

EURoma Network: contributing to improve the use of Structural Funds for Roma inclusion

Overview 2008-2015



Structural Funds: Investing in Roma



European Network on Social Inclusion and Roma under the Structural Funds

Initiative launched by the Spanish Government (ESF MA) and the *Fundación Secretariado Gitano* in 2007. Based in previous Spanish experience in managing SF for Roma inclusion

Aim: Promoting the use of the Structural Funds for Roma inclusion

Members: public administrations, 12 EU MS (MAs and NRCPS)

Member States

- Bulgaria
- Czech Republic
- Finland
- Greece
- Hungary
- Italy
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Slovakia
- Spain
- Sweden
- +
- Austria
- Belgium
- Croatia

Partners

- ESF Managing Authorities
- National Roma Contact Points (NRCPs)
- +
- European Commission (DG EMPL)
- Technical Secretariat: Fundación Secretariado Gitano

Working lines

1. Mutual learning, exchange of experiences, approaches and initiatives

***2 meetings per year in all partners' countries
(15 Management Committees' meetings)***

2. Knowledge generation

Reports, proposals, analysis and guides

3. Dissemination and visibility

Web EN/ES: www.euromanet.eu

Newsletters EN/ES

Participation in events

Main topics at the EURoma agenda



- Thematic (employment, education...)
- Relevant issues from EU agenda:
 - National Strategies for Roma Inclusion
 - Amendment of art.7.2. ERDF Regulation (housing interventions for marginalised communities, such as Roma)
 - Going local
 - Potentiality of the integrated approach
 - Implications of the Strategy EU2020
 - Partnership Code of Conduct on Partnership
 - New Youth Employment Initiative
- Special attention paid to new ESIF programming period (2014-2020): follow up, progress, comparative analysis regarding previous programming period

Main products of the EUroma network

- Brief on ethnic data collection (2009)
- Coordination and follow up mechanism of actions aimed at the Roma population supported by Structural Funds (2010)
- Mid-term Report “Roma and the Structural Funds 2010”
- Position Paper: “The potential contribution of the Structural Funds to NRIS” (2011)
- “Analysis of references to the Structural Funds in the NRIS” (2012)
- Position Paper: “Proposals for the future Regulations 2014-2020” (2012)
- “Tackling Roma needs in the 2014-2020 SF programming period. Guide to improve the planning process” (2013)
- “The integrated approach of projects and the combination of EU funds to achieve a higher impact of the interventions for the social inclusion of the Roma community” (2013)
- “Making use of ESIF for Roma Inclusion. A Guide for Local Authorities” (2014)

Dissemination and visibility



- High visibility in the relevant fora at the EU level
- Member at two Consultative Groups with the EC:
 - Structured Dialogue with Experts on ESI Funds (DGREGIO)*
 - EC Regular Meetings with representatives of the civil society, international organisations and academics' networks, on Roma Inclusion.* Led by DG JUST, also gathering others DGs and most relevant ONG, international organisations and networks.
- www.euromanet.eu EN/ES (20.000 visits in 2014)
- Newsletter: over 750 subscriptions. EN/ES

Mentions and acknowledgements

(2009) Vademecum: 10 Common Basic Principles on Roma inclusion

Principle no. 7 on “Use of EU instruments” makes an explicit reference to EUroma: *“benefit from feedback and expert information from the EURoma network on the use of the Structural Funds for Roma”*

(2010) Communication from EC “The social and economic integration of the Roma in Europe”

EC makes a reference to EUroma as an exchange forum for MS and encourages to participate in the Network.

(2011) Council conclusions on an EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020.

Council invites the EC and MS “to enhance cooperation between relevant stakeholders in order to facilitate the exchange of best practices and mutual learning regarding evidence-based policies and successful methods, including by extending and improving existing networks and initiatives such as the EU Roma Network”.

(2011) European Parliament Resolution on the EU strategy on Roma inclusion, (2010/2276(INI))

Calls on the MS to implement the horizontal priority ‘Marginalised Communities’ within the framework of the EU Structural Funds and to participate in the EU-Roma network working on the good implementation of structural funds for Roma social inclusion;

MS can thus significantly contribute towards a concrete solution for the location needs of marginalised groups living in poor housing conditions; also urges the MS to make use of the EU Roma network in order to encourage an exchange of best practices.

(2014) Communication from the EC “Report on the implementation of the EU Framework for National Roma Integration” (COM/2014/0209).

Under the Conclusions: the way forward” in the tasks assigned to the EC “to promote the use of available EU funds, in particular throughout the Euroma network, and strengthen the capacity of authorities at all levels to efficiently use EU funds to promote social inclusion.

Value of the EURoma Network

- Gathering together those responsible for financial resources (ESF) with those responsible for policies (NRCP).
- Great coverage dimension: 12 MS, including those with higher Roma population
- Steady participation of Network members throughout 8 years of activity (plus new MS as Austria, Belgium and Croatia or candidate country, Turkey).
- Pioneer and innovative: introducing Roma inclusion in the agendas of ESF Managing Authorities (capacity building, training, technical assistance...). Topic that was almost no-existent until then.
- Involvement of the European Commission shows the value of the Network: EURoma has been fully aligned with EC principles and has created valuable synergies (reinforced, promoted and disseminated)
- Open to other key actors (ERDF Managing Authorities, FRA, Council of Europe, Committee of the Regions, local and regional administrations, OSF, REF, ETF, the World Bank, UNDP, NGOs...)

Impact of EURoma Network



- To boost the idea that SF are a key financial and political tool to promote Roma inclusion
- To align resources with policies
- To integrate the Roma issue within the Structural Funds agenda in a more efficient and coherent way with existing needs
- To agree on approaches, strategies and action priorities to make a more efficient use of funds



Current programming period 2014-2020 and Regulations: Roma inclusion has been included explicitly as an Investment Priority. Roma inclusion is now more present and visible in OPs than before

Proposals for 2014-2020



- Connecting the OP with the NRIS**
- Guarantee that Roma population benefit from mainstream programmes while there are specific actions targeting them to overcome disadvantages**
- Encouraging integrated approaches aiming at Roma integration in the OP**
- Following a territorial and micro-territorial approach in OP**
- Incorporating the horizontal principle of non-discrimination**
- Involving stakeholders starting in the planning process of the OPs**
- Making use of existing information and reports on the Roma situation and promoting new ones**
- Getting accurate data**



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