  

**Office for human Government of the Republic of Serbia**

**and minority rights**

**The first report on the progress made in implementing the Operational conclusions from the seminar "Social inclusion of Roma in the Republic of Serbia" for the period from June 2015 - June 2016**

***The Office for Human and Minority Rights and the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit of the Government of the Republic of Serbia*** monitor the implementation of the Operational conclusions from the seminar on social inclusion of Roma held on 11/06/2015, which represent Serbia’s obligations for the period from 2015 to 2017. This report includes information on progress made in implementing the Operational conclusions for the period from June 2015 until June 2016.

The following have reported about the activities and results for this period, in the area of their jurisdiction: ***Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure; Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs; Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development; Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Office for Human and Minority Rights, Ombudsman, Commissariat for Refugees and Migration, National Employment Service and European Integration Office.***

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| **Operational conclusions** | **Status** | **Results** |
| ***Inter-sectoral issues***  • New Strategy for Improvement of the Status of Roma in the Republic of Serbia will be adopted by December 2015 for a period of 10 years, i.e. until 2025. The Strategy will be accompanied by the Action Plan, which will also be adopted by December 2015. The responsibility for overall implementation of the Strategy, in the name of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, shall be borne by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure. In order to ensure transparency, the Government will submit annual progress reports on implementation of the Strategy. | Accomplished | The Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2016 to 2025 (proposed by the Ministry of Labor, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs) was adopted by the Government of the Republic of Serbia by Conclusion 05 number: 90-1370/2016-1 of 3 March 2016, and published in the Official Gazette of the RS number 26/2016. The accompanying Action Plan is being drafted. |
| • Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Serbia and Minister of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure will coordinate, on behalf of the Government, the work of state authorities, including the work of local self-governments and public enterprises in connection with the improvement of situation of Roma and their full participation in social, economic, cultural and political life, especially in areas where they are most vulnerable (birth registration, education, housing, health, social protection and employment). | Ongoing | According to the Strategy, in accordance with the Operational conclusions and the Action Plan for Chapter 23, the Government will form a Coordinating body for the social inclusion of Roma. It will coordinate activities related to the inclusion of Roma from the future Action Plan for implementation of the Strategy and will take care of establishment of viable normative and institutional conditions for the implementation of strategic measures and management of the Strategy. |
| • The Office of Human and Minority Rights and the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit will support the Deputy Prime Minister in monitoring the implementation of operational conclusions, as well as the preparation of annual reports on implementation of the Strategy for Improvement of the Status of Roma and its Action Plan. | Continuous | The Office of Human and Minority Rights and the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit have prepared the annual report on the implementation of operational conclusions for the period from June 2015 to June 2016, and will promptly prepare the annual report on the implementation of the Strategy for Improvement of the Status of Roma and its Action plan. |
| • The sound basis for sustainable improvement of the position of Roma has been established, especially in the education and health sectors and in terms of access to personal documents. Now it is necessary to focus on raising the level of effectiveness of adopted measures and to better link them with available and future sources of funding, including donations. It is of great importance that strategic documents of the Government and the European Commission on programming of financial assistance contain measures to improve the status of Roma, which also includes ensuring the continuity of this support. | Continuous | In this reporting period, two coordination meetings were held for projects that contribute to improvement of the situation of Roma, in December 2015 and early July 2016. In addition, the financial assistance for the IPA 2016 programme is planned, as well as Sectoral budget support in the area of education which contains one of the specific objectives designed for greater coverage and better quality of education of Roma. In addition, it is important to mention that the implementation of the IPA 2013 programme in the field of housing has started, which represents the continuity of the provision of support after the IPA 2012 programme. |
| • The functioning of the Council for the Improvement of the Position of Roma and Implementation of the Decade of Roma Inclusion was revised in order to improve its operability. Regular meetings will be held to monitor the implementation of the Action Plan, to facilitate the exchange of good practices in the field of Roma inclusion, and to assess the effectiveness of the Action Plan, with the aim of improvement based on experience gained during the implementation of the Action Plan. The Ministry of Labor, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs will chair the Council and ensure the regularity of its meetings. | Accomplished | The Office for Human and Minority Rights shall provide professional, administrative and technical support to the Council for the Improvement of the Position of Roma and Implementation of the Decade of Roma Inclusion. The Council was established on 20 May 2013. In 2015 and 2016, the Council for the Improvement of the Position of Roma and Implementation of the Decade of Roma Inclusion continued its work in the composition from 2014 and held one session during the reporting period. The work was focused on activities related to development of a new strategic document. In addition to other members, the President of the Council of the Roma National Minority participates in the work of the Council.  Within the project “We are here together - European support for Roma inclusion”, the meeting to exchange practices and experiences was organized with 32 units of local self-government on the work of mobile teams and resolving the housing issues through 18 models of housing for Roma, which were analyzed and systematized in a pamphlet during the implementation of the project. The Guide for mobile teams was introduced. Representatives of 20 cities and municipalities that participated in the project have signed the first Declaration on the Improvement of the Position of Roma at the local level. |
| • Coordinated collection and processing of analytical data on at least five mentioned priority areas will be conducted, through a “one-stop-shop” body, established within the project Technical Assistance for Roma Inclusion (IPA 2012), with the aim of consolidating data, enabling targeted research on the position of Roma and providing consistent information to all interested parties, especially ministries and agencies of the Government, in accordance with the Law governing the protection of personal data. | Continuous | Database to track the measures for the inclusion of Roma at the local level has been established and it is available on the website of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia (<http://www.inkluzijaroma.stat.gov.rs/sr>). During the process of completing an electronic questionnaire, the technical support is provided for representatives of local self-governments. A total of 82 representatives of local self-governments have passed the trainings, so far 97 units of local self-government have delivered the data. Technical and development support for this database in the future will be provided by the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit, in cooperation with OSCE Mission in Serbia.  The Guide for local Coordinators for Roma issues and officials in local self-governments who monitor the inclusion of Roma at the local level - Role of the Coordinator for Roma issues in local self-government is prepared and published in cooperation with SCTM. In 20 local self-government units, through the TARI project, mobile teams were formed as an integrated model for the provision of social protection services, whose members are representatives of NES and center for social work.  In the framework of the IPA 2012 project “We are here together - European support for Roma inclusion”, the Guide for mobile teams was developed, with the aim of supporting the existing mobile teams, as well as forming the new ones in other cities and municipalities. |
