

Proposals of the Fundación  
Secretariado Gitano for the  
**2024 EUROPEAN  
ELECTIONS**



**9 JUNE 2024**



On the occasion of the **European elections on 9 June 2024**, Fundación Secretariado Gitano presents its political proposals for the new EU parliamentary period.

The Roma population is the largest European minority (between 10-12 million across the continent - 6 million in the EU) and remains the most disadvantaged and discriminated group against in Europe.

We hope that **the next 5 years of the European legislature will give a decisive boost to the achievement of the goals set out in the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan**, a roadmap for progress in equality and social cohesion. To this end, it will be crucial to effectively implement the EU Roma strategic framework for equality, inclusion and participation through its national strategies.

To achieve this, **we need European institutions that contribute to making a real impact on the social and economic rights of the Roma population, improving their living conditions**. To this end, it is necessary, on the one hand, to reinforce investment in those areas where social inequality is most extreme and urgent (extreme poverty, particularly child poverty; substandard housing and segregated settlements; school failure and segregation; discrimination and antigypsyism, etc.), with specific measures in some of the areas. On the other hand, it must be ensured that the mainstream instruments are truly and operationally inclusive of Roma people (European Child Guarantee, European Education Area, financial instruments such as ESF+, ERDF, etc.).

The European Commission (EC) has played a crucial role in promoting the tackling of the unequal situation of the Roma population in Europe by creating a political and financial framework for this purpose. In the coming years of implementation of these frameworks, **follow-up and monitoring with specific indicators by the European institutions will be key to ensure that they become truly useful instruments for Roma European citizens and contribute to a greater social cohesion**.

## Situation of the Roma population in Europe in figures

Roma in 10 European Countries. Roma Survey 2021. European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, 2023

83% of Roma in Europe live at risk of poverty (85% child poverty)

52% of Roma households suffer from housing deprivation

Only 20% of Roma people have completed upper secondary education.

56% of young Roma are neither studying, nor working, nor in training

Roma people in paid work account for only 44%.

27% of Roma people have felt discriminated against for being Roma in the last year



# 10 measures and initiatives to be promoted as a matter of priority by European institutions

1

**TO EXPLICITLY INCLUDE OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS FOR THE REDUCTION OF THE ROMA INEQUALITY GAP (MAINLY IN TERMS OF EDUCATION AND SUBSTANDARD HOUSING) IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE EUROPEAN SEMESTER.**



Achieving this is a key condition for reducing Roma inequality by Member States and for monitoring progress by the European Commission.

2

**TO TURN THE EUROPEAN EDUCATION AREA INTO A USEFUL INSTRUMENT TO ADDRESS THE EDUCATIONAL INEQUALITY AND GUARANTEE THE SCHOOL SUCCESS OF ROMA CHILDREN IN THE EU,**



focusing on overcoming the very high rates of school failure and segregation. It is urgent that Member States commit to incorporating this situation with specific measures aimed at Roma children and youth into their national strategies. And that the EC monitors and measures with specific indicators the concrete educational progress of Roma children and youth, through its Education and Training Monitor, among other instruments.

3

**TO APPROVE AN EU ACTION PLAN TO ERADICATE ROMA SETTLEMENTS BY 2030 REQUESTED BY THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**



through its [Resolution on the situation of Roma people living in settlements in the EU \(2022/2662\(RSP\)\)](#).

The plan should lay the foundations for shared human rights and non-segregation approaches, combining re-housing measures and the provision of decent and adequate alternative housing, with social support and accompaniment for families throughout the process. This European plan will reinforce the key housing objectives set out in the European Framework for Roma Equality, Inclusion and Participation 2020-2030, and shall also comply with the provisions in the [Council Conclusions on Measures to ensure equal access for Roma to adequate and desegregated housing, and to address segregated settlements](#), launched under the Spanish Presidency of the EU.

4

**TO ENSURE THAT THE EUROPEAN CHILD GUARANTEE EFFECTIVELY REACHES THE MOST VULNERABLE ROMA CHILDREN IN EUROPE**



To this end, the EC should encourage the Child Guarantee to include measures that address the specific situation of the most vulnerable Roma children, as established in the European framework. Furthermore, it should establish indicators that make it possible to measure and monitor how this specificity is addressed in the different areas of intervention of the Child Guarantee in each Member State.

5

**TO ADOPT AN EU DIRECTIVE ON ADEQUATE MINIMUM INCOME FOR THE MOST DISADVANTAGED GROUPS LIVING IN EXTREME POVERTY, INCLUDING THE ROMA POPULATION IN EUROPE**



It is necessary to improve and reinforce the existing national frameworks for minimum income guarantees, offering greater coverage, effective access and maintenance, as well as providing real opportunities for beneficiary families to escape poverty through social, employment and educational pathways for all family members. This would be a key step forward in terms of guaranteeing rights to a decent life and would contribute to breaking the vicious circle of intergenerational transmission of poverty.



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# 10 measures and initiatives to be promoted as a matter of priority by European institutions

6

## TO ENSURE THAT THE ROMA POPULATION, AND PARTICULARLY YOUNG PEOPLE, BENEFITS FROM THE OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED BY NEW AND FUTURE GREEN AND DIGITAL JOBS



It is necessary to create greater synergies between European initiatives that promote European investments in the green and digital economy with the objectives of the European Pillar of Social Rights, ensuring that Roma youth also benefit from educational and vocational training measures to access these new jobs. This will contribute in an operational and effective way to guaranteeing equal opportunities.

7

## TO FOCUS INVESTMENTS THAT GUARANTEE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ROMA WOMEN, MAINLY THOSE WHO ARE IN A MORE VULNERABLE SITUATION,



by developing measures for their social, personal and professional promotion and development that compensate for their multiple disadvantage and the barriers they have to face as women and as Roma. This would mean specifically reinforcing the objectives contemplated in the EU Roma Strategic Framework for Equality, Inclusion and Participation 2020-2030, mainly in education and employment, and through the use of European funds (ESF+ or others).

8

## TO ADDRESS ROMA COHESION AND EQUAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS BY ALL EU FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS.



It is not only ESF+ responsibility. It is necessary to move forward so that the different financial instruments (ERDF, NextGenerationEU, etc.) assume their co-responsibility for guaranteeing the rights of the most disadvantaged people, such as the Roma population in the EU. To ensure a better alignment between EU social policy priorities and the programming of the European funds as a way of guaranteeing social cohesion.

9

## TO DESIGN THE FUTURE COHESION POLICY, TO BE DECIDED IN THE COMING YEARS, TO CONTINUE TAKING ON BOARD THE NEED TO FOCUS ITS INVESTMENTS ON THE MOST DISADVANTAGED GROUPS, SUCH AS THE ROMA



(currently with a specific objective under ESF+) and on how to ensure their inclusion under the umbrella of mainstream initiatives, investments and policies.

10

## TO PROMOTE THE FIGURE OF A COORDINATOR FOR COMBATING DISCRIMINATION AND ANTIGYPSYISM AGAINST ROMA IN THE EU,



along the lines of the already existing Coordinator for combating anti-Muslim hatred and the Coordinator on combating antisemitism. This figure would promote the effective fight against discrimination of Roma by ensuring the correct compliance with the European rules created for this purpose, as well as promoting policies for the recognition and reparation of the Roma people in the EU.



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The Fundación Secretariado Gitano (FSG) is an intercultural, non-profit organisation that has been working for forty years for the social inclusion of the Roma community and equal opportunities throughout Spain and Europe.

It currently has 73 offices in 14 regions



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