migration
- Roma on the European Institutions Agenda
 - New anti-discrimination legislation
 - Inter-services consultation
 - The need of horizontal guidelines
 - Progressing in the Open Method of Coordination
- **A need for better cooperation between discrimination, inclusion and structural funds**
- **Setting specific targets in 2010 (Lisbon strategy)**

2. Recommendations from the HLG (0): Ethnic minority

- The work of the HLG and its report concentrate on those people whose ethnicity or cultural identity is different from the majority in a given society
- It only deals with them, insofar as they are socially disadvantaged or vulnerable, particularly in terms of labor market access or full participation in the economic and social life.

2. Recommendations from the HLG (I): The mandate

The group's was:

- *To analyze how to achieve better social integration of ethnic minorities and their full participation in the labor market within the European Union,*
- *To submit, before the end of the '2007 European Year of Equal Opportunities for All', a report containing recommendations on the policies to be implemented in this connection.*



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2. Recommendations from the HLG (II): Barriers

Although there is a lack of comparable data on the labor market outcomes of members of ethnic minorities a lot of evidence has been acquired by social research to support the hypotheses that

- There is an ethnic wage gap which differs from Member State to Member State and from ethnic group to ethnic group;
- **The membership in an ethnic minority is in most cases a social disadvantage *per se*.**

2. Recommendations from the HLG (III): Barriers

- (1) *Lack of education and training*
- (2) *Lack of language skills*
- (3) *Lack of recognition of skills and qualifications*
- (4) *Lack of access to professions*
- (5) *Lack of access to citizenship*
- (6) *Lack of integration policies*
- (7) *Stereotypes, prejudices and negative attitudes*
- (8) *Lack of mobility and concentration in certain areas*
- (9) *Industrial Change*
- (10) *Disincentives through welfare systems*
- (11) *Discrimination*
- (12) *Lack of information*
- (13) *Labor market competition*
- (14) *Undeclared work*

Towards a inclusive society

- Fighting against the discrimination
- Promotion of equal opportunities
- Supporting the diversity management



2. Recommendations from the HLG (IV)

1. Make social inclusion of ethnic minorities, in particular into the labour market, a political agenda priority
2. Pursue equality mainstreaming and gender mainstreaming
3. Identify and address specific barriers to inclusion of ethnic minorities
4. Establish a sustainable long-term policy for inclusive labour markets, using a target, but not ethnically segregated approach

2. Recommendations from the HLG (V)

5. Mobilise all relevant actors, valuing the opportunities and contributions that ethnic minorities can bring to society
6. Allocate enough resources
7. Support mutual learning by highlighting good practices, developing knowledge and strengthening the analytical tools
8. Focus specifically on the implementation of policies to improve the situation of Roma in terms of education, employment, health and housing



Support mutual learning by highlighting good practices, developing knowledge and strengthening the analytical tools

- Support the exchange of good practices
- Support the networking and cooperation of all the actors
- Support the dissemination of successful projects
- Encourage Member States to collect data based on ethnic identity
- Define role models of successful inclusion
- Strength international cooperation



Specific advices for Roma (I)

In order to break the vicious cycle of poverty, a strong focus on education is the only way to a sustainable development

- Invite Member States to invest in pre-school education of Roma children
- Abolish school segregation for Roma children and abolish any kind of channeling of Roma to schools for children with mental disabilities
- Consider the role of families and the living environment
- Analyze together with representatives of Roma civil society which practical barriers, such as a lack of public transport, a lack of learning material, absolute poverty of the family or a lack of language skills prevent Roma children from attending classes successfully
- Encourage the use and the further development of scholarship schemes for Roma, such as the Roma Education Fund
- Invite Member States to reflect about possibilities to apply positive action in favor of Roma graduates

Specific advices for Roma (II)

- Develop and implement a comprehensive Community Action Plan
- **Oversee policies notably with regard to social inclusion and employment to ensure that Roma can fully participate in society and the labour market**
- Guarantee access to rights for the Roma through the full implementation of Directive 2000/43/EC, and encourage Equality Bodies to put a strong focus on the application and enforcement of these rights
- Support the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015 and the OSCE Action Plan of 2003



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Specific advices for Roma (III)

- Set up in 2008 a Task Force on Roma in order to elaborate and implement a Community Action Plan and coordinate Community policies which aim at their social and labor market inclusion
- **Encourage Member States to include the goal of Roma inclusion when drawing up their Operational Programs on the Structural Funds, and in particular on the ESF**
- **Benefit from the experience acquired in the ACCEDER project financed under the ESF** which was targeted on neighborhoods with a high Roma population and aimed at improving the employability of people by improving the whole environment including housing and health services
- **Use the whole range of positive action** to create equal opportunities for Roma, in particular for young people and women

3. Structural Funds: Facing New Challenges (I)

Close links between employment and social inclusion

- The itinerary approach to inclusion as a standard model
- The social intervention requires relationship between active employment policies and social policies.

3. Structural Funds: Facing New Challenges (II)

Combining the target approach with the mainstreaming approach

- Adapt processes to beneficiaries
- Specific and specialised actions combined with integrated and normalized services

3. Structural Funds: Facing New Challenges (III)

Combining the national approach and the local approach

- A national programme allows to invest in activities which in a local level would be very expensive
- Complementary approach
- Mutual learning and synergies between different regions
- Aligned with national policies

3. Structural Funds: Facing New Challenges (IV)

Partnership as an approach to work

- In relation to public administrations
- With the business framework
- With third sector entities
- Attracting all kinds of resources

3. Structural Funds: Facing New Challenges (V)

Capacity building of the third-sector

- Stability of long term activities
- A proactive role as players in social-employment inclusion
- Training up the organisations concerned
- Better establishment for the organizations in the field of social and labour inclusion
- A new role as service providers
- Lessons learnt have been transferred to wider areas of action

3. STRUCTURAL FUNDS: Facing new challenges (VI)

Values provide by the third-sector

- Experience and specialist knowledge
- Flexibility and adaptation
- Work with individuals and their families as a whole
- Innovation linked to the capacity for risk
- Fostering a real degree of empowerment and encouraging them to be proactive

4. The Added Value of the Network

- Providing better information
- Mutual Learning
- Transferring experiences
- Putting the subjects in the political agenda
- Providing guidelines
- Springboard for others partnerships
- Leading the process