| • The network of Roma coordinators will be further developed and strengthened, including an increase in their number, with the aim that the coverage of current 47 municipalities is increased to over 60, in accordance with local needs. In order to improve the position of Roma, Roma coordinators will closely cooperate with other relevant national mechanisms. In order to improve the active inclusion of Roma, relevant institutions will establish the mechanisms for integrated model of provision of social protection services which obliges the centers for social work and the National Employment Service to actively pursue solutions to activate the working age population, who continuously receive financial social assistance. | Ongoing | The recommendation of the Ombudsman is that the Action Plan should resolve the issues of systematization of the existing positions of Coordinators for Roma issues at the level of local self-government units, the issues of increasing their number and strengthening their capacity, especially in the areas where Roma are represented in significant numbers;  In accordance with the Regulation on the procedure for obtaining approval for new employment and additional work engagement in public funds beneficiaries (“Official Gazette of RS”, No 113/13, 21/14, 66/14, 118/14, 22/15, 59/15), local self-government units shall communicate to the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government the reasoned requests for approval of new employment and additional work engagement, which shall be reviewed by this public administration body from the standpoint of the rationalization of the total number of employees in these units of local self-government, in accordance with the provisions of the Law on the manner of determining the maximum number of employees in the public sector ("Official Gazette of RS", No 68/15, 81/16-CC), which specifies tne manner of determining the maximum number of employees in the public sector. Then the Ministry shall constitute its proposal and submit it to the Commission for approval of new employment and additional work engagement in public funds beneficiaries, which is responsible for granting approval of the employment of new personnel in order to fill in the job vacancies in public funds beneficiaries.  The Office for Human and Minority Rights, with the Association of Roma coordinators, has conducted consultative meetings with decision-makers in 16 local self-government units in Serbia in order to establish the mechanism for coordination between local and national level, as well as for coordination of intersectoral cooperation at the local level, through engagement of Coordinators on Roma issues, and it has initiated development of local action plans for Roma inclusion or audited the same. Out of this number, 15 municipalities/cities have signed the Memorandums of cooperation with the Association of Coordinators for Roma issues in the field of Roma inclusion.  SCTM Network for Roma Issues has prepared the model Rulebook on organization and systematization of jobs in municipal administration, professional services and special organizations. The support in development of the Rulebook, through organizing consultative meetings with the aim of creating a job description of Coordinator for Roma issues, was provided by the Office for Human and Minority Rights within the project “Technical Support to OHMR in the implementation of the Strategy for Roma Inclusion”. |
| • Two seminars for the media will be organized (one per year) in order to encourage the media to take more active role in promoting more positive image of the Roma community. In order to raise awareness of the position and rights of Roma, as well as to inform the Roma of their rights and relevant administrative procedures to improve their position, the media campaigns will be launched, intended for national institutions, municipal authorities and general public. | Continuous | The Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit has developed the concept of establishing cooperation with the media, in order to develop sensitive and inclusive media coverage of vulnerable groups, including members of Roma community. A working breakfast was realized with editors of printed media, agencies and associations, and the concept for training for journalists has been developed, which will be implemented in October 2016. All associations of citizens, supported in the framework of OHMR’s competitions, have realized the media campaigns, on TV and radio stations, social networks. |
| • The European Commission, for the whole duration of the process of Serbia's accession to the European Union, including the activities for implementation of the Action Plan for Chapter 23 - Judiciary and Fundamental Rights, will continue to closely monitor the efforts Serbia is investing in improving the position of Roma. | Continuous | The Ministry of Justice reports to the European Commission on the improvement of the position of Roma through regular reporting on the implementation of the Action Plan for Chapter 23 on the basis of contributions of line Ministries, Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit and Office for Human and Minority Rights. |
| • The European Commission and other donors, as partners in this process, have already provided support and substantial financial assistance. They will continue to provide support in a transparent manner, including strategic, technical and financial support for initiatives, measures and programmes oriented towards further improvement of the position of Roma in the Republic of Serbia and other Western Balkan countries. | Continuous | The issue of social inclusion of Roma in Serbia is high on the agenda of EU assistance to Serbia in the new financial perspective too, which is expressed in the Indicative Strategy Paper of the European Commission (EC) for the Republic of Serbia, which sets priorities for assistance from the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance - IPA II 2014-2020. Also, other development partners, through bilateral assistance, provide additional strong support to Roma inclusion at the national and local level. |
| • The European Commission is ready to co-finance the implementation of the new Strategy for Improvement of the Status of Roma, as soon as it is adopted, together with the quality Action Plan that contains SMART indicators. The Republic of Serbia will report every two years to the Commission on the implementation of the current IPA projects, and their connection with the implementation of the priorities of the Strategy for Improvement of the Status of Roma and the Action Plan, using the existing coordination mechanisms to ensure efficiency and prevent overlaps. | Continuous | NIPAC TS, as part of regular reporting on the implementation of IPA projects and (action) programmes, defined by the IPA Regulation on the implementation of IPA (II) and procedures for decentralized/indirect management, shall draw up, twice a year, Sectoral Monitoring Committee Report - SMC Report, which shall be submitted to the Committee for consideration and adoption. Total of 9 Sectoral Monitoring Committees have been formed, by defined document National priorities for international assistance from 2014 to 2017, with a membership which comprise all national institutions beneficiaries of IPA projects/programmes, EU Delegation as a representative of the European Commission, as well as the institutions of decentralized/indirect management of IPA in the Republic of Serbia. One of the established Monitoring Committees refers to the sector of human resources and social development, which discusses and approves the Report on the implementation of IPA projects/programmes in this sector. The report itself, as one of its compulsory components, contains an analysis of the strategic framework of the Republic of Serbia within this sector, as well as changes in this regard during the reference period. Bearing in mind that, in addition to other strategies that regulate directions of development of this sector, the Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma in the Republic of Serbia from 2016 to 2025 forms an integral part of the current status that the report analyzes, reporting of all interested parties (including the EC) in this regard is provided by procedures for decentralized/indirect IPA management. |
| ***Civil registration - access to personal documents***  • The situation in the area of implementation of the rights to subsequent registration of the fact of birth in the birth registry and registration of permanent or temporary residence will continue to be monitored through the annual Government report, including the number of persons registered in these registries based on the procedures prescribed by the Law on Civil Registries, the Law amending the Law on Extra-Judicial Proceedings and the Law on Permanent and Temporary Residence of Citizens. Additional efforts should be made to complete the registration process of so-called legally invisible persons as foreseen by the end of 2015, with the continuation of the process by June 2017. | Continuous | By accepting the initiative of the Ombudsman, the amendments to the Law on Extra-Judicial Proceedings were adopted, allowing persons without a recognized citizenship (i.e. “legally invisible”) to carry out registration of birth on the basis of the court decision on determining the time and place of birth in a relatively quick and a flexible procedure. According to MPALS, in 2015, a total of 1,072 requests for subsequent registration of the fact of birth in the birth register were resolved. Also, according to data acquired from the Ministry of Justice, in 2015, 264 proposals for determining the time and place of birth were resolved, in accordance with the procedure for determining the time and place of birth, which is regulated by the Law on Extra-Judicial Proceedings. In relation to the number of resolved requests, it can not be sorted out which of those registrations are related to members of Roma national minority, since according to the applicable regulations, data on nationality are not entered in the register of births. |
