



DECADE OF
ROMA
INCLUSION
2005-2015

DECADE OF ROMA INCLUSION SECRETARIAT FOUNDATION

Decade News

Decade Intelligence Report Published

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This report provides core lessons that contribute to further the Roma inclusion process analyzing what works and what does not work for Roma inclusion.

With the support of OSF and UNDP, the Decade Secretariat implemented the project “Decade Intelligence”, aiming to understand better what works and what does not work for Roma inclusion.

As a first step, the Decade Intelligence mapped 314 projects implemented under the Decade. The [database with the mapped projects](#) is available on the Decade website. There, Decade partners can find information on a range of Roma inclusion projects.

Projects mapped with the Decade Intelligence were assessed using indicators derived from the Decade declaration. Using these indicators, the average score of the projects is 16 out of 30, which shows that the projects have been good enough to produce some results, but insufficient to

achieve the goal of the Decade.

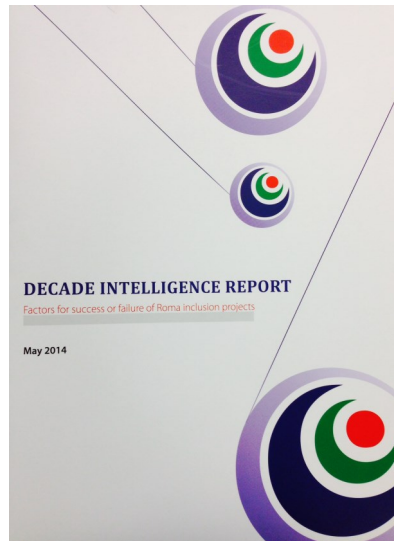
The indicator “participation of Roma” has the highest average score, showing that the Decade has advanced promoting the participation of Roma as a principle.

The average scores related to the governments’ engagement are the lowest, showing the need for increased government involvement in Roma inclusion efforts, both in terms of quality and quantity.

Further evaluation of 42 projects selected from those mapped provided some lessons on how to continue Roma inclusion more successfully.

To name but a few: setting inclusive beneficiary selection criteria, involving Roma as mediators, addressing discrimination against Roma as one of the project’s priority areas, establishing broad coalitions for implementation, budgeting to provide for basic needs of beneficiaries, in addition to the main inclusion activities, implementing long-term projects, holding open and thorough discussions on project design and focusing on early interventions.

The report is available for downloading on the [Decade website](#) and will be presented on a national level in the Decade participating countries.





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The Montenegrin and the BiH Decade Presidencies: short overview

Montenegro organized two thematic workshops under its presidency, one on anti-Gypsyism and one focused on economic empowerment of Roma



The 26th International Steering Committee meeting held on 19-20 June 2014 marked the formal handover of the Decade Presidency from Montenegro to Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Montenegrin Presidency put ahead an ambitious plan, focusing on the cross cutting issues of the Decade initiative, in particular addressing the following:

1. Antidiscrimination and human rights: building capacities among relevant authorities to deal with discrimination against Roma by deepening their understanding of the issue; and aiming to establish common standards for national policies and cross-border cooperation regarding the legal status of Roma.

2. Gender equality: tackling the most

aggravating phenomenon that represents both a cause and effect of the inequality of Romani women: violence against women, including domestic violence.

3. Poverty reduction: focusing on the economic empowerment of Roma.

Due to changes within the responsible Ministry in the national government, Montenegro organized only two thematic workshops, as opposed to the four envisaged in its presidency plan.

The first one – Challenges of anti-Gypsyism and multiple discrimination; a capacity building workshop for equality bodies/ Ombudspersons and Roma civil society representatives from the Decade countries – resulted in specific follow up ideas and actions to be jointly undertaken by governments and Roma NGOs.

The second one – Economic empowerment of Roma – mapped out and examined the applicability of different initiatives being implemented in the Decade countries, with

a special focus on the youth guarantee program of the EU.



The presidency plan of Bosnia and Herzegovina focuses on issues such as transitioning from education to employment and integrated programs for housing and employment.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is the last country presiding in the first cycle of the Decade Initiative. As such, it will continue to host discussions regarding the Decade's future and will also assess the 10 year work of the Decade.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is the last presidency country of the first cycle of the Decade; during the ISC Meetings it will focus the discussions on the future of the Decade and the assessment of the first 10 years work done within the Decade.



