**United Nations**

**Questionnaire of the Special Rapporteur on minority issues to Member States**

**HUNGARY**

**1. What is the estimated size of the Roma population? Are Roma communities concentrated in certain parts of the country? Please attach any relevant data.**

***Statistical data:***

The most numerous nationality group in Hungary are the Roma/Gypsies. Three of their large language communities are known, these are the Hungarian-speaking ***“Romungros”***, the ***“Roma”*** (Vlach Romani) speaking both Hungarian and the Romani language, and the ***“Bayash”*** Gypsies speaking Hungarian and the archaic Romanian language.

During the 2011 census, the number of those giving a reply to questions regarding nationality affiliation has significantly increased with regard to most of the nationalities; the average increase is 50%. The largest population, with 315 583 persons (205 720 persons in 2001) is the Roma community living in Hungary, of which about 54.3 thousand (48,4 thousand in 2001) persons declared themselves of Romani or Bayash mother tongue, which means a 12% increase in the perspective of a decade. Based on the data, the number of those declaring themselves of Roma nationality has increased to about 150% during one decade, however, the recent declaration may still account for only half of the Roma population estimated according to sociology research. The ratio of the urban Roma population was 47.2% in 2011, that is, they account for almost half of the Roma population. The number of those living in the capital has almost doubled.

A significant proportion of Roma still continues to live in the most disadvantaged regions of the country, affected by economic, infrastructural, and employment problems; their number and proportion is highest in the regions of Northern Hungary, the Northern Great Plain, Southern Transdanubia, as well as in the capital. In 1% of all settlements, i.e. in 32 settlements, the ratio of the number of Roma is above 50%: of these, 3 settlements are around 100% (Alsószentmárton 99%, Csenyéte 89%, Pálmajor 92%). 3.2 % of the total population is Roma, the distribution of age groups of the Roma community has not changed much during the past 10 years: the age group below 14 years has increased by 3%, the age group between 15-39 years increased by 1.5%, and the age group between 40-59 years increased by 1%. On the basis of sociology data of the Roma, based on the education completed and the employment situation, 7.1% of the age group under 14 of the total population are Roma children who account for almost 1/3 of the Roma population. The working age group (aged 15-39 and 40-59) make up 63% of the Roma, while the proportion of those above 60 is 12%.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Population by nationality and highest education completed, 2011** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Nationality** | **Did not complete 1st year of primary school** | **Primary school grade** | | | | **Secondary school** | | | **University, college, etc.** | | **Total**  **(100%)** |
| **1–3.** | **4–5.** | **6–7.** | **8.** | **without final exam and** | | **With final (school leaving) exam** | **without a degree** | **with a degree**  **(%)** |
|  | | | | **without final vocational exam** | **with final vocational exam** |
| **Roma** | **61 386** | **28 226** | **26 891** | **33 457** | **101 620** | **22 737** | **27 884** | **9 882** | **893** | **2 607**  **(0,83%)** | **315 583** |
| Nationality affiliation: | 75 877 | 34 827 | 32 925 | 46 829 | 147 275 | 37 988 | 81 611 | 92 981 | 11 578 | 76 614  (12,0%) | 638 505 |

Data in %

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **%** | **Primary school** | | **Vocational training** | **Final (school leaving) exam** | **Diploma** | **Employed** | **Un-employed** | **Inactive** | **Dependent** |
| **-8** | **+8** |  |  |  |
| **total population/ Roma** | 8,2 | 5,4 | 1,5 | 0,4 | 0,2 |  |  |  |  |
| **Roma** | 48 | 39 | 8,8 | 3,4 | 0,8 | 16,4 | 13,0 | 23,0 | 47,7 |

Source: Hungarian Central Statistical Office

***Connections with the strategy:***

Chapter 3 of the Hungarian National Social Inclusion Strategy (hereinafter referred to as HNSIS) includes an analysis regarding the situation of the Roma. In order to adopt adequate measures it is essential to be aware of the most up-to-date data.

Based on the data of the Population Census 2011, the Hungarian Central Statistical Office (hereinafter referred to as HCSO) has drawn up a study titled Estimates on the size and regional distribution of the population with “Roma ties”.[[1]](#footnote-1) According to the data sets, the size of the Roma population in the country is 553 882, this number adds up to 5.7% of the population living in private households. Therefore this population consists of such people who live in households where there is at least one person who identified themselves in the Census as a person having Roma affiliations. The outcome is still a lower number than the amount of those people who are labeled as Roma by their environment.

