



European network of legal experts in gender equality and non-discrimination

NEWS REPORT

Date:	12 February 2015
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Title:	Roma Strategy adopted for 2015-2020
Country:	Romania
<u>Context</u>	
Issue at stake:	Romanian Government adopts a new Strategy for the Inclusion of the Romanian Citizens of Roma Ethnicity for 2015-2020
Ground of discrimination:	Race/ethnic origin (Roma)
Source:	Legislation - Strategia de incluziune a cetătenilor români aparținând minorității rome pentru perioada 2015-2020 issued by the Romanian Government on 11 January 2015, in force from 21 January 2015 updating the Roma Strategy 2012-2012 adopted in 2011 as Governmental Decision 1221/2011
Field:	Employment, social protection, social advantages, access to goods and services, education, housing, other
Legislative provisions:	Strategy for the Inclusion of the Romanian Citizens of Roma Ethnicity for 2015-2020 (Strategia de incluziune a cetătenilor români aparținând minorității rome pentru perioada 2015-2020)

Content

Legal development: On 14 January the Romanian Government adopted the Strategy for the Inclusion of the Romanian Citizens of Roma Ethnicity for 2015-2020, document which entered into force on 21 January 2015. The Strategy is an update to the Roma Strategy 2012-2012 adopted in 2011 as Governmental Decision 1221/2011. The updated document claims to include all European recommendations for Roma inclusion and to be in harmony with the prior Strategies approved in this field.

The declared goal of the Strategy is to ensure socio-economic inclusion of Romanian citizens of Roma origin to a level similar to that of the general population and to ensure equal opportunities by initiating and implementing policies and public programmes in areas such as: education, professional training and employment, health, housing and infrastructure, culture, social services, preventing and combating discrimination.

The main areas of intervention are: access to education, employment, health and housing. The Strategy includes also plans of action for each area of intervention and targeted results, sources of funding and a monitoring and revision system. The overall estimated budget for implementing the Strategy in the period 2015-2016 is of RON 430,502 million (approx. €10,000 million).

In the area of education, the Strategy aims to reduce the gap between Roma and non-Roma children regarding school participation, school performance and socio-economic conditions and to reduce the number of discrimination cases in schools. In the area of employment the major objective of the Strategy is to increase participation to the labour market. In the area of health the Strategy aims to improve access of Roma to basic, preventive and curative health service, reducing health risks and preventing discrimination of Roma accessing health services. In the area of infrastructure and housing the Strategy aims to ensure decent living conditions and public services and infrastructure. The Strategy also mentions as areas of interest and includes specific objectives and directions of action for culture, infrastructure and social services including child protection, justice and public order, administration and community development. Discrimination is not an area discussed in a separate section but combating discrimination in access to education, employment, services is mentioned under these headings.

For each intervention area the Strategy provides actions, indicators, results for 2016 and for 2020 with a varying degree of specificity. A list of responsible actors and the next steps with a timeline are also included. Also a mechanism for the monitoring and evaluation of the Strategy is mentioned – prior strategies being criticized for their rather rhetorical, declarative content and the lack of responsibilities, and clear mechanisms for implementation.

Internet link source and additional information: Text of the Strategy available in Romanian at: <http://lege5.ro/en/Grauit/guytsnzwgm/strategia-guvernului-romaniei-de-incluziune-a-cetatenilor-romani-apartinand-minoritatii-rome-pentru-perioada-2015-2020-din-14012015>.