

Roma Civic Alliance from Romania
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Dear madames and sirs,

Today I'm coming in front of you to address you a simple request regarding the national strategies for Roma inclusion. Make it simple and well targeted, with specific directions of action and activities. Roma communities needs should be clearly identified and so the actions that you are about to undertake in this meaning.

In Romania the former strategy for 2001-2011 period has become a wishlist, a nice document just good to be put in a frame and the new one risks to take the same current.

Roma communities do not need such policies. Roma need access to quality education, an appropriate shelter, equal access to public services.

We are asking an equal treatment as citizens of our countries. Citizens with rights and obligations.

All the policies for Roma must contain defined objectives to make the connection with the directions of action in a logical way. The directions should be limited to the ones of the Roma Decade: education, health, employment and housing and in addition anti-discrimination and gender. For each direction, again we need a limited number of activities to contribute to achieve these objectives, so to have a proficiency manner for use of resources. In this approach I do believe that governments have their partners and these are Roma NGOs who can bring valuable information and support.

In Romania the situation of National Strategy for Roma Inclusion, as Mr. President of National Agency for Roma mentioned, is under adoption. The Roma NGOs already submitted their comments regarding the strategy, but to date we have no answer regarding the current situation of adoption of the document or its actual form.

Going in the depth of this matter, Roma Civic Alliance can say that the current form, as was elaborated by the General Secretariat of the Government and National Agency for Roma, lacks important elements to be considered a policy. The biggest issues identified are related to: (1) indicators – are more likely objectives given their formulation. Terms such „growth”, „stimulating the growth” etc are quite common; (2) directions, actions and action plans are not correlated; (3) the budget is just mentioned as „European funds” or „state budget”; (4) the mechanism implementation is the same as in the former strategy, mechanism proved to be inefficient.

Thank you!