



European
Commission



EU SUPPORT TO ROMA INTEGRATION IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

November 2020

#EU4Roma

#EURoma2030

“The Western Balkans has most Roma families without a single job for generations. Roma people have been neglected, they are socially excluded. But if we empower them to access real opportunities in the economy and society, there is a huge potential for progress. And this is what we need to work for.”

Olivér Várhelyi, Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement



At least
1 million



of Roma living in the
Western Balkans

In July 2019, at the Poznan Summit, the Western Balkans Prime Ministers adopted the **Declaration on Roma integration in the EU enlargement process**. They committed to improve the situation of Roma people in the region and to achieve concrete results in the fields of education, employment, health, housing, civil documentation and fight against discrimination by the time of their EU accession. On 7 October 2020, the Commission adopted a **new 10-year strategy on Roma inclusion covering both the EU and its external relations**, which was endorsed by Western Balkan partners at the ministerial meeting on 27 October in Albania.

The EU is working with the region to provide tangible results, increasing socio-economic inclusion of Roma people.

The European Union will continue to support reforms and alignment with EU standards through substantial funds under the **Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance 2021-2027**. As mentioned in the recently adopted **Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans**, improving **labour market participation, especially of young people and women, disadvantaged groups and minorities, in particular Roma**, will be a priority and can strongly contribute to economic growth.



Over €80 million
from EU budget (IPA II) allocated
to support Roma integration in
the Western Balkans since 2014

Key areas of EU support to Roma integration in the Western Balkans

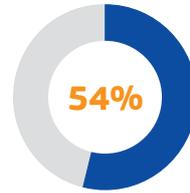


of Roma do not possess an ID Card



Inclusion

- ▶ Reducing poverty gap between Roma people, including children, and the general population



of Roma can't secure daily food



Participation

- ▶ Empowering Roma to participate in political life and to report discrimination
- ▶ Increased cooperation with Roma NGOs



Equality

- ▶ Fighting discrimination
- ▶ Ensuring that more people feel comfortable having Roma neighbours



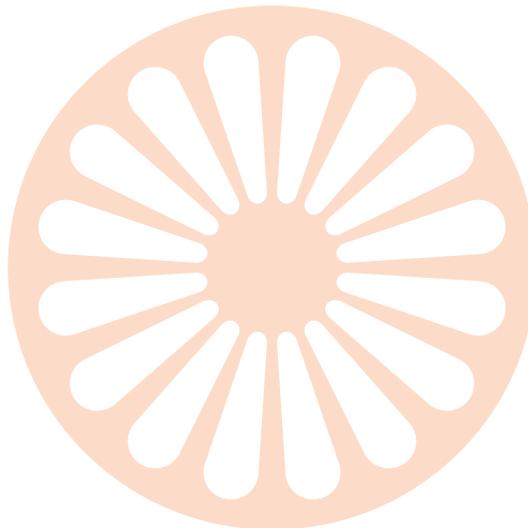
Health

- ▶ Increasing life expectancy by ensuring that Roma men and women live 5 years longer on average by 2030



Housing

- ▶ Improving access to housing
- ▶ Reducing overcrowding
- ▶ Better access to tap water



Education

- ▶ Increasing participation in early childhood education and care
- ▶ Reducing the gap in upper secondary completion rate

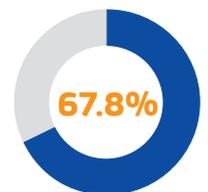


Employment

- ▶ Reducing the employment gap especially among women and young people, and reducing the number of people not in education, employment, or training



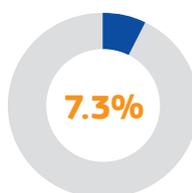
88% of Roma live in severe material deprivation



of Roma lived in overcrowded dwellings



of Roma completed compulsory education



of Roma women in the labour market

Regional EU-funded projects for Roma integration in the Western Balkans*

Roma Integration – phase II

Supports the governments in the Western Balkans and Turkey to reduce the socio-economic gap between the Roma and non-Roma population, and increase their integration in key sectors: housing, employment, education, and healthcare.



The project is also helping to coordinate and address the needs of vulnerable Roma during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Implemented by the Regional Cooperation Council

€2.8 million

1/2019
12/2021

www



Romani women – power of change

The project's aim is to empower Roma women to increase their participation in local and national policy and decision making processes, through dialogue with the national and local governments to reach changes towards Roma integration and non-discrimination.

Implemented by Roma Active Albania

€1.1 million

1/2020
12/2023

www



ROMACTED

It promotes good governance and Roma empowerment at local level in 62 municipalities in the Western Balkans and Turkey. The project aims at building up political will and sustained policy engagement of local authorities to enhance democratic local governance and to build up capacity and stimulate the empowerment of local Roma communities.



The project has distributed urgent support at local level during COVID-19 pandemic.

Implemented by Council of Europe

€3.75 million

2017
2020

www

*These projects cover the Western Balkans partners and Turkey.

EU Regional Action for Roma Education and first employment

It promotes durable systemic change and de-segregation within education systems in the Western Balkans and Turkey.

Implemented
by the Roma
Education
Fund

€1.1
million

4/2018
—
4/2021

www



Strengthen national and local systems to support the effective socio-economic integration of returnees in the Western Balkans

The project aims at supporting the socio-economic integration of vulnerable returnees in the Western Balkans with particular attention to Roma. It will in particular work to assist returnees to develop skills, increase their employability, deal with administrative hurdles and access social services.

Implemented
by UNDP

€4.6
million

11/2020
—
10/2024

