



## Joint Declaration on Roma integration throughout Europe

*Roma is one of the Europe's most vulnerable, disadvantaged groups, and frequently face intolerance, discrimination and social and economic exclusion; many lack access to housing, healthcare, social services, employment and education. Roma is Europe's largest minority, with an estimated population of 10-12 million.*

European Union countries have a responsibility to address the discrimination and social exclusion of the Roma both on national and EU level. To ensure that effective policies are in place in the Member States, the Commission proposes that [National Roma Integration Strategies](#) are designed or, where they already exist, are **adapted to meet EU Roma integration goals**, with targeted actions and sufficient funding (national, EU and other) to deliver them. It proposes solutions to address the current barriers to a more effective use of EU funds and lays the foundations of a robust monitoring mechanism to ensure concrete results for Roma.

While there are many problems that Roma are facing, it is necessary to focus on specific goals. The most important fields that should be given priority are:

### EDUCATION

Education is the main area in which the situation of Roma has improved but the rate of **early-school leaving** is still too high (68% in 2016), and **segregation in education remains an issue in some countries. Furthermore, promotion of effective transition for Roma to upper secondary and tertiary education, language deficiencies and discrimination are still challenges to tackle.**

As follow-up to the [Paris Declaration](#), the Commission stepped up its support for **INCLUSIVE EDUCATION**. One of the priorities is **to foster the education of disadvantaged children and young people, including Roma, by ensuring that education and training systems address their needs.**

### EMPLOYMENT

Improvement in education has not been effectively matched with Roma employment. The **NEET rate** among young Roma remains alarmingly high; it has in fact risen in several member states. The wide **employment gap between Roma women and men** has not been addressed sufficiently so far.

**The lack of skills and competences, discrimination, the need for diversity management and anti-discrimination practices at the workplace as well as focused attention to Roma women are among the remaining issues to be addressed.**

According to the initial **PAL project research** the **high unemployment** rate among Roma is **linked to discrimination by employers on the one hand, and the low levels of education, competences and skills of Roma.** **STEREOTYPES** also hinder the employment of Roma people.

In addition, we- the PAL PARTNERS- agree that further action is needed to address the following important issues:

- To ensure the effective coordination of the efforts of the national Roma integration strategies and initiatives, a **European Non-Governmental Network for Roma, Gypsy and Travelers Support** needs to be set up that *will promote support the exchange of experience and cooperation to achieve integration in the fields of education, employment, health care and housing of Roma people.* Currently the partner organizations involved in the project “*Fighting discrimination and Anti-Gypsyism in education and employment in EU*” (PAL) are planning the official establishment of a European Network (**PAL Network**) that will provide activities to promote awareness raising, training priorities and policies based on the best available evidence, and formulate recommendations regarding the cost-effective use of tools, interventions and programmes in order to ensure and monitor progress towards national and European goals.
- **EDUCATIONAL REFORM:** The state should support Roma parents and children by providing necessary school equipment, learning support, and scholarship schemes for high-school and university education.
- Adaptation of the existing **CURRICULUM** to the **multi-cultural diversity** of European schools. **Overcome language barriers** by pre-kindergarten and pre-primary schooling for Roma and migrant children to support language learning and adaption to the new environment. **Roma assistants** are considered effective measures for the integration of Roma children.
- **MANDATORY QUOTA:** The states should introduce mandatory quota of Roma employment based on the size of the company or organization.
- **YOUTH GUARANTEE:** The active implementation of Youth Guarantee initiatives for Romani is vital. Fighting anti-Gypsyism and stereotypes is a pre-condition for generating political will and for the success of any intervention aimed at Roma inclusion.
- **JOB MEDIATION:** The European Commission launched a mediation program together with the Council of Europe. Upon completion of the pilot phase, participating countries are **increasing the employment of mediators/assistants** and trying to find a more stable institutional framework, together with a more coherent and officially certified training provision.

## COMMUNITY PREVENTION POLICY FOR ROMANI ON NATIONAL AND EU LEVEL

In order to establish COMMUNITY PREVENTION POLICY FOR ROMANI ON NATIONAL AND EU LEVEL it is necessary to implement **POSITIVE DISCRIMINATION.** The establishment of a national legislation framework and a network of educational institutions that empower Roma are positive measures that are needed to ensure inclusive

In order to reach our goal to overcome Roma exclusion, all relevant stakeholders must join forces and fulfill their duties within the scope of their mandates, competence and capacities. We believe that the most effective way to achieve the best results are the **synergy of Roma projects** and the implementation of the recommendations put forward in documents such as **EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020**.

The undersigned organizations are ready and willing to collaborate with the Commission, international, national and local stakeholders and participate actively in the implementation of the National Roma Strategies and combating the aforementioned challenges.

**Name of the Organization:**

**Legal Representative:**

**Date/Venue**