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FLASH REPORT

Country:	Slovakia
Title:	The Ministry of Finance evaluated public expenses and policy measures for integration of marginalized Roma and identified serious shortcomings
Date:	5 February 2019
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<u>Context</u>	
Issue at stake:	Current situation regarding exclusion and discrimination of persons living in marginalized Roma communities
Ground of discrimination:	Race/ethnic origin (Roma)
Source:	Miscellaneous (Government report)
Field:	Employment, social security protection, education, health care

Content

Policy development: In January 2019 the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak republic published a research interim report titled '*Revision of expenses for groups threatened by poverty and social exclusion.*' The report provides comprehensive analysis and evaluation of public expenses and policy measures impacting social inclusion of socially disadvantaged Roma children and persons living in marginalized Roma communities. Its introductory chapter provides a general overview on the situation of persons threatened by poverty and social exclusion in Slovakia in perspective of other EU states. The second chapter gives broader insight into public expenses for social inclusion in Slovakia. The remaining chapters evaluate the impact of public spending on inclusion of socially disadvantaged Roma children in education and access of marginalized Roma to social security, employment and health care services.

Based on a wide range of quantitative research data the report highlights serious shortcomings in the effectiveness of a number of policy measures having been adopted towards the inclusion of marginalized Roma in Slovakia. It also identifies obstacles that marginalized Roma still face in access to education, employment and health care and points at their ongoing discrimination.

The report concludes that the Slovak educational system remains unable to provide sufficient inclusion of socially disadvantaged Roma children. They are underrepresented in pre-primary education, overrepresented in special schools for children with mental disabilities and as such excluded from mainstream education. It pointed out that exclusion of Roma children within mainstream education into separate classes and schools in Slovakia is more widespread than in other EU countries with sizable Roma population. The overall number of children in special education is almost four times higher than the average in EU countries. More than 16 percent of Roma children are educated in special education, which is five times more than the overall Slovak population. Only less than half of socially disadvantaged Roma children continue in

education after completing compulsory school attendance. Only 4 percent of them study at universities while the overall average in Slovak society is 31 percent.

The report states that differences between marginalized Roma and the majority in education lead to abysmal differences on the labour market. Moreover, marginalized Roma have several times lower chances to get employed in comparison to the majority society even if the same level of education is considered. Marginalized Roma have also limited access to effective tools of state support on the labour market.

The report further emphasises that socially disadvantaged groups suffer from worse health conditions, which also decrease their chances to succeed in education and on the labour market. Public expenses on health care of marginalized Roma are significantly higher than in the overall population, particularly among younger people, which implies lower prevalence of using preventive health care and existing obstacles to access it. The average life span of marginalized Roma is 6 years lower than in the overall population. Mortality of infants in marginalized Roma communities is almost three times higher than in the overall population.

The launched interim report will be followed by a final one which will include additional chapters covering areas of early intervention and housing in relation to marginalized Roma as well as an evaluation of public expenses and policy measures for the inclusion of other disadvantaged groups - people with health disadvantages, single parent families with children and homeless persons. The final report will also propose specific measures to improve the inclusion of disadvantaged groups of people with an aim to contribute to effective budgeting in public administration. The launch of this follow up final report is planned for March 2019.

The report was published within a governmental project entitled 'Value for money' funded within the operational programme 'Effective Public Administration' with the support of the European Commission and funded from the EU European Social Fund.

Key points of analysis: The report was made by an analytical unit of the Ministry of Finance in collaboration with several other ministries and individual experts. It relies on a wide range of research data and can provide important basis for introducing more effective policies and measures on inclusion of marginalized Roma in Slovakia in the future. It is essential that Slovak government authorities give the report close attention.

Internet link source: The report is available online on the website of the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak republic (in Slovak language only):

<https://www.finance.gov.sk/sk/financie/hodnota-za-peniaze/revizia-vydavkov/ohrozene-skupiny/>.