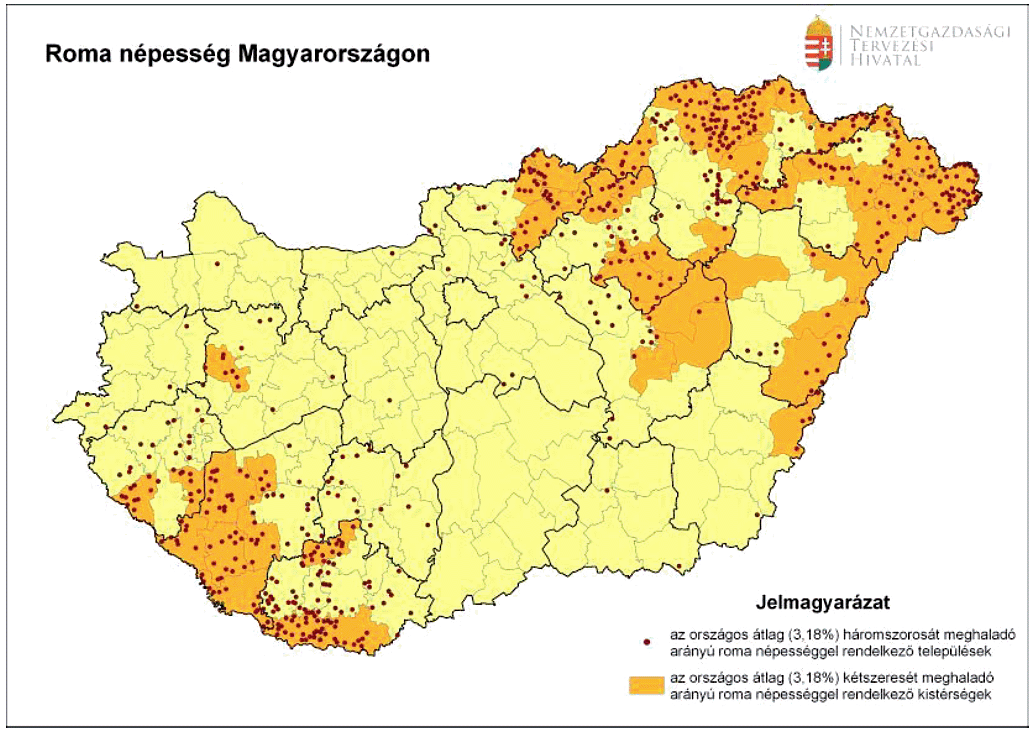
***Regional distribution:***

The territorial distribution of the Roma population is uneven in the country. Examining the county level, it can be stated that the Roma population is present at the highest numbers, more than 90 thousand people in Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén county, where this number adds up to 13.6% of the population. In terms of proportion, the Roma population is almost as numerous in Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county as well (13.5%, about 74,000 people). A population of 77,000 Roma people live in Budapest and Pest county together, however, this number only accounts for a lower proportion of the whole population. However, the proportion of the Roma population in Nógrád and Heves counties is higher than 10%. The other end of the scale is Győr-Moson-Sopron county (with 1.8%, less than 8,000 people), and Vas county (with 2.5%, about 6,000 people).

Differences are greater on the micro-regional level. According to the results, in 2011 there were 9 such micro-regions in Hungary where the population with Roma ties exceeded 20%. Out of these, 4 micro-regions (Edelény, Encs, Kazincbarcika, Abaúj-Hegyköz) are located in the Northern part of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén county. Three micro-regions are located near the North-Eastern borders of the country (Szécsény, Bodrogköz, Fehérgyarmat), and one is located on the borders of Baranya (Sellye). Moreover, the proportion of the population with Roma ties is also high in the sub-region of Heves (25.8%). There are 18 micro-regions in the group of those micro-regions where the proportion of Roma population is between 15-20%, and these are located in the North-Eastern and Southern-Transdanubian part of the country.

In terms of the size of the population, the most numerous Roma communities, with numbers higher than 10,000, live in Budapest, and the micro-regions of Miskolc, Ózd, and Mátészalka, but the size of the population is also greater than 9,000 people in the micro-regions of Jászberény and Edelény as well.

On municipal level, examining the size of the municipality, it can be stated that the distribution of the population with Roma ties is extremely uneven. According to our data, there are only 18 municipalities where the process of ethnical ghettoization can be considered complete, that is, where the population consists almost exclusively of Roma (more than 90% percent). (Drávaiványi, Ózdfalu, Pettend, Kiscsécs, Alsószentmárton, Pálmajor, Babarcszőlős, Beret, Siklósnagyfalu, Bódvalenke, Adorjás, Szakácsi, Csenyéte, Uszka, Rinyabesenyő, Gilvánfa, Abaújszolnok, Rakaca) These municipalities – with the exceptions of Alsószentmárton and Rakaca – are small villages with populations less than 500 people, and their population together adds up to only 5,800 people. These municipalities are typically located in Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén and Baranya counties.

** Source: Office for National Economic Planning

**Proportion of population with Roma ethnicity or Roma ties by county, 2011**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **County** | **Population living in private housedolds** | **Number of people with Roma ethnicity (HCSO)** | **Number of people with Roma ties (Hungarian Demographic Research Institute)** | **Proportion of people with Roma ties** |
| **Budapest** | 1 681 065 | 18 392 | 34 580 | 2,1% |
| **Baranya** | 375 258 | 17 016 | 30 357 | 8,1% |
| **Bács-Kiskun** | 508 496 | 10 535 | 21 956 | 4,3% |
| **Békés** | 349 700 | 9 413 | 17 350 | 5,0% |
| **Borsod-Abaúj** | 671 292 | 57 580 | 91 248 | 13,6% |
| **Csongrád** | 404 336 | 4 523 | 10 911 | 2,7% |
| **Fejér** | 414 397 | 5 480 | 13 623 | 3,3% |
| **Győr-Moson-Sopron** | 435 561 | 3 162 | 7 809 | 1,8% |
| **Hajdú-Bihar** | 531 071 | 18 108 | 34 476 | 6,5% |
| **Heves** | 301 474 | 19 311 | 30 963 | 10,3% |
| **Komárom-Esztergom** | 299 137 | 4 264 | 8 802 | 2,9% |
| **Nógrád** | 198 651 | 15 091 | 24 425 | 12,3% |
| **Pest** | 1 199 391 | 20 107 | 42 366 | 3,5% |
| **Somogy** | 307 707 | 16 473 | 30 178 | 9,8% |
| **Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg** | 545 625 | 43 752 | 73 701 | 13,5% |
| **Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok** | 379 314 | 18 840 | 34 439 | 9,1% |
| **Tolna** | 225 386 | 8 857 | 15 121 | 6,7% |
| **Vas** | 249 357 | 2 414 | 6 154 | 2,5% |
| **Veszprém** | 343 862 | 5 114 | 11 320 | 3,3% |
| **Zala** | 276 119 | 7 036 | 14 103 | 5,1% |
| **Total:** | **9 697 199** | **305 468** | **553 882** | **5,7%** |

Source: HCSO 2011.

***Results:***

Based on the data of the Population Census 2011, the Hungarian Central Statistical Office has drawn up a study titled Estimates on the size and regional distribution of the population with “Roma ties” II: Estimates on the population with Roma ties, data sets.

***Challenges:***

The management of ethnic data is challenging.

***New objectives:***

The order regarding the estimation procedures of Roma participation in programs is included in the Technical Assistance project of the Ministry of Human Capacities.

