

Strengthening the housing dimension of the EU Roma Strategic Framework

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Roma week

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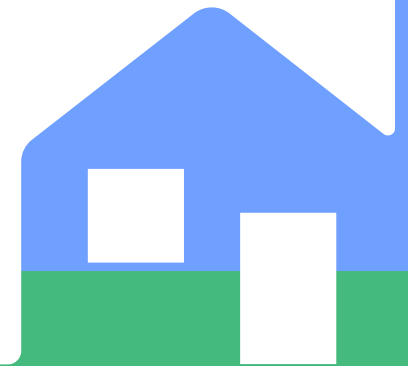
About this presentation

Housing as a cornerstone of Roma Inclusion

State of play of Roma access to housing

Leveraging EU initiatives for stronger impact

Recommendations on the way forward





Access to housing for Roma

- **Housing is a fundamental right**
- However many Roma continue to live in **substandard housing conditions** characterised by overcrowding, lack of basic infrastructure, insecure tenure, and exposure to environmental risks.
- Roma are disproportionately affected by **residential segregation**, often living in isolated settlements or segregated neighbourhoods separated from majority populations.
- **Forced evictions**, sometimes carried out without adequate safeguards or alternative housing, further exacerbate insecurity



EU Roma strategic framework

for equality, inclusion and participation for 2020 - 2030



EU policy framework



EU legislation

- Council Recommendation on Roma Equality, Inclusion and Participation (2021)
 - Calls on Member States **to prevent and combat residential segregation** by adopting targeted measures developed in consultation with local and Roma communities
- European Parliament's Resolution on the Situation of the Roma People Living in Settlements in the EU (2022)
 - Urged Member **States to eradicate segregated settlements by 2030** and ensure that EU and national housing funds are used to promote inclusive development
- Council Conclusions on Measures to Ensure Equal Access for Roma to Adequate and Desegregated Housing (2023)
 - Stressed the need for action against housing **segregation as a key cause of unequal access to healthcare, education, employment, and basic services**, with profound psychological and social consequences



EU Strategic Framework for Roma Equality, Inclusion, and Participation (2020-2030)

- **Reduce gap in housing deprivation** by at least one third to ensure that by 2030 the majority of Roma do not face housing deprivation
- **Cut gap in overcrowding** by at least half to ensure that by 2030 the majority of Roma no longer live in overcrowded households
- **Ensure** that at least 95% of Roma have **access to tap water**



EU framework implementation- Key findings

Persistent Housing Inequalities

- **47% housing deprivation**
- **83% overcrowding**
- **segregation** remains endemic (RO,BG, HU,SK FR)
- **informal housing and legal insecurity** (RO, BG, IT, CZ)

Systemic Barriers

- **rental market exclusion** (DE, BE-NL-ethnic profiling)
- **social housing access** (CZ, SK)
- **legal gaps** (CZ, GR, PT)



EU framework implementation-Key findings

Policy and Funding Gaps

- around half of the MS **no Roma-specific housing policies**
- ERDF/ESF **funds rarely earmarked** for Roma housing
- **delays** in implementation (HU, RO)
- **poor monitoring** and lack of data

Implementation remains fragmented, inconsistent and often inadequate.

There is a need for a rights-based, integrated and desegregation-oriented approach



EU framework implementation- Progress

Targeted initiatives and legislative progress

Half of MS **targeted measures** to improve Roma access
simplified access to social housing (ES, PL, CZ)
Housing Support AcT (CZ) Affordable Housing Law (LU)

Systemic transitions

reduction of segregated settlement population (IT from 30000 to 15000)
exceeding social housing targets for Roma (BG)

Integrated models

"Housing First" (BE, FR)

Remaining challenges to reach 2030 objectives

Segregation and forced eviction

Structural barriers (housing costs, limited social housing supply and discrimination in private rentals)

Administrative hurdles

Political and social resistance

Limited scale and monitoring



Next frameworks and policies embedding Roma and housing

- **Affordable Housing Plan: Pillar IV action 10 :Promote housing solutions that protect and empower people in vulnerable situations**
 - The Commission will propose a Council recommendation on fighting housing exclusion and address homelessness (to be published on May 6)
 - support households fighting energy poverty and protecting disadvantaged people from disconnection from the energy supply, as part of the Citizens Energy Package published on 10 March 2026
- **First EU Anti-Poverty Strategy:** embedding Roma equality objectives within the future EU framework on poverty reduction will foster more systematic investment in income support and housing will be launched on May 6
- **Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034** special attention to be given to the preparation of **National and Regional Partnership Plans:** de-segregation/non-segregation should be a criterion for all EU-funded housing interventions.

DG JUST Housing and Discrimination Study

What?

Considering the EU housing crisis and the disproportionate segregation and marginalisation of certain groups, DG JUST commissioned **a study on equal treatment in housing the European Union.**

The study will focus on **equal access to housing, affordability, adequacy, segregation, marginalisation, and exclusion**

Why?

The objective is to conduct a standalone study that **supports the European Commission in advancing its understanding of equality and non-discrimination in the housing sector**

Who?

The study will focus on all the protected grounds of discrimination at the EU level (**sex, age, disability, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, sexual orientation**) and where possible also on the grounds protected at national level including an **intersectional approach.**

When?

The study is expected to be published in Q1 2027



Thank you