| • The Memorandum Amending the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government, the Ombudsman and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees – Office in Serbia was concluded on 16 March 2015, extending its period of validity until 31 December 2016. This is relevant because it was identified in the implementation of the Memorandum that the issue of birth registration needs to be addressed comprehensively and systematically, especially since the exercise of this right requires other civil status rights to be firstly resolved, such as the right to citizenship, permanent residence registration, identification document and the like, which, if remain unresolved, pose a further obstacle for birth registration. Therefore, the activities under the Memorandum call for active participation and cooperation of various competent authorities in this process. In addition, specific activities in the continuation of the process under the Memorandum are aimed, on the one hand, at further promoting the operation of and adherence to regulations by the competent authorities and, on the other hand, at providing free legal aid to persons who need to resolve any of the personal status rights, which will facilitate the exercise of this right until the free legal aid system is introduced. | Continuous | After signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ombudsman, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government, the training for judges, civil registrars, social workers, employees in the Ministry of Interior and representatives of the Roma civil society were organized, which have contributed significantly to unification of practices of the bodies and improvement of their work. Awareness of the need for urgent action and immediate resolution of the problem imposed that an integral part of the Memorandum was going to be the formation of so-called “Technical Group”, which, in addition to representatives of the Ombudsman, is also attended by representatives of all relevant ministries.  These trainings were attended by total of 559 participants (registrars and deputy registrars), employees in centers for social work and police departments of the Ministry of Interior. In the coming period, two additional trainings will be organized for the remaining local self-government units. The representatives of the Contracting Parties and other relevant authorities (Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labor, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs, etc.), in charge of the activities related to registration of fact and data in the registries, took active participation in these trainings. Active participation was also taken by representative of the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality, who, with special attention to the area of ​​anti-discrimination, contributed to the improvement of thematic areas of trainings.  The organization of trainings for Roma coordinators, health mediators, teaching assistants and representatives of associations whose field of action is to protect and promote human and minority rights is in progress, in order to get acquainted with laws and regulations and the manner of exercising the rights in the field of civil registries, citizenship, permanent residence registration, identity cards and family legal protection, with the aim to identify and assist persons in these proceedings. Also, in accordance with the Plan of activities of the Steering Committee, one of the activities is identification of undocumented persons and provision of free legal aid to members of the Roma national minority in the process of subsequent registration of the fact of birth in the birth registry, extra-judicial proceedings, determination of the time and place of birth, identity card issuance, permanent residence registration, determination of citizenship and other procedures in the field of civil status. |
| • By monitoring the situation in the field of civil registration, with a view to ensuring unhindered registration of facts and data in birth registries, the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government is implementing a project aimed at introducing electronic procedures for data and document exchange between civil registrars and other authorities and institutions involved in the birth registration procedure by the end of 2017, which will ensure improved coordination among these authorities, as well as lawful and effective exercise of, inter alia, the right to birth registration within the stipulated time limit. | Completed | The Ministry has established electronic procedures for keeping the birth records, and within the realization of the project “Baby, welcome to the world”, a large number of municipal and city governments, on whose territory the maternity hospitals are located, have fully shifted to electronic registration of facts and data in the birth registry within the Central system for electronic management of civil registries. Also, the Ministry is in the final phase of realization of the project which aims, within the Central system, to fully automate administrative procedures for keeping the marriage and death records. To that effect, we can estimate that this operational conclusion is fully realized. |
| • The situation in the field of exercising the right to register the fact of citizenship will be monitored, in accordance with the provisions of the Law on Citizenship of the Republic of Serbia. Registration of the fact of citizenship will be conducted in accordance with the new Strategy for Improvemet of the Status of Roma in the Republic of Serbia, through its Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy, by introducing measures to provide legal assistance to applicants and giving priority to solving the procedures for determining the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia. The issue of permanent and temporary residence registration and issuance of identity documents will be monitored, in line with the Action Plan, including recording citizenship in the birth registry. | Continuous | Within the above-mentioned Memorandum, one of the activities of the Steering Committee is identification of undocumented persons and provision of free legal aid to members of the Roma national minority in the process of subsequent registration of the fact of birth in the birth registry, extra-judicial proceedings, determination of the time and place of birth, identity card issuance, permanent residence registration, determination of citizenship and other procedures in the field of civil status. The Ombudsman, in the past two years, has not received a complaint of legally invisible person. During the visits and work in Roma settlements, significant problems of “legally invisible” persons were not recorded during the registration in the birth registry, which is another indicator that all of these measures produced results. |
| • • Through oversight of the conduct of delegated affairs pertaining to civil registries, the state of affairs in the exercise of the right to subsequent birth registration will continue to be monitored, including by monitoring the number of persons who have exercised their right to birth registration through this procedure. | Continuous | The Ministry, through the Administrative inspection, shall supervise the execution of delegated tasks regarding birth registries, among other things, in the part that refers to the exercise of right to subsequent registration of the fact of birth in the birth registry. According to data of the Administrative inspection, the supervision does not reveal problems, and so far no complaints were received about the work of the authorities that keep the civil registries related to the exercise of this right. |
| • The associations active in the promotion of human and minority rights that implement activities aimed at informing the Roma about their civil status rights and provide free legal aid to members of the Roma community in these proceedings will continue to be supported by the relevant authorities and ministries. | Continuous | According to the above-mentioned Memorandum, the organization of trainings for Roma coordinators, health mediators, teaching assistants and representatives of associations is in progress, in order to get acquainted with laws and regulations and the manner of exercising the rights in the field of civil registries, citizenship, permanent residence registration, identity cards and family legal protection, with the aim to identify and assist persons in these proceedings. |