**2. Does your State collect socio-economic data such as poverty and unemployment rates, healthcare data, living conditions, educational levels, income levels or rates of economic participation disaggregated by different population groups, including Roma? What does such data reveal in regard to the situation of Roma? Please, attach relevant data if available. In the absence of such data what is the source of information your State relies upon to develop various measures and programmes for Roma inclusion?**

***Connections with the strategy:***

Chapter 3 of the HNSIS includes the situation analysis. However, in order to adopt adequate measures it is essential to be aware of the most up-to-date data.

***Results:***

The HCSO, by the initiative of the Ministry of Human Capacities, introduced the question about ethnical identity in its large-scale data collections in order to meet user needs in examining the progress of Roma integration, and especially of the National Social Inclusion Strategy. The basis for the method is the question used in censuses, which was also tested in the Labour force-data collection prior to its introduction in 2013. The sample of the labour-force survey covers 68,000 people between the ages of 15-74, uses 38,000 households, assesses ethnic identity with two questions, and allows for dual identities (which can be regarded as typical in Hungary). The same method was applied in the European Health Survey which was carried out in 2014. The question regarding ethnical identity was included in the EU-SILC data collection as well. The sample for data collection consisted of 20,000 people aged 16 or older, and 10,000 households. In this data set, in order to lower the costs of data providers, only one question concerned ethnic identity, however, the 2 options for the answer gives room for dual identity.

***Challenges:***

The management of ethnic data is challenging.

***New objectives:***

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**3. Is there any ongoing national policy/strategy/action plan to ensure Roma inclusion in the political, social, economic and cultural life of your country? If so, please explain how these measures are developed, designed, implemented, monitored and evaluated in consultation with, and with the effective participation of Roma, including Roma women. If your State has already reported on similar issues to other international or regional organizations, please share existing relevant reports and/or documentation.**

***Connections with the strategy:***

The Government adopted the National Social Inclusion Strategy (2011-2020) in 2011, which contains a detailed situation analysis, and a three-year action plan. In 2014, the strategy was reviewed. The revised strategy was adopted in January 2014, by the title Hungarian National Social Inclusion Strategy (HNSIS) II.

Main areas of the HNSIS include the following: employment, education, housing, regional convergence, creating opportunities in healthcare areas, as well as inclusion, shaping attitudes, and combating discrimination.

***Results:***

The monitoring system of the HNSIS was set up (see chapter 9). The development of the system is in progress, the aim of which is to be able to monitor the implementation of programs and measures, and the changes of the social environment in a more up-to-date manner.

In order to monitor social effects, an indicator-system was set up in parallel with the HNSIS target system. This makes it possible to monitor social processes and changes that are relevant to the implementation of the strategy. The indicator system is compatible with the objectives of the EU2020 Strategy, and the indicator system of the national counter-child poverty strategy titled “Let Children Have a Better Life!” was also used in its development. Based on the indicator system, the analysis of social processes was drawn up by the TÁRKI Social Research Institute in 2014.

As parts of the strategy, in order to monitor and to plan further actions, research and analyzes are also carried out funded partially from EU funds.

The already completed large-scale Roma-research indicates the changes in the living conditions of the Roma in comparison with previous data collections (2003, 1993, and 1971). The final report and data about the research can be accessed on the website of the National Institute for Family and Social Policy.[[2]](#footnote-2) Estimations on the size of the Roma population, and basic demographic characteristics about the Roma population were included in the research of the Demographic Research Institute, based on census data. The data about the population with Roma ties provide an adequate basis for planning and monitoring developments. The indicator system was established in cooperation with the HCSO, the development of which we are planning. It should also be mentioned that we provide support for the TÁRKI Social Research Institute to carry out the “Household Monitor” research, the aim of which is to provide data on the living conditions of the Roma population.[[3]](#footnote-3)

Closely linked to the monitoring of social effects, we pay special attention to the monitoring of concrete programs and measures included in the action plan. A reporting system was also developed with the help of KPMG international consulting company, in order to supervise closely the programs in connection with social inclusion. A monitoring committee was set up in the framework of the Inter-Ministerial Committee for Social Inclusion and Roma Affairs as an inter-sectorial coordination and consultation forum. The Monitoring Committee regularly examines the effects of strategic actions and governmental interventions. The annual monitoring reports (two reports are completed so far) carried out in the framework of the monitoring system are accessible on the website of the state secretary.[[4]](#footnote-4)

The Hungarian Central Statistical Office, in its large-scale population surveys (the Labour-force survey, the EU-SILC national data collection, and the European Health Survey, etc.), continuously introduces the question regarding Roma identity, with the help of which we can gain detailed information about the social situation of the Roma population.

The transparency of the monitoring, the attached data, and the indicators are essential. For this purpose, we are developing the information system of the social inclusion, which is based on the Social Sectorial Information System that operates in the framework of the National Regional Development and Regional Planning Information System. Data upload to this system is continuous. This system, besides planning and decision-making functions, also serves the purpose of monitoring the strategy. Alongside with other data, the indicator system of the strategy is also available, the update of which is the task of the consecutive period.

The revised and updated Hungarian National Social Inclusion Strategy II. was the subject of discussion at the Government meeting of 22 January 2014, where – among other strategies that serve the fulfillment of the ex-ante criteria – the “HNSIS II., the Framework strategy for the policy of lifelong learning, the Public education development strategy, and the Medium-term strategy against school leaving without qualifications were adopted in the 1603/2014. (XI. 4.) Government Resolution.

In connection with this, we started the preparation of the action plan for the years of 2015-2017. During the preparations, we pay special attention to the program-indicators to be in compliance with the indicator and target-system of the strategy, that is, the relationship between the measures and the strategic goal should be unequivocal.

***Challenges:***

The horizontal representation of the perspectives of social inclusion in other sectors, and the monitoring of its enforcement sets a challenge. Also, even less attention is paid to the perspective of Roma women.

