



# Midterm review of the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies

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In 2011, the Commission set up an EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020, which guides Member States to develop their national integration strategies to promote access of Roma to education, employment, healthcare and housing. This year, the Commission analyses the progress achieved and the remaining challenges.

The EU framework has:

- brought the issue of Roma integration higher up on the political agendas.
- set up the necessary structures and funding to improve Roma inclusion.

As regards **real change in the situation of Roma** between 2011 and 2016, however, it is clear that five years is too short a period to undo centuries of discrimination and deprivation.

## Education

	2011	2016	Improvement towards/above EU-average
Children 4 years and up to starting compulsory primary education age who attend early childhood education:	47%	53%	BG, ES, HU
Early-leavers from education and training (18-24)	87%	68%	ES, SK, BG, CZ
Share of 6-15 year old Roma attending classes where "all classmates are Roma"	10%	15%	—

### Remaining challenges:

- Segregation in education is still an issue – with one to two thirds of Roma children attending schools where most or all pupils are Roma. The figure is over 60% for SK, HU, BG, or between 29-48% in EL, HR, ES, CZ and RO.
- We still observe high early school-leaving rates.
- Too few Roma pupils make it to universities.

## Employment

	2011	2016	Improvement towards/above EU-average
Share of people in paid work	26%	25%	PT, HU
Share of 16-24 year old Roma youth neither in employment, education or training	56%	63%	PT
Share of people who felt discriminated against when looking for work in past 5 years	50%	40%	BG, HU

### Remaining challenges:

- Results in education not translated into employment
- Need to raise awareness of employers on the importance of diversity and anti-discrimination
- Less – although still way too many – Roma are at risk of poverty (poverty risk dropping from 86% in 2011 to 80% in 2016) and extreme forms of poverty, such as hunger became less widespread (dropping from 38% in 2011 to 27% in 2016).

## Health

	2011	2016	Improvement towards/above EU-average
Basic medical insurance coverage	78%	74%	EL
Self-perceived health status	55%	68%	RO, BG, HU, PT, EL

### Remaining challenges:

- lack of health coverage in Roma –populated areas
- need for more Roma health professionals

## Housing

	2011	2016	Improvement towards/above EU-average
Lack of indoor tap water	29%	30%	BG, RO, SK, CZ, EL
Lack of basic amenities (toilet, shower, bathroom)	36%	38%	BG
Share of people who felt discriminated against when looking for housing in past 5 years	45%	41%	SK

### Remaining challenges:

- limited availability and low quality of social housing;
- prevent spatial segregation and forced evictions with no alternative housing option

## Key Priorities

The review identified **key priorities for Member States to address to fight antigypsyism and discrimination and promote Roma inclusion more effectively**, such as:

- Fully transpose and enforce anti-discrimination and anti-racism legislation
- Fight segregation and promote effective equal access for Roma to quality inclusive mainstream education
- Address spatial segregation with a complex integrated long-term approach
- Prevent forced evictions on ethnic grounds
- Promote capacity building, sustainable funding and the transparent and inclusive involvement of Roma, civil society and local authorities
- Empower Roma youth, children and women as active players in the inclusion process.

The assessment also outlines **ways to strengthen the EU Framework** to be further explored in the forthcoming evaluation, such as:

- Reinforce partnership and Roma participation and support more inclusive coordination structures
- Consolidate a transparent system of reporting and monitoring to feed policy learning
- Reinforce and distinguish the anti discrimination and antigypsyism focus under the EU Framework
- Focus on a limited number of key areas to be addressed by the coordinated use of policy, legal and funding tools for visible results