| • The Ministry of Justice will ensure a systemic approach to the provision of free legal aid to vulnerable persons. The Law on Free Legal Aid, which is planned to be adopted in 2015, should provide for a wide range of free legal aid beneficiaries, as well as simplified access to justice for vulnerable groups, without imposing any additional requirements, especially with regard to exercising the right to birth registration/subsequent birth registration in extra-judicial proceedings. With a view to ensuring that the right to access to justice is exercised as efficiently as possible, it is essential that the Law on Free Legal Aid also provides for a wide range of free legal aid providers, in order to respond to the needs of vulnerable groups in the Republic of Serbia. | Ongoing | Draft Law on Free Legal Aid has been drawn up and submitted to the relevant ministries for opinions. Draft Law on Free Legal Aid provides for a simplified access to justice for vulnerable groups without imposing any additional requirements, particularly in terms of exercising the rights to birth registration/subsequent birth registration in extra-judicial proceedings. In accordance with the Action Plan for Chapter 23, adoption of the Law is planned in the third quarter of 2016. After the beginning of the implementation of the Law, the Ministry of Justice will monitor the implementation of the Law and publish an annual report on beneficiaries, structure of beneficiaries, type of cases in which the free legal aid is provided and the like. |
| ***Education***  • After an agreement is reached with the Ministry of Finance, the employment status of 175 teaching assistants who have completed accredited training modules and hold certificates from the Life-long Learning Centre at the University of Kragujevac will be resolved in a sustainable manner by including their positions in job classifications and recognising them in the comprehensive occupational classification by the end of 2016. This issue will be addressed through a national framework of qualifications and the Rulebook on the qualifications of teachers and professional associates in elementary school. The network of teaching assistants will be further expanded on the basis of an analytical survey including fiscal impact to be carried out by the relevant government bodies. | Ongoing | The Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit and the Association of Teaching Assistants, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, have prepared the conclusions and recommendations based on the analysis of the state of work of teaching assistants on the impact on procedures of coverage and improvement of education of Roma children and students.  Within the project “We are here together - European support for Roma inclusion”, at the University of Kragujevac, on 20 October 2016, 191 certificates were awarded to teaching assistants who have completed accredited training modules in the Life-long Learning Centre, University of Kragujevac. |
| • The Ministry of Education will adopt a by-law regulating teaching assistants' scope of work with specific tasks, performance quality standards, continued building of teaching assistants' capacities and contractual modality by the end of 2016. | Ongoing | The above-mentioned recommendations and conclusions will be the basis for drafting the new by-law, which will determine the type and level of education and the training programme, work quality standards, rationalization of the network of teaching assistants, recruitment of new assistants and their employment status by the end of 2016, in accordance with Art. 121, paragraph 12 of the LFES (*“Official Gazette of RS”* *No 72/2009, 52/2011 and 55/2013).* |
| • • The Rulebook on the Enrolment of Roma Students in Secondary Schools through Affirmative Action will be adopted by the end of 2015. The Rulebook will also define the modalities of monitoring the effects of affirmative action on Roma education. | Accomplished | ***The Rulebook on Criteria and Procedure for Enrolment of Roma Students in Secondary Schools under more Favorable Conditions with a view to Achieving Full Equality*** *(“Off. Gazette of RS”, No 12/2016)* was adopted. MESTD accepted the Ombudsman's proposals to regulate the application of affirmative actions in a systematic way. |
| • Establishment of segregated schools/classes will be prevented by creating measures of desegregation. The Rulebook on Detecting Discrimination in Education will be adopted by the end of 2015 and its implementation will be monitored through the development of the Protocol on Response to Discrimination. The Rulebook will define the framework for creating the measures of desegregation in both classes and schools in 2016. | Accomplished  Ongoing | The new ***Rulebook on Detailed Criteria for Detecting Forms of Discrimination by an Employee, Child, Student or Third Party in an Educational Institution***, “*Official Gazette of RS”, No 22/2016)* defines segregation “*as a particularly bad case of discrimination in the implementation of the educational process”* *(Art.20)*. A Working group to draft the Guidelines for implementation of this *Rulebook* was formed. |
| • The coverage of children by the education system, from the mandatory pre-school programme to higher education, will be increased. A support system, including active involvement of Roma parents, will be established and by-laws on pupils’ and students' living standard will be developed by the end of 2016. At least 60% of pupils from vulnerable groups, amongst which many are Roma (of which at least 40% girls) will have reached the average academic achievement of students of the educational institution they attend by June 2017. | Continuous | The Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, in cooperation with UNICEF and other partners, has started a campaign for enrolment of children from vulnerable social groups in compulsory education. One of the results of the campaign is that after September 2015, 1,000 children were enrolled. One of the mechanisms that can affect the increase in coverage and regularity of attendance in PPP, which MESTD plans to establish in cooperation with MLEVS, is the introduction of certificate of enrolment and regularity of attendance in PPP as a mandatory document for exercising the right to child allowance, through amendments to the Law on Financial Support for Families with Children. |
| • Dropout prevention programmes will be further developed, in particular by providing mentoring and scholarship programmes. The Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development and its partners will conduct a survey and analysis of the causes of early school leaving. On the basis of the analysis, the measures will be piloted and mainstreamed with support under an approved IPA 2013 project, which will allow for the adoption of the systemic support measures at school level and local government level, by the end of 2016. | Continuous | Through TARI project, since September 2015, the scholarships have been provided to 517 Roma students in secondary schools, with the average school achievement from 2.5 to 3.5. MESTD - in 2015-16 school year, has awarded 176 student scholarships to secondary school Roma students who achieve great success. With the objective of comprehensive support to secondary school students and dropout prevention, MESTD has hired, within the project IPA 2014, 200 mentors who provide help and support to secondary school Roma students in the area of curricular and extracurricular activities.  MESTD is included in the project “Prevention of dropout from the educational system of the Republic of Serbia”, implemented by the Center for Education Policies with the support of UNICEF Serbia. The project aims to contribute to reducing dropouts and early school leaving of children and youth, through establishment and implementation of a mechanism for early identification of children at risk of giving up on education. It is being implemented in 10 primary and secondary schools. Results are expected by the end of the year. |
| • Monitoring and evaluation aimed at enhancing the efficiency and quality of the education system, including in the higher education, will be ensured. In the interest of more accurate school attendance statistics, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development will, in cooperation with educational institutions, prepare and disseminate reports. | Ongoing | The Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development has established an internal working group at the level of the sector, with the aim of implementation and monitoring of public policies for the advancement of Roma community in the field of education. The working group is chaired by the Assistant Minister for Development and Higher Education. |
| • Early education of children aged 3 to 5 will be further strengthened under a support system focusing on the child, rather than on the institution, and developed through: support to early childhood development programmes and the introduction of integrated, specialised and additional programmes in pre-school education, enabling active inclusion of more Roma children and parents in early development programmes to include at least 40% of Roma children (of which at least 40% girls). | Ongoing | Increasing the coverage of Roma children and in general children from vulnerable groups with a variety of programmes is primarily the question of increasing the spatial capacities of PIs and motivation of SGUs to fund diversified programmes for all children, not just Roma children. There are good experiences of the project of MESTD and UNICEF - Kindergartens without borders, which, in SGUs in which it was conducted, significantly influenced the increase in coverage and which, as a result, has the Kaleidoscope programme, which is the basis for development of various diversified programmes in accordance with the needs of families and children. |