***New objectives:***

The development of a dynamic indicator system: it is essential for the assessment of the results of the social inclusion-related developments to elaborate a unified impact assessment methodology, which defines various qualitative and quantitative aspects and algorithms to carry out the assessment and to display the effects. Within this framework, the analysis of the current and proposed macro-level, static LHH indicators, as well as the local-level and project-level, dynamic indicators regarding social inclusion is carried out. The cost-benefit analysis (CBA) plays an important role in the methodology. The goal is to identify all the possible effects and indicators in order to define the costs and advantages of each development. After summarizing the results, conclusions can be drawn whether it is worth implementing the given development.

**4. How strategies or policy measures for inclusion take into systematic consideration the specific conditions, situations and needs of Roma women, including in the areas of access to adequate education, healthcare and reproductive rights? Please attach the most relevant information including, if applicable, specific measures taken to combat segregation and/or multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination faced by Roma women, as well as the main measurable achievements in these areas.**

***Connections with the strategy:***

Improving the situation of Roma women and reducing the multiple disadvantages of Roma women are two of the main political priorities of the Hungarian National Social Inclusion Strategy. Multiple discrimination, that is, the combination of gender-based and ethnic discrimination hits Roma women in the most complex way. Unemployment, low level of education, persistent poverty, poor health conditions, inadequate living conditions, and low economic and social status altogether cause multiple (intersectional) social exclusion. According to the latest census data, only 11.1% of Roma women hold at least vocational qualification, while the same percentage in case of men is 15.0%.[[5]](#footnote-5)

Population by ethnicity, economic activity, and gender, 2001-2011.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ethnicity | Employed | Unemployed | Inactive earner | Dependent | Total |
|
| Roma WOMEN |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2001 | 7 340 | 7 169 | 36 371 | 50 438 | 101 318 |
| % | 7,24% | 7,08% | 35,90% | 49,78% |  |
| 2011 | 18 463 | 17 154 | 46 999 | 73 323 | 155 939 |
| % | 11,84% | 11,00% | 30,14% | 47,02% |  |
| change in percentage | 4,60% | 3,92% | -5,76% | -2,76% |  |

Source: [www.nepszamlalas.hu](http://www.nepszamlalas.hu)

***Results:***

The program titled “Nő az esély” aims at improving the low employment rates for Roma women. The aim of the project (TÁMOP-5.3.1.-B-2 “Employment embedded in training for Roma people in the social and child welfare system”) is to improve the social inclusion and employment of Roma women, by supporting their employment in the institutions of the social and child welfare system. It is expected that due to the effects of the development, the minimum 15-months long employment of 700 Roma people (primarily women) will be possible. The allocation for the tender is 1.4 billion Forints. In November 2013, the group of candidates who can apply for the tender was extended to public education institutions (nursery schools). Employment is also associated with training. The inclusion of Roma women in the subsidized employment program not only has a positive effect on employment, but also establishes a system of connections and raises confidence between Roma communities and social institutions.

Improvement of the situation of Roma women can only be achieved with the active participation of the target group. It is therefore necessary to support their role in public life. Roma women’s non-governmental organizations have an important role in this process. Therefore, the development of these organizations, the promotion of their cooperation, and the establishment and improvement of long-term relationship is a primary task. We would like to promote the establishment of Roma women’s NGOs, and the support for existing organizations with the Human Resources Operational Programme.

***Challenges:***

Taking into account intersectional exclusion of Roma of women is a challenge.

***New objectives:***

According to our plans, we would like to strengthen the role of Roma women in three areas in Human Resources Operational Programme. On the one hand, we would like to generate the participation of Roma women in civil society organizations, on the other hand, their greater participation in cultural life, and thirdly, the presence and cooperation of Roma women in local governments.

**5. Is there any available information and data about violence against Roma population, especially women and children? If yes, what are the different forms of violence they experience and what measures have been taken to assist, protect, and compensate the victims?**

***Connections with the strategy:***

The analysis of Hungarian National Social Inclusion Strategy highlights abuses and violence against Roma women.

There are few available figures with regard to human trafficking and sexual exploitation against Roma women in Central and Eastern Europe, though numerous reports on human trafficking highlighted the fact that minority groups, particularly Roma communities (in Europe), and girls growing up in children’s homes (among whom Roma children are overrepresented in Central and Eastern Europe) are particularly vulnerable to this human rights violation.

***Results:***

Section 216 of Act C of 2012 on the Criminal Code (hereinafter referred to as Criminal Code) regulates the state of affairs on violence against a member of the community: “Section 216 (1) Any person who displays an apparently anti-social behaviour against others for being part, whether in fact or under presumption, of a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, or of a certain societal group, in particular on the grounds of disability, gender identity or sexual orientation, of aiming to cause panic or to frighten others, is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment not exceeding three years.” The purpose of this legislator was to separately regulate hate crimes, and to protect particularly vulnerable groups.

The Government established[[6]](#footnote-6) Human Rights Working Group as a consultative and advisory body. The main task of the Working Group is to monitor the enforcement of human rights in Hungary, to carry out consultation with various organizations, and to promote professional communications regarding the enforcement of human rights in Hungary. The Working Group acts as an inter-ministerial body, composed of those Ministers of State whose portfolio has a considerable human rights aspect, while its president is the Parliamentary State Secretary of the Ministry of Justice.

Three thematic working groups of the Human Rights Working Group held a joint meeting on 13 February 2015 in order to discuss issues on law enforcement relating to hate crimes. The Task Force against Hate Crimes which composes of the members of NGOs made a special case summary to the meeting, which described several attacks against Roma.[[7]](#footnote-7) Furthermore, the Hungarian police set up a special line against hate crimes to investigate such cases.

***Challenges:***

A significant proportion of victims of human trafficking are still Roma women. The victim protection and prevention requires continuous improvement.

***New objectives:***

In the second three-year action plan of the Hungarian National Social Inclusion Strategy, we would like to launch and develop an awareness-raising campaign on the risk of victimization, as well as training for prevention.