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Clearer concept of the Decade Future after the 26th ISC meeting

The Decade's 26th International Steering Committee meeting brought more clarity to the concept of the Decade future.

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia and Montenegro endorsed the Declaration to support the Decade's continuation, whereas Croatia, Czech Republic, Serbia and Slovakia expressed interest to continue the Decade, provided certain conditions are met.

Participants discussed the need for: continuous support to the participation of Roma civil society, concrete ways of synchronizing the Decade with the EU Framework, concrete terms of funding, as well as possibility for observer type of participation.

Regretfully, Bulgaria was not ready to participate in the discussion and Romania was absent.

International partners of the Decade continued expressing support for the Decade future.

The EU representative made several statements on the relationship between the Decade and the EU

Framework. It was said *inter alia* that DG Justice and DG Enlargement were institutions under one roof, thus EC efforts for Roma integration are comprehensive, offering opportunities and tools to both EU and non-EU countries under the same general principles.

Romani civil society also expressed its position, presenting a joint statement inviting Decade partners to continue the Decade until its goal is achieved, renewing the commitment every 10 years and retaining the goal and the priority areas, with a renewed focus on anti-discrimination in the upcoming period. It also demanded stronger cooperation with Romani communities through the Decade Focal Points, including in the national decision about the future participation in the Decade.

The discussions on the Decade future will continue under the presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, firstly by discussing a draft revised Terms of Reference at the next International Steering Committee meeting.

Currently Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Macedonia have signed the Declaration for continuation of the Decade. Other countries have not made a clear statement yet, except Hungary which said at the Bucharest meeting in February 2014 that it will not take part in a new

Following the statement of the EC representative that their efforts are comprehensive to both EU and non-EU member states, the ISC issued a joint statement requesting that the European Commission and the EU Member States consider inviting enlargement countries to the National Roma Contact Points meetings.

Enriched cooperation between Roma NGOs Decade Focal Points



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The 3rd Decade Focal Points Networking meeting on May 30-31 2014 in Prague mapped out the future work and joint activities of the Roma NGOs at national and international level. The network also welcomed Roma civil society activists from Ukraine and Slovenia to the gathering.

Participants discussed as a common concern in all Decade countries cooperation to deal with increased intolerance, hate speech and prejudice in the

public domain, including media and political circles.

The meeting paid special attention to the recent floods in Bosnia & Herzegovina and Serbia. It was noted with that affected Roma communities were often left without any help.

The representatives of the Roma Council of Ukraine described the severe attacks against Roma communities in eastern Ukraine and their efforts to help families who were

forced to flee the region. They also shared their advocacy efforts to convince the government to join the Decade initiative.

The participants agreed on a number of joint actions: creation of working groups with countries concerned on a particular issue, regular Skype meetings, possible capacity building training and a joint statement on the future of the Decade, which was delivered at the ISC meeting in Podgorica.

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to watch videos of the International Steering Committee Meetings and other events organized under the framework of the Decade of Roma Inclusion.

Upcoming events

1. **27th International Steering Committee Meeting; September 29-30 2014, Sarajevo, BiH**

This ISC Meeting will introduce the details of the presidency plan of BiH. It will also continue the discussions on the future of the Decade and introduce the draft Terms of Reference for a continued Decade initiative. The meeting will conclude with a field trip to Mostar.

2. **Roma Women—security and health; October 2014 (dates to be confirmed), Sarajevo, BiH**

Besides providing continuation of the discussion initiated during the anti-Gypsyism workshop under the Montenegrin presidency, where a local Roma civil society organization shared its experience in dealing with violence against women, this special thematic conference will provide for more extensive discussion on the topic and sharing of information and experiences beyond the Western Balkans.

3. **School for work; November 2014 (dates to be confirmed), Sarajevo, BiH**

This workshop will contain three principal themes, which will relate to the presentation of experiences and problems in the following areas: 1. Antidiscrimination challenges and problems; 2. Inclusion of Roma children and youth in inclusive education that considers increased employability as one of its important educational outcomes; 3. Vocational training, adult education and employment of Roma.