| • Municipalities will ensure cooperation among all existing mechanisms for the inclusion of Roma at the local level, including the local inter-sectoral commissions, in order to work together towards improving the educational status of the Roma, above all by providing support for their enrolment in schools and preventing early school leaving. The universal enrolment of Roma children in regular schools and the Preparatory Preschool Programme (PPP) will be ensured by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development. The number of Roma children who enrol and complete primary and secondary schools will be increased, which should also help to decrease the number of early school leavers. Civil society will monitor the implementation of these actions and warn of potential shortcomings in the system. | Continuous | The Project with the World Bank is being prepared, which has components that relate to increasing the coverage, equity and quality improvement. Expert meetings with directors and professional associates of PIs and representatives of SGUs were conducted during the period of one year, where the efforts to increase coverage of vulnerable children with preschool education were promoted and encouraged through the presentation of the Kindergartens without borders Project and other examples of good practice. |
| • Scholarships will be provided for 350 secondary school students with marks higher than 4.5 and around 30 university students starting from the second year of studies who have average marks higher than 9 and exams from the previous year passed. All others can apply for loans that are coming from the state budget, but those that have marks higher than 8.5 and graduate within the normal timeframe will be exempted from paying back the loans. Depending on the availability of finances, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development will continue the scholarship programme launched through IPA 2012 and IPA 2013 targeting secondary school students with average marks higher than 2.5, which will contribute to dropout prevention. | Accomplished | With the application of affirmative action for enrolment of members of the Roma national community in higher education institutions founded by the Republic of Serbia, 96 (43 M, 53 F) Roma students were enrolled. MESTD awarded 74 student scholarships to Roma students and 42 student loans in 2015-16 school year. 65 Roma students were given the possibility to use the student standard institutions under more favorable conditions, based on belonging to the Roma national community in 2015/2016 school year. |
| • The Government of the Republic of Serbia shall adopt an annual plan of adult education on the basis of the “Second Chance” IPA project. Around 80 primary schools currently participate in the process, with around 6,000 participants annually. Persons who complete primary education have the possibility to continue their education with the support of affirmative measures. Persons older than 17 have the possibility to graduate from secondary school with additional financial support. More than 60% of beneficiaries of this measure are members of Roma population, out of which 40% are women. | Accomplished | The Government of the Republic of Serbia has adopted the Annual Plan for Adult Education for 2016, which provides for adults to acquire competencies and qualifications during their whole life, which are necessary for personal and professional development, work and employment, as well as socially responsible behavior. The “Second Chance” project has been successfully completed, and best practices resulting from this project are used in the planning of future activities. Adult education is being implemented in 80 primary schools for adult education and 9 secondary schools for adult education. |
| • In cooperation with the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development will develop systemic models of support to migrant/returnee children and pupils, in the form of the Serbian language as a non-mother tongue learning programmes and support to learning during summer holidays. | Ongoing | During 2015/16 school year, 25 primary schools have informed the MESTD that they had children returnees under the readmission agreement, a total of 115 students, and that they were implementing the comprehensive support measures. |
| • By the end of 2015, the Romani Language Centre will be opened at the Faculty of Philology of the University of Belgrade to train teachers and researchers in teaching and science/research work in the area of the Romani language and culture. By the end of 2015, the first group of 30 teachers will receive certificates and be introduced into the primary education system. By the end of 2016, the elective subject Romani Language with Elements of the National Culture will be introduced into primary schools in Serbia, in accordance with the Law. The certification of teachers eligible to teach Romani Language with Elements of the National Culture will be conducted by the Faculty of Philology of the University of Belgrade. | Accomplished | Romani Language Centre at the Faculty of Philology of the University of Belgrade has started its work in 2015/16 school year. MESTD has initiated, in cooperation with the Centre for Continuing Education and Evaluation of the Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade and the National Council of the Roma national minority, a one-month course for Romani language teachers. The course was held during June and July 2015. A total of 23 future teachers of Romani language have received certificates of having passed A1 and A2 level. During 2015-16 school year, Romani language with Elements of the National Culture was introduced in 18 primary schools in Central Serbia as an elective subject. In the school year 2016/17, 2264 students attend the elective subject Romani Language with Elements of the National Culture in elementary schools in Serbia. |
| ***Employment***  • The Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs and the National Employment Service will actively promote and implement policies and measures aimed at increasing Roma employability and employment, with particular focus on Roma women. Specific actions will include the implementation of special public calls for the award of self-employment subsidies to Roma persons, in accordance with the available budget for active employment policy measures. Public services at the central and local levels will actively promote and implement policies and measures aimed at increasing Roma employment, with particular focus on Roma women, in line with local labour market needs. | Continuous | National Employment Strategy for the period 2011-2020 (“Official Gazette of RS”, No 37/11) which was adopted in May 2011 represents a strategic framework of employment policy. The main objective of employment policy is to establish an effective, stable and sustainable trend of growth in employment in Republic of Serbia until the end of 2020, and that employment policy, as well as labor market institutions are fully aligned with the EU acquis. When it comes to the category of unemployed Roma (who, as a category of less employable persons, have priority in joining the active employment policy measures), in the framework of the National Action Plan for Employment for 2016, in accordance with the Law on Employment and Unemployment Insurance, the emphasis is on:  o increasing the coverage of Roma with the measures of active employment policy, particularly measures that contribute to increasing the employability for more competitive appearance in the labor market (primarily measures of active job search and programmes from the system of additional education and training);  o encouraging employment and self-employment of Roma, by awarding subsidies for the employment of unemployed persons from the category of less employable persons, or subsidies for self-employment (special public call);  o increasing the coverage of Roma with the measures of active employment policy laid down in the local action plans for employment. In order to encourage self-employment of members of Roma population, National Employment Service published special public calls to unemployed Roma for the allocation of subsidies for self-employment in 2015 and 2016. During 2015, 98 Roma men/women were supported in starting their own business, while in the period January-September 2016, the subsidy for self-employment included 63 Roma men/women. |
| • The Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development and the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs will launch specific projects that will create links between (vocational and university) education and employment. They will also analyse the reasons why a substantial part of the Roma work remains in the gray economy, identify the problems and possible solutions. | Accomplished | Additional education and training programmes include 648 Roma, most of them are in the programme of functional primary education of adults (635). During 2016 (January-September), the measures directed towards the acquisition of additional knowledge, skills and competencies, implemented by the NES, have included 54 Roma men/women.  Unfavourable educational structure of unemployed Roma men/women registered with NES still represents the key aggravating factor for their competitive appearance in the labor market, dictates the primary involvement in short-term action programmes and affects the low level of interest of employers for their hiring/employment. The Office for Human and Minority Rights, within the RAP project supported by SIDA, has initiated development of a study/analysis of work of significant number of Roma in the gray economy, as well as holding the two-day event for practice and experience exchange, dedicated to the issues of engagement of Roma in gray economy. |