**6. Has your Government identified the main priority areas for Roma inclusion? If yes, what are the main goals? Please provide relevant details in this respect, as well as an estimate of funds allocated on measures relating to national strategies and policies for Roma inclusion.**

***Connections with the strategy:***

The Hungarian National Social Inclusion Strategy II, Permanently deprived, children living in poor families, Roma (2011-2020) includes the main priorities of the social inclusion policy.

***The basic purpose of the Hungarian National Social Inclusion Strategy is*** to contribute to the fulfilment of the most important objectives the country faces: the economic recovery, the considerable expansion of employment by transferring the values of work-based society into practice, poverty reduction, strengthening of social security.

***Target group of the strategy:*** people living in extreme poverty, families with young children, Roma, and particularly Roma women

***Areas of intervention:***

1. **Child well-being**
2. **Regional disparities**
3. **Education and training**
4. **Employment**
5. **Health**
6. **Housing**
7. **Inclusion, awareness-raising, fight against phenomena of discrimination**

The social inclusion strategy and the local implementation of equality expectations is promoted by one of the chapters of Equal Treatment Act amended by Act LXXXVI 2012, which requires that the municipality will only be granted by national budget, EU funds, or grants of other programs funded by international agreements based on individual decisions if it has existing local equal opportunity programme complies with law provisions. Within the framework of local equal opportunity programme, local governments prepare analysis on the situation of disadvantaged social groups’ social welfare, education, employment, health and housing situation, and form an action plan to comprehensively manage problems identified in the analysis. In order to ensure that measures taken for the change of the situation and deal with the problems of target groups (people in long-term need – Roma, children, the elderly, women, and people with disabilities) are traceable at the national level, programmes has to be prepared by local governments using a uniform principle.

***Results:***

Intervention areas of the Hungarian National Social Inclusion Strategy were determined in cooperation with other ministries. The implementation of the first action plan is in progress. A detailed report on the implementation is made for the government in each year by using the monitoring system.

The new system of local equality programmes and for its professional support the equal opportunity mentoring network in the István Türr Training and Research Institute was established in order to implement social inclusion policy at regional and local level.

As a result of the work of the equality mentoring network which supports local governments in preparing local equal opportunity programmes, 4044 of the local government staff were trained, and 3078 programmes have been made.

For relevant investment priorities, the Human Resources Operational Programme for the period 2014-2020 includes that “in case of developments regarding target groups of local equality opportunity programmes, local governments are only granted financial assistance if the proposed development fits into their local equal opportunity programme.”

***Challenges:***

The integration of social inclusion into certain policy areas, as a horizontal principle, is a challenge.

***New objectives:***

Closer coordination and the operation of enhanced monitoring system.

Local equality opportunity programme: Strengthening substantive linkages may be a significant step forward.

**7. Does your Government monitor progress made in the area of Roma inclusion in the political, social, economic and culture life of the State?**

**See answers to question 3.**

**8. In the Government’s view, if there are still persistent disparities among Roma and other population groups, what were the failures and what are the ongoing challenges to close the gap and achieve full inclusion of Roma? In which areas is there the biggest need to step up efforts?**

Based on various studies, the Roma population has worse living and working conditions than the rest population of the country. They have significantly lower educational attainment and employment indicators. Therefore the proportion of poor people is very high among them, both in relative and absolute terms. Compared to the corresponding age groups, their state of health, and housing conditions are much worse, and their consumption habits are scarcer in terms of durable consumer goods and nutrition.

One of the main reasons of the social exclusion of the Roma population is the very low level of education. About four-fifths of the Roma population has only primary education. 5% of the Roma finish secondary education and only 1% has a diploma. Roma women have even worse educational indicators. Low educational level has a direct impact on the labour market situation, as well. With regard to employment, the difference between Roma and non-Roma people is twofold on the basis of data of 2011. In case of long-term unemployment, the difference between the two populations is fivefold.

***Connections with the strategy:***

The situation analysis of the Hungarian National Social Inclusion Strategy includes numerous findings concerning the main areas.

***Results:***

The social inclusion strategy and its action plan formulated interventions in response to these areas in the previous period. The framework agreement between the National Roma Self-Government and the Government in 2011 and the stipulated measures aimed to tackle these problems. Interventions target local communities and individuals in the most disadvantaged situation, and without local resources.

***Challenges:***

Social inclusion can be substantively strengthened in a multi-year horizon, and with complex measures, coordinated in a multi-sector space, time, resources, and professional content. However, effects of the measures manifest only in the longer term, immediate spectacular results are not to be expected in most areas.

***New objectives:***

The new three-year action plan of the Hungarian National Social Inclusion Strategy includes interventions addressing persistent problems and requiring collective multi-sectorial action, while their implementation is monitored through the monitoring system.

**9. Is Roma history and culture part of the national curriculum? Is the International Roma Day celebrated and if yes, how?**

***Connections with the strategy:***

Chapter 7 of the HNSIS deals with inclusion, shaping attitudes, and combatting discrimination. Social inclusion cannot be achieved without the intention of the majority to encourage openness. Supporting and popularizing the Roma culture can be regarded as essential in the first steps of the process. Due to the fact that nurturing of the Roma culture contributes to shaping a positive image of the Roma, besides promoting the cultivation of Roma culture, it is essential to make it possible for the majority of the society to get to know Roma traditions and the value of their culture in Hungary.

***Results:***

***Roma Culture Day***

The ’Cigánykerék’ – Roma Values Festival and its extension to rural areas is a part of the 2014 Work plan of the Ministry of Human Capacities and is amongst the relevant aims of the State Secretary for Social Issues, also as a part of the Governmental commemoration of this day.

The program that has been started by the Ministry in 2013 with the aim to create a tradition is intended to expand into a nationwide festival. It serves the social representation of the Roma cultural values as part of the Governmental commemoration of the Roma Culture Day and The International Roma Day.

***Roma content in the National Core Curriculum***

The National Core Curriculum (hereinafter referred to as NCC) assigns a very important role to the Hungarian traditions in general as well as to the development of a national self-consciousness with regards to the self- consciousness of the other ethnicities in Hungary as well.

