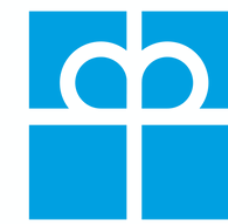


2024 ROMA INCLUSION NETWORK MEETING

Building inclusive communities through inclusive education
7th & 8th November, Budapest



DAY 2

9:00 – 9:40	<p>Social Europe Academy I - EU Policy & Funding Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establishment of the new European Commission• Assessment on the implementation of the NRSFs <p><i>Karina Smreková, Policy Assistant & Andrea Sánchez Caballero, Policy & Membership Development Officer, Eurodiaconia</i></p>
9:40-11:00	<p>Social Europe Academy II - Capacity-building workshop “Tackling anti-gypsyism/anti-roma racism in diaconal service provision”</p> <p><i>Bianca Irina Cristea, Program Developer, Kirkens Bymisjon, Norway Daniel Tesfa Salole, Social Worker, Kirkens Bymisjon, Norway</i></p>
11:00-11:20	Coffee break
11:20-13:00	<p>Co-creating recommendations & future priorities of the Roma Network</p> <p><i>Karina Smreková, Policy Assistant & Andrea Sánchez Caballero, Policy & Membership Development Officer, Eurodiaconia</i></p>



Social Europe Academy I

EU Policy Update

Karina Smreková, Policy Assistant
Andrea Sánchez Caballero, Policy & Membership
Development Officer



EU POLICY UPDATE

1. New European Commission

a. Commissioner for Preparedness and Crisis Management,
and Equality

2. Assessment of the implementation of the National Roma

Strategic Frameworks (RNSFs)



New European Commission

Presentation of the New Commissioners

Shape the new direction of the European Institutions for the upcoming legislative period (2024-2029)

President Ursula von der Leyen introduced her new team on the 27th of September.

The college of Commissioners: 27 Commissioners, one from each EU MS.

Confirmation hearings for Commissioners-designate

Announced from the 4th to the 12th of November.

EU Parliamentary Committees hold these public hearings. The Parliament will vote to approve or reject the Commission as a whole.

- The threat of rejecting the Commission is a powerful tool to push for individual replacements

Then, European Council, acting by qualified majority, formally appoints the Commission's new leadership.



New actors



Hadja Lahbib

Commissioner for Preparedness
and Crisis Management, and
Equality



Roxana Mînzatu

Executive Vice-President for
People, Skills and Preparedness

Mission Letter: Preparedness and Crisis Management, and Equality

Mission Letter to the Commissioner

- Presenting a new Anti-Racism Strategy, with the aim of ensuring that all people are able to live lives free of the barriers that racism creates.
- Putting forward resolute actions to address discrimination, hate speech and hate crimes.
- Safeguarding the rights of persons belonging to minorities in Europe.
- Implementation of the EU Strategic Framework for Roma equality, inclusion and participation and improve the lives of marginalised Roma communities in Europe.

- Downgrading of the equality portfolio?
 - > strong civil society response
 - > commitment to be “100% Equality Commissioner”
 - > mainstreaming equality across EU policies combined with specific measures

> passed hearing with the Committees, next up vote on the College of Commissioners as a whole in the European Parliament Plenary

Commissioner for People, Skills and Preparedness

- Focus on strengthening education and skills development > help reduce the education gap that disproportionately affects Roma communities
- Child Guarantee: prevent and fight social exclusion through education, healthcare and other essential public services
- EU Anti-Poverty Strategy: access to the essential protections and services, addressing the root causes of poverty



Policy Developments – Assessment of the implementation of the National Roma Strategic Frameworks

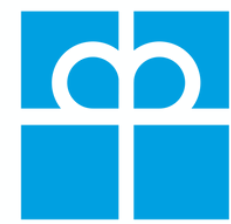


Roma Strategic Framework 2020-2030

2021: **Development**/implementation NRSFs

2024: EUCOM Assessment of the **implementation** NRSFs

2023: EUCOM Assessment of the **NRSFs**
(2023 Eurodiaconia Roma Inclusion Network Meeting, Bratislava)

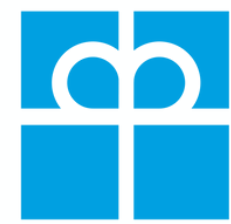


What can Eurodiaconia members do?

- NRSFs are the gateway to engage at national level
 - MS have to report **every 2 years** (from 2023 onwards)
 - Commitments agreed on the NRSFs and national targets
- **Monitor the implementation and the reports** of the NRSFs in your home country
 - Results must be public + discussed in the Parliament
- **Inform policy-makers on social agents' perspective:**
 - *What are the existing gaps you can find on the implementation ? What is not being translated into action?*

2025: National Implementation Assessment

2026: Commission report on the progress in implementing the EU and national frameworks



Combatting anti-gypsyism

- Antigypsyism / Anti-Roma Racism: **root cause of Roma exclusion**
- **Combatting antigypsyism across policy areas** in education, employment, healthcare, housing, and essential services.
- 2023 Eurobarometer survey: 65% of EU citizens see discrimination against Roma as widespread, up from 61% in 2019.

2023 Assessment Report on National Roma Strategic Frameworks (NRSF):

- Several Member States did not yet present plans to prevent and address antigypsyism, or proposed insufficient measures.

Progress reached:

- Most MS developed specific measures to tackle antigypsyism.
- 13 MS include antigypsyism and anti-Roma discrimination as a separate category in anti-discrimination reports or surveys.
- 14 MS explicitly recognise antigypsyism in their legal frameworks.
- Equality Bodies in 21 MS track cases of antigypsyism & anti-Roma discrimination.

