



Social integration of Roma minority in Hungary – Regional and local experiences

Promoting the social inclusion of the
Roma and Travellers

Madrid, 4th November 2005



Introduction

Datas considering the Roma inhabitants in Hungary

- Estimated number of Roma people (worldwide): 12 million.
- 8 million persons of this number are living in Europe.
- In Hungary the Roma is the biggest minority group from our 13 ethnic groups.
 - 2001 census data: 189 984 people declared themselves Roma, real rate is much higher: about 600.000 people.



Social indicators

- Population – 5-7 % of the inhabitants in Hungary
- The rate of Roma people above 50 year is much less and the number below 30 year is much higher comparing to the national rates. The reasons:
 - 1. expected length of life among Roma is 10 years less
 - 2. the birth rate is much higher



General problems

- Insufficient social background
- Low educational level
- High rate of unemployment
- Escape into living from social aids
- Depressed mental situation
- Accumulated debts because of no incomes
- Low rate of effectiveness of interest
- Discrimination, prejudice



Governmental arrangements, programmes

Most important target:

Social integration – with preserving the Roma identity, cultural values and languages

1995

- **Short term Roma strategy. Foundation for Roma in Hungary, set up the Roma Coordination Council**

1997

- **Government Resolution No. 1093/1997 (29 July) – medium term measures**



Governmental arrangements, programmes

1999

- **Government Resolution No. 1047/1999 (5 May) to improve the living standards and social position of the Roma population**



Governmental arrangements, programmes

2002


- **Establishing the State Secretary Responsible for Roma Affairs**
- **Establishing the Council of Roma Affairs**
- **Roma Minister's Commissioners**

2003

- **Set up Ministry Responsible for Equal Opportunities**


2004

- **Ministry of Youth, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities**
- **Act CXXV of 2003 on equal treatment and the promotion of equal opportunities**
- **Government Resolution No. 1021/2004 (18 March) on the government programme for the integration of the Roma**



Positive measures in the field of equal treatment and equal opportunities


- **Roma Anti-discrimination Client Service Network**
- **2002/000-315.01.02 Phare programme – Promote anti-discrimination and tolerance towards the Roma**



Positive measures in the field of equal treatment and equal opportunities

Roma Anti-discrimination Client Service Network

- **October 2001**
- **Budapest and 19 counties**
- **23 lawyers**
- **From 15 October 2001 to 30 April 2005: total of 4465 cases, 289 of which were discrimination related**



Positive measures in the field of equal treatment and equal opportunities

Promote anti-discrimination and tolerance towards the Roma

- „Building an inclusive society” project – aimed at changing the majority attitudes towards the Roma minority at national level
- „Local Tolerance Actions” Grant Scheme – enhances tolerance actions on the local level



„Building an inclusive society” project

- May 2004 – May 2006
- Total budget: 2.700.000 euros
- 3 components:
 - Research
 - Communication and PR
 - Educational component



„Local Tolerance Actions” Grant Scheme

- **July 2004 – September 2005**
- **24 grantees**
- **Total budget 1.050.000 euros**
- **Aim: supporting local tolerance enhancing actions in the area of media, employment, education, public service, etc.**



Örkény Roma Minority Self-government

- **Goal of the project: elaboration and implementation of complex, adaptable set up on local initiatives programme that reduces the discrimination**
- **Target group: teachers, families, whole population of Örkény, employers**
- **Total project cost: 113.782 euros**



Örkény Roma Minority Self-government

Main project activities

- Project management**
- Reduction of discrimination in the town kindergarten and school**
- Family Help Centre local tolerance action programme**
- Complex programme for the reduction of labour market discrimination**
- „With culture and sport against prejudice” series of events**
- Positive picture on Roma in media**