Consequently, the main knowledge on ethnic groups (while matching the regional and local specificities) must be included in the content-regulation at different levels and it must appear at every stage of schooling in a proportionate way.

In the National Core Curriculum, the topic named „The globalized world and Hungary” appears in the C) Public Literacy section in Section 11. In the curriculum the section of „changes in the Hungarian ethnic minorities and culture of the Roma / Gypsy population situation” appears at the 5-8th grade level. Also at the grade level of 9-12 there is a relevant topic with the title „the process and history of the integration of the culture and traditions of the ethnic minorities living in Hungary (i.e.: the Roma / Gypsy elements of ethnography”. In addition to these, the issue of "The culture and traditions of the ethnic minorities living in Hungary (i.e.: the Roma / Gypsy elements of ethnography) is based within the topic of „Our motherland and the people” (intended for the level of 5-8 grades).

The topics of the ”The nationalities and ethnic minorities living in Hungary” and the “Roma minority” can be found within the Basic- Frame Curriculum, linked to the implementation of the NCC in the chapter „Primary Education”, within the subsection „5-8 grades”. For pupils in the 11th and 12th grade, the subject named „Social, civic and economic knowledge” processes this topic within the context of "Nation, national communities" and "Roma people in Hungary", and it also includes “the problems of social mobility; the history, the situation and the process of the integration of the Roma society, the worlds of the poor and the rich”.

***Challenges:***

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***New objectives:***

So far there is little information about how the new content-regulations introduced in 2013-2014 affect the education. As part of a priority project of the Hungarian Institute for Educational Research and Development (hereinafter referred to as HIERD), textbooks are about to be published, however, among them there are not such books which deal with the topic of holocaust, let alone the topic of Roma holocaust. Nevertheless, the HIERD has contacted several civil organizations which can help in the process of developing such contents/textbooks that can demonstrate the aspects of Roma culture and history, and the details of coexistence in a more accurate and less biased way.

**10. What channels for articulating, aggregating and representing the interest of Roma, including through body/institution/unit or other establishments do exist in your country? If applicable, please indicate how such initiatives include staff or representatives from Roma communities.**

***Connection to the strategy:***

Chapter 8 of the Hungarian National Social Inclusion Strategy includes organizational and institutional background of the social inclusion policy. The Deputy State Secretariat for Social Inclusion is responsible for the development of the strategy, the coordination of its implementation, monitoring and review. The Deputy State Secretariat for Social Inclusion is the national contact point for the EU framework for Roma strategies. Several consultative bodies work for the social inclusion of Roma.

***Results:***

***Nationality self-governments:***

**Municipality elections of 2014**

The nationality self-governments, besides the local governments of the counties or municipalities, are bodies entitled to the rights of evaluation and agreement in the most important issues of the community (education, culture and use of language). Since 1994, they have been acting as unique, individual partners of the Hungarian nationality (minority) policy at every municipality and since 2006, in every county where a nationality lives in relevant numbers. The regulatory objective of the Nationality Act is that nationality self-governments only be formed at municipal and territorial levels if the relevant community’s existence is substantiated by census data, but the national representation of the nationality in question should also be ensured even if they do not form any other form of self-government. In accordance with the Fundamental Law, the election of the self-governments of the nationalities is held every 5 years on the date of the general election of the local government representatives and mayors. Only those citizens may participate in nationality self-government elections, who are on the electoral registry of the nationality in question.

At the national level of the system of nationality self-governments, the national self-governments of nationalities can be found, which are strategic partners of the central public administration and the Government regarding the solution of certain nationality policy questions.

As a result of the nationality self-government elections in 2010, 1237 local Roma self-governments were established, 20 of which were formed in the districts of Budapest. Regional nationality self-governments with 7 members were formed in every county in January 2011, followed by the national self-government with 53 members, consisting of representatives from the two largest NGOs, members and allies of Lungo Drom and MCF Roma Összefogás (Roma Union).

During local government elections in 2014, 1 mayor and 18 Roma members of the local government were elected as candidates of Roma NGOs. During nationality self-government elections in October 2014, 1383 Roma nationality self-government elections were scheduled. As a result of the elections, 1197 nationality self-governments were elected. The 20 regional nationality self-governments were re-elected and the National Roma Self-Government was established with 47 members, made up of representatives from Lungo Drom (29 mandates), MCF Roma Összefogás (Roma Union) (6), Roma Civil Bloc (6), and the Roma Civil Rights Movement (6). István Hegedűs was elected head of the body.

**The National Roma Self-Government**

The strategic partnership agreement is an outstanding piece of cooperation between the government and the nationalities nominated in the law, which was concluded in 2011 by the minister for public administration and justice and the chairmen of the 13 nationality self-governments. The agreement states that the thirteen nationalities living in Hungary shall participate in the preparation of all legal regulations concerning them. It is likewise known that a separate Framework Agreement had been concluded with the Roma community in 2011, being the largest nationality in Hungary, between the Government and the National Roma Self-Government, in order to promote the social inclusion of the Roma and the efficient convergence of the Gypsy population.

To preserve Roma cultural values and to develop institutions and organisations and the promotion of the use of the nationality language continues to remain an important task, to which the nationality self-governments and cultural institutions (institutes for community culture, libraries, museum institutions, art organisations) contribute significantly. Culture carries a message understandable and enjoyable for everyday people in any branch of art, promoting acceptance of the particularities and unique features and understanding of belonging to a nationality. The introduction of culture contributes to curbing prejudices against Roma people and may strengthen acceptance by the public.