Challenges:

- Limited Reach: Current initiatives are often limited in scope and impact.
- Persisting discriminatory practices in law enforcement.

Combatting anti-gypsyism in enlargement countries

- Western Balkan countries have adopted national Roma frameworks that explicitly recognize and address antigypsyism, aligning with EU objectives

Challenges:

- Antigypsyism isn't tracked as a distinct category in anti-discrimination reports.
- EU funds are not yet fully utilized to address antigypsyism or desegregation efforts.

Recommendations

- **Set Clear Targets & Indicators:** Establish specific goals and measurable indicators to maximize the impact of antigypsyism policies.
- **Implement Cross-Cutting Measures:** Ensure antigypsyism prevention is integrated across all relevant sectoral policies for consistent, broad impact.
- **Enhance Law Enforcement Training:** Actively provide fundamental rights training to law enforcement.

Education, employment, health and housing

- **Primary focus across MS on education:** reducing segregation, supporting school retention, inclusive quality education
- **Gaps in employment, health and housing**
 - insufficient action and ambition to address the scale of the challenges faced by Roma
 - measures often are project-based, lacking systemic change
- The progress is mixed --> the Commission issued targetted recommendations

Recommendations

- Increase access and participation in **quality inclusive and desegregated education** + **reduce early school leaving and underachievement**
- More ambitious integration of **Roma in the labour market**
- Ensure access to **housing and essential services**
- Increased focus on Roma's **health literacy and awareness** + increase **knowledge** among medical and social staff on **anti-discrimination for Roma and other minorities**



Segregation in education and housing

- **Educational segregation remains a significant concern** - from minimal to no progress reported - limited political will and low local capacity
- **Scope?**
 - 14 MS **acknowledge** educational and spatial segregation of Roma - 12 MS face both types (BE, BG, CZ, ES, HR, HU, IT, NL, PT, RO, SI, SK)
 - **Only 3 MS implemented** regional/local desegregation programs in education: CZ, ES, HU
- 14 MS developed actions for **spatial segregation**:
 - social housing and relocation,
 - infrastructure improvement in Roma localities,
 - settlement eradication and
 - monitoring of Roma presence in segregated areas

EU Action

- **3 infringement cases against CZ, SK, HU - Breach of the Racial Equality Directive**
- **In 2023: Slovakia was referred to the ECJ**

Recommendations

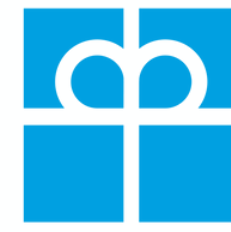
- **Establish accurate estimates:** MS must gather data on segregation to inform targeted strategies and design comprehensive programs
- **Improve local implementation:** encourage local authorities to create/enforce action plan to eliminate segregation
- **Stronger cooperation frameworks** between local authorities, civil society and educational institutions for effective implementation
- Identify and mobilise EU, national and local **funding** to support desegregation and improve housing conditions

Participation

- **Increased involvement of Roma NGOs:** involved in anti-gypsyism initiatives in 20 MS, but just in 8 concerning spatial and educational desegregation
- Roma NGOs part of the **monitoring committees for EU funded projects** in 10 MS
- 18 MS set up **national platforms for Roma consultation**
- **Increased political representation** at municipal level in 10 MS
- Some positive developments, but **remaining challenges**
 - Need for stronger Roma leadership, capacity building and youth participation
 - Insufficient resources and limited influence in the decision-making

Recommendations

- **Maximize Roma involvement** by actively including Roma in implementing the NRSFs and EU funded programs in all MS
- **Build up the capacity of Roma civil society**, especially, to increase collaboration with authorities. Also, in issues such a segregation
- **Encourage stronger local action** by closely involving Roma NGOs to tackle spatial and educational segregation in highly affected countries (e.g. HU, RO, and SK)



Resources

- Mission Letter - Hadja Lahbib, Commissioner for Preparedness and Crisis Management; Equality
- Briefing for members: European Commission Roma Strategic Framework for equality, inclusion and participation
- Eurodiaconia Assessment of the National Roma Strategic Frameworks
- Monitor progress in achieving the policy objectives and targets: Portfolio of indicators
- European Commission's Assessment report of the Member States' national Roma strategic frameworks (January 2023)
- [European Commission's Assessment report of the Member States' implementation of the national Roma Strategic Frameworks \(September 2024\)](#)

National Roma Contact Points and NRSFs: [contact information](#)

Stay up to date with the latest in EU policy - Our team shares monthly **EU Policy highlights** covering our main working areas, including Migration, and Roma Inclusion.

If you want to sign up to our Policy newsletter, please email donal.brady@eurodiaconia.org

Roma Inclusion Network 2023

- **Structural barriers:** anti-gypsyism + school and spatial segregation contribute to an education and skills gap
- **Eurodiaconia's Position:**
 - Leverage the European Skills Agenda and Year of Skills for inclusivity.
 - Roma needs should be integrated across policy frameworks, not isolated.
- **Advocacy Goals:**
 - Inclusive Curricula: Incorporate Roma history and culture in schools.
 - Support for Educators: Train and increase representation of Roma professionals.
 - Implement active spatial and educational desegregation.
 - Low-Threshold Support: Offer re-skilling programs and outreach to include marginalized Roma.
 - Intersectional Approach: Address diverse needs in education, skilling, and employment policies, with support for service providers promoting inclusivity.