| • • Local self-government units involvement in reducing unemployment of Roma persons will be encouraged, following the assessment of the local labour market situation and proposals for measures that will yield the best results in terms of Roma employment at the local level. | Accomplished | Support to regional and local employment policy was provided in 2015/2016 through the allocation of funds and the budget of the Republic of Serbia for co-financing of programs and measures of active employment policy provided for by the local action plans for employment. |
| • Employment of the Roma in local and national institutions will be stimulated, in conformity with the authorities of the local self-governments and fiscal constraints. |  | Local self-government units express their needs for employment of new personnel, including the need for the Roma Coordinators. The assembly of a local self-government unit, in accordance with the decision of the Government, shall decide on the maximum number of employees for each organizational form in the system of local self-government. Act on internal organization and job classification in organizational forms can not determine larger number of employees than the maximum number of employees determined in accordance with the Law. |
| • • Affirmative measures, as well as financial and non-financial incentives, such as small grants and public private partnerships, will be developed and institutionalised in order to support Roma employment and facilitate the launching of sustainable Roma business activities. Other activities aimed at increasing the motivation for labour market inclusion of the unemployed Roma, especially financial social assistance recipients, will be intensified, along with strengthening cooperation with relevant civil society organisations and developing Roma entrepreneurship, with focus on women. | Accomplished | Subsidized employment programmes (subsidies for employers to create new jobs, for self-employment, employment of working-age beneficiaries of social assistance, salaries for Roma - persons with disabilities without work experience and support measures for Roma - persons with disabilities) included 179 persons in 2015 and 132 persons in the period January-September 2016, while 436 Roma in 2015 and 304 Roma in 2016 were employed through public works programmes. In order to activate working-age FSA beneficiaries, according to the Regulation on measures of social inclusion of FSA beneficiaries (“Official Gazette of RS”, No 112/14), the NES, in cooperation with CSW, included 9,451 (4,812 women) in the active employment policy measures in 2015, and in 2016, 7,949 FSA beneficiaries (4,055 women). |
| • Opportunities for access to the labour market and employment of hard-to-employ persons, including Roma, are expected to be enhanced by the adoption of the legislative framework governing the area of social entrepreneurship. A Draft Law on Social Entrepreneurship, reflecting good practices in EU Member States, is expected to be finalised by the end of 2015. | Ongoing | Minister of MLEVS, on 7 November 2016, brought the decision on the formation of a working group that will work on a new draft law. Past activities related to the normative framework for regulating the area of social entrepreneurship were based on development of solutions that should provide answers to the identified challenges and on providing the basis for support of further development of social entrepreneurship. |
| • The civil society, especially Roma associations, will contribute to raising awareness of employment opportunities and will help strengthen the information network so as to provide information about employment opportunities to as many Roma as possible. | Continuous | The Office for Human and Minority Rights, in the context of its competitions, has supported the projects of the association of citizens which, among others, are related to economic empowerment of young Roma and work activation.  National Employment Service has started the implementation of a new pilot service Employment caravans, aimed at hard-to-employ persons, including Roma men and women. It is planned for this service to cover 5,000 persons from rural areas, and that, after informing the persons through this service, the National Employment Service registers a total of 3,000 persons.  Promoting active employment policy measures, aimed at increasing employability and employment of persons from the category of less employable continues in 2016. On 19 May 2016, the NES and the Embassy of the Republic of Austria in the RS organized the Regional conference “Employment of less employable groups” with the aim of promotion, exchange of experiences and good practices in the implementation of activities aimed at timely and quality integration or reintegration of less employable persons at the job market.  Also, on 31 May 2016, the OSCE Mission in the RS, in cooperation with the Ministry of Labor, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs and the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit organized a “Conference on best practices in the employment of Roma”, where the results and examples of good practice of the component 6 of the project “We are here together - European support for Roma inclusion” financed from IPA 2012 programme cycle were presented. |
| ***Social protection and health care***  • The Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs will pay special attention to monitoring the exercise of the right to permanent residence registration at the address of a centre for social work by persons who are unable to register their permanent residence on any other grounds. In providing social protection and health care services, special efforts will be made by the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs, as well as the Ministry of Health, to raise the awareness of local authorities about this issue, in order to enable full access to social protection and health care services, prevent discrimination and ensure consistent implementation of relevant legislation. | Continuous | The Ministry of Labor, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs has issued binding instructions to be followed by guardianship authorities in cases of initiating judicial proceedings to determine the time and place of birth, in cases of determining the personal name and permanent residence registration at the address of a centre for social work or social welfare institution for accommodation of beneficiaries. Centres for social work continuously act in compliance with their legal powers and issued instructions. In the procedure of permanent residence registration, the competence of a center for social work is to issue the approval, after the competent organizational unit of the MI confirms the compliance with legal requirements for the permanent residence registration. |
| • The Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs, in cooperation with international organisations, competent institutions and civil society organisations, will implement activities aimed at combating domestic violence. The system of protection and support measures for victims of domestic violence will be enhanced by the end of 2017. | Continuous | Through amendments to the Family Law in the part that regulates the process and content of work of the guardianship authorities in cases of domestic violence, as well as the measures to protect and monitor the execution of measures, the system of social and family protection has adequately reacted against domestic violence. Special protocol for CSW dealing with cases of domestic violence and basic preventive activities that the system must undertake were adopted.  In August 2016, the minister in charge of family protection issued a special order to all centres for social work on the standards of procedure and work of the centre in response to the occurrence of domestic violence and organization of the protection to victims of domestic violence. The special order is primarily an instrument to increase activities in response to violence and activities in the organization of assistance and support to victims of domestic violence, as well as for directors and experts of the guardianship authorities to take personal responsibility in the consistent implementation of the guardianship authority obligations prescribed by the Law, by-laws and established general and specific protocols in this area. In addition, in order to determine the scope and content of response of centres for social work to the occurrence of domestic violence and organization of victims protection, the supervision procedure over professional work and legality of work of 32 centres for social work was initiated. |