**Parliamentary representation of nationalities**

Direct representation in Parliament on the issue of nationalities during the reporting period brought about significant progress. In the past persons belonging to nationalities regularly made it to the National Assembly as members of the various parties, but they are primarily representatives of the party they belong to, not being directly responsible for the community of their origin. Parallel to accepting the Act on the rights of nationalities, the National Assembly also accepted Act CCIII of 2011 on the Elections of Members of Parliament in Hungary. This law, recognising that the nationalities living in Hungary are constituting actors of the state and their right to participate in the work of the National Assembly is ensured in the Fundamental Law, provides the actual conditions of such participation. In order to help representatives of nationalities receive mandates, a so-called preferential quota has been established, by the help of which the nationality representative mandate may be earned with a quarter of the number of votes required to enter the National Assembly. In case the preferential quota should not help a nationality representative into the National Assembly, the law provides for the election of a nationality advocate (spokesperson) for the community in question. The spokesperson may be the person first on the list of candidates of the nationality self-government. Pursuant to Act XXXVI of 2012 on the National Assembly any representative receiving a mandate from the nationality list as well as the nationality spokesperson is a member of the permanent committee representing the nationalities which, concerning nationalities, is an initiating, recommending, assessing and controlling contributing organisation of the National Assembly. After the general elections of 2014, based on the law, all nationalities – through their spokespersons – have been officially present in the National Assembly, therefore, through the work of the Hungarian nationalities committee the spokespersons receive a significant role in the legislation process. The Roma nationality advocate nominated by the National Roma Self-Government is Félix Farkas.

**Legal background**

Following acceptance of Act CCIII of 2011 On the Elections of Members of Parliament members of parliament were elected in a single round for the first time in 2014, during which constituents domiciled in Hungary could vote for electorate candidates and party lists. The constituents domiciled in Hungary, registered in the electoral registry as nationality constituents may vote apart from individual electorate candidates, by free choice, for nationality lists and party lists. From a nationality juridical perspective, we may speak of “pioneering” elections that have been the subject of political dialogue for more than two decades, since the representation of nationalities in the National Assembly has been ensured as of 2014.

Act XXXVI of 2013 on Electoral Procedure details the procedural regulations of elections. For the election of nationality self-government representatives, the organisation wishing to nominate a candidate or a list, the organisation must be registered at the National Election Commission after the elections are announced. According to its articles of association, the nationality organisation nominating the candidate is engaged in activities to protect and represent the interests of the nationality in question or performs activities directly related to cultural autonomy. One nationality organisation may only represent one nationality. The central registry contains, in the case of express request, the data corresponding to belonging to the nationality in question. Since the name registry is continuously kept and updated, it does not apply to a single election the individuals registered may remain there until deleted. The request for registration as a nationality constituent must contain the indication of the nationality, the declaration of the constituent declaring his or her nationality and the indication of whether he or she wishes to be registered in the nationality constituent registry with effects extending to electing members of parliament.

According to the law, 199 members of parliament were elected in 2014, of which 106 were elected in individual electoral districts and 93 on the national list. According to the regulation, representatives receiving the highest number of valid votes may obtain a mandate in the single round elections. National lists may be set up as party lists or nationality lists. Nationality lists may be set up by nationality self-governments; this requires the recommendation of at least one per cent of the constituents registered as nationality constituents, but not more than a maximum of one thousand and five hundred recommendations. Candidates may only be constituents registered as nationality constituents in the name registry and the list must contain a minimum of 3 persons. In order for a nationality list to receive a mandate, it is enough for the number of votes in favour to reach the level of the preferential quota. As a result of the general elections held on 6 April 2014, the spokespersons of all 13 nationalities participate in the work of the National Assembly.

According to Act XXXVI of 2012 on the National Assembly, any representative receiving a mandate from the nationality list as well as the nationality advocate is a member of the permanent parliamentary committee representing the nationalities. Concerning nationalities, the committee is an initiating, recommending, assessing and controlling contributing organisation of the National Assembly.

***Nationality Spokesperson***

In the parliamentary elections of 6 April 2015, nationalities had the opportunity to establish a national electoral list, but none of them received enough votes to send a representative to the National Assembly, who would have a right to vote. However, by the right to establish an electoral list, all nationalities were entitled to send a spokesperson to the parliament. According to the Rules of the House, spokespersons are entitled to express their views during plenaries on agenda items concerning rights and interests of nationalities. Furthermore, in these cases they may submit proposals for decisions and ask questions. Spokespersons have the opportunity to speak in their own mother tongue. On 26 May 2014, the National Assembly decided to set up “the Committee of the Hungarian Nationalities” focusing on nationalities living in Hungary. The committee consists of 13 members who are spokespersons of the nationalities in the parliament. Its chair is the president of the National Slovak Self-Government, while its vice-chair is Felix Farkas, Roma nationality spokesperson. With regard to interests and rights of nationalities, the Committee is the equal body of the National Assembly initiating legislative work, making proposals and opinions, as well as monitoring the work of government.

***Inter-Ministerial Committee for Social Inclusion and Roma Affairs***

Established by Government Decision No. 1199/2010. (IX. 29.), the Inter-Ministerial Committee constantly ensures governmental coordination in order to improve the social situation and circumstances, as well as to promote social inclusion of permanently deprived persons. It operates cross-sectoral policy working group which works on the operational level on the Hungarian National Social Inclusion Strategy’s action plans and their monitoring.

***Human Rights Working Group (Roma Affairs Thematic Working Group)***

The government established the Human Rights Working Group by a decision of February 2012. The main task of the Working Group is to monitor the enforcement of human rights in Hungary, to carry out consultation with various organizations, and to promote professional communications regarding the enforcement of human rights in Hungary.

The Working Group decided to establish the Human Rights Roundtable in its inaugural session of 2012, which consists of the members of 48 NGOs. 12 thematic working groups have been set up to address the rights, practical problems and policy proposals of vulnerable groups.

Since 2013, the thematic working groups met 34 times. The Working Group has met for a total of six times, most recently on 30 October 2014. On 13 February 2015, the Other Civil and Political Rights, the Rights of LGBT People and the Roma Affairs Thematic Working Group held a joint meeting in order to address hate crimes and discuss issues relating to the association law.

In the meetings of the Roma Affairs Thematic Working Group, hate speech and hate crimes issues, the problem of discrimination against the Roma, and the education of young Roma were discussed.

