

EU policy for Roma inclusion

Around 6 million Roma, or about half of the estimated Roma population in Europe, live in the European Union. Bulgaria, Slovakia, Romania and Hungary are the Member States with the highest percentages of Roma within their populations. International Roma Day, which falls on 8 April, provides an opportunity to discuss in plenary the situation of Roma, the largest ethnic minority in Europe.

EU framework

Member States have the competence to define their policies in this area, while the EU acts as coordinator.

European Commission

In 2011, Member States were required to adopt national strategies for the years up to 2020, following common targets specified in the [EU Framework](#) for National Roma Integration Strategies. Four key areas for measures were identified: education, employment, healthcare and housing. The national strategies were assessed by the Commission in [2012](#) and their implementation in [2013](#) and [2014](#).

The EU provides funding for national inclusion measures through the European Structural and Investment Funds, with several areas also falling into the [Europe's 2020 strategy for Smart and Inclusive Growth](#).

The Commission also recommends making full use of the National Roma Contact Points' [network](#) and the annual [European Platform for Roma Inclusion](#), which brings together the EU institutions, national government and international organisations with Roma civil society organisations, to foster successful inclusion at the grassroots level.

Roma Summits are organised by the European Commission regularly to provide a high-level forum to discuss Roma issues among the representatives of EU institutions, national governments and civil society organisations.

Council of the EU

The Council gave impetus for closer cooperation between the Commission and the Member States in its 2009 [Conclusions](#) on Inclusion of the Roma. In 2013, the Council adopted a [Recommendation](#) on effective Roma integration measures in the Member States.

European Parliament

The European Parliament has expressed its views on the inclusion strategies as well as on the situation of Roma on several occasions, most recently in its [resolution](#) of 12 December 2013.

Figure 1: Average estimates of Roma population in selected Member States (2012)
In absolute figures (top graph) and as percentage of total population (lower graph)



Data source: [Council of Europe](#). NB average estimates are those used by the Council of Europe, and fall between the minimum and maximum estimates for each country.