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 were 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 measurable 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)?
Strategic and operational consultancy
Social challenges in the European Union

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