***Roma Coordination Council***

Established by Government Decision No. 1102/2011 (IV. 15.), the Roma Coordination Council is intended to socialize social inclusion policy and the monitor the implementation of Framework Agreement between the Government and National Roma Self-Government, which provides a stage for dialogue and cooperation in order to promote effective convergence of the Roma population**. Its co-chair is the president of the National Roma Self-Government. Its members include representatives of Roma NGOs**, churches, local government associations, national and regional Roma self-governments, representatives of the National Economic and Social Council, the deputy of the commissioner for the protection of fundamental rights, who is responsible for the protection of the rights of nationalities living in Hungary, and the expert delegated by the President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. The Equal Treatment Authority and Chairman of the Central Bureau of Statistics are permanent invitees of the Council. Due to organizational changes in the structure of the government, there are two more permanent invitees in the Council: the Roma nationality spokesperson of the Committee of Nationalities in Hungarian of the National Assembly, as well as the president of the Christian Roma Vocational College Network. **The Council is a consultative body for social inclusion.** It is responsible for raising awareness of all the problems which hinder the implementation of measures facilitating the inclusion of Roma; makes opinion on proposals for action, as well as domestic and international reports; formulates proposals, and contributes to the evolvement and development of professional networks to facilitate social inclusion. Furthermore, it takes part in evaluation of the impact of tasks related to improvement of the social situation of the Roma, as well as the promotion of their social integration: in the monitoring of the implementation of the strategy, the annual evaluation of its action plan and regular revision of the strategy.

***“Let Children Have a Better Life!”***

The task of the Ministry of Human Capacities State Secretariat for Social Affairs and Social Inclusion is to monitor the implementation of the counter-child poverty strategy that was adopted in the framework of the “Let Children Have a Better Life!” National Strategy (2007-2032) with the 47/2007. (V. 31.) Parliament Resolution. An Evaluation Committee operates to serve this purpose. In May 2011 the Government amended the 1053/2008. (VIII. 4.) Government Resolution on the establishment of the **Evaluation Committee of the “Let Children Have a Better Life!” National Strategy**, in order to represent the responsibility of the government in a sharper way. The modified composition of the Evaluation Committee consists of 12 governmental representatives, 12 representatives delegated by civil organizations, churches, professional organizations, and there are also permanent invitees in the Committee. The president of the Evaluation Committee is the Secretary of State for Social Affairs and Social Inclusion, the co-president is the person elected by the non-governmental delegates. The task of the Committee is to purposefully and systematically monitor the implementation of the Strategy, to develop the procedures and tools of the follow-up, to develop the most appropriate indicator-system for measuring child-poverty, to collect data, to analyze data, and to publish them. Therefore it contributes to the monitoring of the inclusion strategy, to its annual and triennial revision. The Committee in the year 2014, during its several meetings, reviewed the children’s aid program, and the progress of the Sure Start Children’s Center program, the possibilities for development, and the issues of child-poverty. In order to spread good practices in the field, a working group was set up to identify good practices, and the methodological basis for their collection.

***Türr István Training and Research Institute (TKKI)***

The TKKI, which is a national-level organization with 9 regional directorates, 11 TKKI centers, and 17 new micro-regional centers in 2015, is the professional background institution for social inclusion policy, and therefore capable of performing tasks across the country. The TKKI, as one of its priorities, contributes to the realization of training programs that are linked to public employment, and it also functions as a social inclusion coordination center to improve the situation for disadvantaged social groups, such as the Roma, the unemployed, people with low educational qualifications, people with changed working abilities, people living in disadvantaged regions. Funded from national and EU funds, it contributes to the implementation of the objectives and commitments included in the Framework Agreement, **in consortium with the National Roma Government (ORÖ)**. Its further task is to coordinate and support the development and monitoring of the local equal opportunity programs (HEP). The network structure, the directorates, and the TKKI centers serve the aim of getting closer to those in need, and developing a direct relationship by means of the background institutions with the implementers of the project. The service-organization (training, mentoring, and consulting) which is tailored to local needs, is also carried out through this network.

***Prime Minister’s Commissioner for Roma Affairs***

The Commissioner was appointed according to the 4/2014. (XII. 5.) ME prime minister statement.

The duties of the Commissioner are the following:

1. examine and evaluate the achievement of the aims, and the performance of the actions that are laid down in the Framework Agreement concluded between the Government and the National Roma Self-Government
2. examine and evaluate the time-proportional achievement and execution of the objectives and tasks that are laid down in the Framework Agreement
3. based on points a) and b) carries out preparatory, founding, and consultative tasks, and implements measures needed to achieve the aims, as part of the renewal and extension of the Framework Agreement to the year 2020.

Other tasks of the Commissioner include

1. proposing programs and possibilities for fundraising regarding the social inclusion of Roma
2. delivering opinion on pleadings on Roma inclusion and social inclusion policies

The Commissioner monitors national and EU-level supporting programs of Roma social inclusion programs, and also submits proposals to their planning and monitors their utilization.

Besides the forums present in the Governmental structure, the 2/2012 (VI. 5.) Ministry of Human Capacities decree on the development of equal opportunities programs lay down the requirements regarding the responsibility of local partnerships, public self-organizations, civil organizations, and for-profit stakeholders.

***Challenges:***

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***New objectives:***

We consider it important to give Roma and particularly Roma women a greater role in public life, therefore we are to support civil organizations, and also, to generate their active participation in public life.

1. HCSO: Estimates on the size and regional distribution of the population with “Roma ties” based on the data of the Population Census 2011. II: Estimates on the population with Roma ties, data sets, Budapest, 15 February 2014. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The final report can be accessed at <http://www.modernizacio.hu/iii-piller-kutatas/romakutatas> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The studies written about the research can be accessed at <http://www.tarki.hu/hu/research/hm/monitor2012_teljes.pdf>, and <http://www.tarki.hu/adatbank-h/kutjel/pdf/b333.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. romagov.kormany.hu [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. HCSO Census 2011. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Government Decision No. 1039/2012 (II.22.) on the Human Rights Working Group [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. See: <http://gyuloletellen.hu/sites/default/files/ejk_esetosszefoglalo.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)