



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

### FLASH REPORT

<b>Country:</b>	Slovakia
<b>Title:</b>	The Ministry of Finance has completed its report assessing public expenses and measures for inclusion of marginalised Roma and other disadvantaged groups endangered by poverty and social exclusion
<b>Date:</b>	29 May 2020
<b>Expert:</b>	Vanda Durbáková
<b>Update of flash report:</b>	<a href="#">Slovakia - The Ministry of Finance evaluated public expenses and policy measures for integration of marginalized Roma and identified serious shortcomings (PDF 90 kB)</a>
<b><u>Context</u></b>	
<b>Issue at stake:</b>	Current situation regarding exclusion and discrimination of persons living in marginalised Roma communities
<b>Grounds of discrimination:</b>	Racial or ethnic origin, Disability
<b>Field of application:</b>	Education, Employment, Housing, Social protection, Social security
<b>Source:</b>	Policy development
<b>Applicable law:</b>	-

### **Content**

**Policy development:** In March 2020, the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak republic completed its research report titled '*Revision of expenses for groups threatened by poverty and social exclusion.*' The completed report includes all chapters of the preliminary report that was already published in January 2019 and that provided comprehensive analysis and evaluation of public expenses and policy measures impacting social inclusion of marginalised Roma communities in the areas of education, social security, employment and health care services. The preliminary report also provided a general overview on the situation of persons threatened by poverty and social exclusion in Slovakia in perspective of other EU states and gave broader insight into public expenses for social inclusion in Slovakia.

The completed report has presented additional chapters covering areas of early intervention and housing in relation to marginalised 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 separate chapter analyses the area of education of children with health disadvantages in detail. There have also been added additional subchapters, such as analysing barriers of marginalised Roma communities in access to health care and their discrimination. Importantly, the completed report also proposes specific measures to improve the inclusion of disadvantaged groups of people with an aim to contribute to effective budgeting in public administration.

The report raises numerous shortcomings in the effectiveness of a number of current policies relating to the inclusion of marginalised Roma in Slovakia and the other disadvantaged groups endangered by poverty and social exclusion. Essentially, it derives its conclusions and proposals from a wide range of rigorous quantitative research data. In general, it proposes measures to increase expenses on social inclusion in overall amount of EUR 263 million. Two thirds (66 %) of the total financial package is suggested to be allocated for early care and education. About 20 % should go to housing support, 12 % to strengthening policies on the labour market and social policies, and 2 % of the total package should go to the remaining areas. The report notes that not all measures can be implemented right away, requiring a gradual onset, some up to 10 years. It acknowledges that the implementation of the given measures will depend, among others, on the possibilities of the state budget and from government priorities but finds its financing completely feasible. Beside the resources from the saving measures proposed directly in this report, it also refers to savings identified in the other elaborated revisions of government expenditure in the other policy areas. The total potential for these savings is EUR 880 million and this sum can further be increased by the effective use of European structural and investment funds.

The report does not present the proposed measures only in terms of their positive impact on effectiveness of the state economy but refers also to their importance in terms of improving guaranteed human rights of the disadvantaged groups. In respect to Roma living in marginalised communities, the report highlights barriers they are facing in particular areas of public life and points at their ongoing discrimination.

The report was published within a governmental project titled '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.

On 18 May 2020, the Slovak Government adopted the National Programme of Reforms for 2020 that was produced by the Ministry of Finance. This strategic document specifically refers to the given research report and proposes the reforms on its basis. After the government's negotiations the Ministry of Finance informed on its social media that the government did not adopt the report as a whole, but it will search for possibilities, which measures and reforms are possible to carry out given the current economic situation. Notably, the attached action plan of the reforms adopted by the government specifically proposes to support the integration of marginalised Roma communities also by a national project that would address the impact of the current pandemic on these communities.<sup>1</sup>

**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, and provides a very valuable analytical basis for introducing more effective policies and measures on inclusion of marginalised Roma and other disadvantaged groups endangered by poverty and social exclusion in Slovakia. It is essential that Slovak government authorities give the report close attention and that policy measures are proposed on its basis.

**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.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/hodnota-za-peniaze/revizia-vydavkov/revizia-vydavkov.html>.

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<sup>1</sup> All the documents are available on the website of the Slovak Government: <https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/24864/1>.