| • The Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs, in cooperation with international organisations, competent institutions and civil society organisations, will implement activities aimed at combating human trafficking. The prevention, support, protection and reintegration services for trafficking victims will be improved by the end of 2017. | Continuous | According to the provisions of the Special Protocol adopted in 2013, the centers for social work, as of 2014, have an obligation to establish internal teams within CSW, dealing with this issue. The team consists of experts with special knowledge in this field. Republic Institute for Social Protection has the obligation of professional support, monitoring the effects of the application and operation of internal teams and annual reporting to the Ministry. During 2016, the Centre for the Protection of Victims of Trafficking, in partnership with the Ministry of Education and UNITAS fund, has worked on the prevention of child and youth trafficking. In education, the training program was accredited and passed by 80 employees from all school boards in the territory of Serbia. For the same group, the training was organized for the use of indicators for identifying victims of trafficking in the school population. The workshops with children and young people about human trafficking have become a part of compulsory annual plan of 300 schools in Serbia. Also, an educational film was recorded on the subject of human trafficking, which premiered on RTS as a sign of celebration of 18 October, the International Day Against Human Trafficking. Special attention is paid to the identification of victims of human trafficking. The employees in the Centre participate in trainings at border crossings on the migrant route. These trainings include all employees hired by the police, social protection, NGO sector, doctors, volunteers... As part of its program activities, during 2015, the Centre was holding trainings with employees in centers for asylum seekers. |
| • The Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs will intensify the work of internal local units for organising support and assistance to children living and/or working on the street, with increased reliance on the capacities of social protection institutions providing services of temporary or permanent accommodation, including the services of intensified treatment of children with structural behavioural and personality problems (PIT programme). | Continuous | The Action Plan was prepared for the implementation of the extension and devolution of capacities for the implementation of the programme of intensified treatment - PIT programme which is being carried out for 12 years in the Department of Children and Youth in Belgrade. So far, over 200 boys have passed through this programme, and 97% of them are permanently off the streets. The programme runs from 6 to 9 months. A new building where the PIT programme will be implemented was opened in April 2016. This has expanded the capacity from 6 to 20 beneficiaries. It is planned to expand this programme in another 6 cities in Serbia. |
| • • Centres for social work will commit to intensifying the inclusion of Roma children in local social care services and improve the support programmes for mothers. | Ongoing | One of the main objectives of the Strategy for Development of Social Protection is developing a network of community services. The process of licensing all service providers is ongoing. In March 2016, the Regulation on dedicated transfers was adopted. This Regulation allows for the LSG units, as beneficiaries of dedicated funds from the budget of the Republic, to initiate the development of social services at the local level, which, according to the Law on Social Protection, are financed by local self-governments. On the basis of concluded contracts, the transfer of funds was executed to the LSG units. The contracts on dedicated transfers were signed with representatives of 125 LSGs from all over Serbia, dedicated for the development and establishment of services in the field of social protection. Dedicated transfers are intended for underdeveloped municipalities in Serbia, municipalities and cities that have the institutions in transformation and development of innovative services of importance for Serbia. |
| • Centres for social work will strengthen their counselling role in working with Roma families and Roma beneficiaries in general. | Ongoing | In May 2016, the advisory parental line commenced its operation, where parents can call for free to get advices on how to solve numerous dilemmas related to parenting and children’s upbringing. |
| • To date, 75 Roma health mediators have been hired in 59 municipalities. Over the next three years, additional funds will be committed to increase the number of health mediators, based on an analytical survey of the needs to be carried out by relevant governmental bodies, in order to improve the access to these services by the beneficiaries. This process will start in the next six months, and realistic estimations are that these positions will be systematised and included in the national qualification framework as soon as the register of the qualifications and procedures for registration of the qualifications is settled. Also, modules for formal education will be developed, as well as nomenclature of occupations, and employment of health mediators as health care assistants at health centres will be implemented. The number of health mediators will increase to 90 by 2017. | Unaccomplished | At this time, the project involves 68 health mediators in 55 cities. Mediators have attended professional development programme for health mediators - the OSCE Mission in Serbia project We are here together - European support for Roma inclusion. The development programme includes seven three-day trainings, which were conducted in secondary medical school “Beograd”.  Budget funds planned for 2017 are not sufficient to hire additional 15 mediators. The Ministry of Finance did not allow an increase, due to the implementation of budgetary consolidation measures. For the same financial reasons, the systematization of mediators can not be implemented; also, the formal education modules were not developed, which should have been implemented by the OSCE Mission in Serbia, within IPA project. The Ministry of Health has determined that the health mediators can be systematized only as health workers, which requires additional training or re-training in accordance with applicable regulations governing secondary education, and for that activity it is necessary to find financial resources the Ministry of Health does not have at this time. |
| • Information from the Ministry of Health database on the Roma, by improving the software of the Ministry and respecting the Law on the Protection of Personal Data, will be shared with the relevant sectors in order to facilitate a more comprehensive response to Roma inclusion by social services. The data from the database will be used by the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Welfare and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development. The database is currently being upgraded and will become operational in September 2015. | Unaccomplished | The database is not yet operational, it is currently being upgraded. UNICEF provides technical support and participates in the improvement of existing database and creation of new indicators for monitoring the health status of the Roma population. The collection of data on the health status of Roma is reconstructed and it is in the stage of gradual improvement. |
| ***Housing***  • Under IPA 2012 project, a situation assessment was performed in 20 local self-governments: Sombor, Odžaci, Novi Sad, Kovin, Pančevo, Palilula, Zvezdara, Valjevo, Koceljeva, Smederevo, Kragujevac, Kruševac, Knjaževac, Prokuplje, Leskovac, Vranje, Bujanovac, Bojnik, Žitorađa and Bela Palanka. In June 2014, owing to floods that affected Serbia, Obrenovac was included in the project as 21st municipality. This situation assessment served as the basis for the development of planning documentation in order for housing conditions to be improved, including with possible support of IPA funds. | Accomplished | Within the housing component of the Project “We are here together - European support for Roma inclusion”, financed by the IPA 2012 funds, 13 urban plans were prepared and issued. For the purposes of improving the infrastructure in the settlements, a detailed assessment of the situation and needs was performed, and technical documentation prepared for the implementation of 13 projects. |
| • The IPA 2013 project - “Improvement of living and housing conditions among the Roma population presently residing in informal settlements” is expected to be launched in early 2016, with the Republic Housing Agency (RHA) as the implementing partner; the project foresees improving the infrastructure conditions in substandard settlements, as well as relocation to appropriate social housing in the territories of local self-governments that meet the relevant criteria for participation in the project. | Ongoing | A call for applications for allocation of grants for the implementation of activities in order to provide permanent housing solutions and improve the infrastructure in Roma settlements was publiched. On 08/09/2016, the Department for Contracting and Financing of EU Funded Programmes of the Ministry of Finance published on its website a call for applications for the award of the contracts on technical assistance services for the improvement of living and housing conditions of the Roma population currently living in informal settlements. |
| • A large number of Roma still live in very poor conditions, often with no running water or electricity. Under an IPA 2014 project, the implementation of which will be the responsibility of the Republic Housing Agency IPA unit, new substandard settlements in which living conditions require improvement will be identified; planning documentation will be prepared and conditions will be provided for improving infrastructure networks, or action will be taken to relocate the inhabitants to new social housing. | Ongoing | IPA 2014  *The project to improve the socio-economic living conditions of the Roma population* - The data collection and preparation for formulating the Terms of Reference is being carried out. |
| • The legislation framework on forced evictions, in line with relevant international standards, will be adopted by the end of the first quarter 2016, and set out the conditions to be respected in such cases. The manual and guidelines, with particular emphasis on the roles and obligations of local self-governments, will be developed and distributed to all relevant administrative stakeholders. The Government will monitor their implementation in all municipalities across the Republic of Serbia and present a report on the implementation before the next seminar on social inclusion of Roma. | Ongoing | The Government has sent the Draft Law on housing and building maintenance to the National Assembly, which regulates the issue of forced displacements. By the time of reporting, the National Assembly did not decide on the Draft Law, and therefore on the amendments addressed. The Ombudsman points out that it is important to address the question of processes and procedures of the competent authorities in the displacement and eviction of the settlements in the action plan, while respecting the basic principles of legality and protection of human rights, and the right to alternative accommodation. The Ombudsman will continue to monitor forced displacements with special attention, and to insist on respecting the procedures, in accordance with international human rights standards. |
| • The Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure will draft the Law on Housing, which will be adopted by the end of I quarter of 2016, and will be in line with International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. | Ongoing | The Government has sent the Draft Law on Housing to the National Assembly. The Law will be adopted in the future period. |
| • The Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure will work on legal formulation of all possibilities for the legalisation of individual existing housing structures in sustainable substandard settlements. The Government and municipal authorities will invest efforts in legally regulating the existing substandard sustainable Roma settlements, or in providing sites for their relocation, as per the above mentioned legislation provisions. Where relocation is necessary, it will be conducted only after the residents have been given sufficient advance notice, with full respect of their human rights and in line with international standards. Binding manual/conclusions that define competent authorities' procedures for the relocation of informal settlements will be issued by the Government and communicated to the local authorities. | Continuous | The Law on Legalization (“Off. Gazette of RS, No 96/15) has contributed to fulfillment of this conclusion, which regulates the conditions, manner and procedure for legalization of buildings constructed without a building permit. In addition, within the Project “We are here together: European support for Roma inclusion”, urban plans (plans of detailed regulation and plans of general regulation) were adopted for spatial regulation of 13 substandard Roma settlements which are possible to be kept in the existing location. It should be noted that the regulation plans represent the spatial planning legal acts to be adopted by decision of the local self-government unit assembly. As such, they represent a certain legal solution for spatial regulation of informal settlements that may remain on the site. They also represent the basis for equipping the land with utility infrastructure, regulating the rights in individual parcels and finally, for legalization of individual objects in a given spatial coverage. |
| • Local strategies and action plans will be updated by municipal authorities to also include more accurate data on Roma residents in informal settlements, as well as to propose measures to regulate and consolidate living conditions within existing informal settlements. |  | In cooperation with the Roma integration team of the Regional Cooperation Council, the preparation of local action plans for inclusion of Roma men and women in 6 local self-governments in Serbia is planned. |
| • The situation of internally displaced Roma from Kosovo and Metohija who largely do not plan to return will be addressed. The Republic of Serbia will continue to finance the programmes enhancing the living conditions of internally displaced people, aiming to enhance living conditions and economic empowerment of internally displaced Roma, both through national budget and by securing donor support. | Continuous | The Commissariat for Refugees and Displaced Persons, within its jurisdiction, works to improve living conditions and socio-economic status of IDPs, where special attention is given to the members of Roma national minority, which has been recognized as extremely sensitive and vulnerable category within the IDP population. |
| • The Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure and the Republic Housing Agency will use and improve the database that has been established on the basis of the Geographic Information System (GIS) and contains information on substandard settlements, with a view to efficiently and effectively take investment decisions aimed at improving the position of the Roma community. | Accomplished | Geographic Information System for substandard Roma settlements is established and it is necessary to conduct additional trainings for the use of the system. In the context of development of affordable housing models, publication on appropriate models for addressing the housing needs of the Roma population was developed and issued. |
| ***Freedom of movement***  • The Government of the Republic of Serbia will continue its efforts to counteract cases of visa-free regime abuses in the EU and the Schengen associated countries, and to tackle the phenomenon of unfounded asylum applications lodged by its nationals in the EU Member States and Schengen associated countries. The activities aimed at raising Roma population’s awareness of the risks of abusing the visa-free regime will be continued. | Continuous | Directorate for Administrative Affairs of the Ministry of Interior, in order to monitor and prevent cases of visa-free regime abuse, is taking some measures aimed primarily at reducing the number of unfounded asylum applications, including the active participation in media campaigns, round tables, conferences, forums outlining the measures taken to prevent the visa-free regime abuses. |
| • Roma civil society organisations will be urged to step up their campaigns aimed at informing the Roma population about the readmission procedure and the risks of abusing the visa-free regime. | Accomplished | The Commissariat, on the basis of Public call for civil society organizations, has approved funding in the amount of 1,540,000.00 dinars for nine projects concerning informing the public and involving the returnees on the job market through self-employment. |
| • Continuous cooperation will be ensured with the European Union in exchanging information with the aim of preventing abuses of the visa-free regime and notifications about the number of persons entering and exiting the EU and will be further enhanced. Cooperation will also be intensified through the Committee for Monitoring the Visa-Free Regime with the EU. Trends regarding the number of asylum seekers, as well as the number of returnees under the Readmission Agreement with the EU Member States, will be continually monitored by the competent authorities, including by developing migration profiles and updating statistical data. | Continuous | MI makes everyday contacts with representatives of the foreign competent authorities for implementation of the Agreement on Readmission and representatives of the Embassies - Liaison Officers; analyzes reports containing statistical data on the number of submitted applications for asylum in Western European countries that are delivered by foreign immigration services through embassies and diplomatic and consular missions in the Republic of Serbia. |
| • The available resources of competent authorities at the national and local levels will continue to be directed towards ensuring sustainable integration of all returnees and their families, through facilitated access to all services within the education, health care and social protection systems. At the same time, available EU pre-accession funds and other donor funds, as well as the available budget funds, will be used to promote economic empowerment and housing of most vulnerable returnees. | Continuous | The Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Serbia took over, from the Strategy for Reintegration of Returnees under the Readmission Agreement and Action Plan for the implementation of this Strategy, the obligation to provide assistance to returnees under the Readmission Agreement in the process of resolving the status issues: permanent and temporary residence and identity card issuance, etc. The above issues are addressed in an accelerated procedure, taking into account the necessity for all persons to be re-engaged in social and economic trends in an efficient, effective and sustainable manner. |
| • Returnees under the Readmission Agreement will be informed in detail about the possibilities for resolving their status and other issues upon return. A coordinated approach will also be ensured by providing them with psychosocial and health care support, as well as access to accommodation. | Continuous | Primary reception and informing of returnees is performed by the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration in the Readmission office at the airport “Nikola Tesla”. Upon receipt and recording, returnees are provided with **Fact sheet** containing information on access to basic rights. |