

Roma Inclusion Index 2015

The Roma Inclusion Index proposes a list of relevant indicators and tests the availability of existing data in the following countries: **Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Spain.**

The idea behind the project is based on the Decade's Terms of Reference, according to which the Decade Secretariat serves as an informational hub. The aim of the Decade was "eliminating discrimination and closing the unacceptable gaps between Roma and the rest of society", notably in the areas of employment, education, health and housing, taking into consideration the cross-cutting areas of non-discrimination, gender equality and poverty reduction. The following report, therefore, provides an overview of the situation in the selected countries in these four priority areas, as well as in several "horizontal" indicators reflecting the cross-cutting areas of poverty and non-discrimination.

Some key findings:

Education

- Gaps between Roma and the total population remain significant in most areas of education
- **Some improvements** especially at the **pre-school** and **primary level** in all of the studied countries, while secondary and tertiary education inclusion remains low
- **Literacy** seems to have been tackled in a significant number of countries, especially in Czech Republic, Hungary, Macedonia, Serbia, Slovakia and Spain
- The **completion rates** of Roma remain **very low** in secondary and near to zero in tertiary education, especially in Albania, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Montenegro
- **School segregation** remains high overall, even worsened in some countries, for example in Albania, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Montenegro and Slovakia
- A significant **lack of data** available for certain countries, especially in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Spain

Employment

- Encouraging trends but the improvement in most indicators is very small over a ten-year period
- The only indicator where an increase of the gap is likely present is **employment in the informal sector**, for instance in Albania, Hungary or Macedonia
- A worsening of the situation for Roma is detectable in the average number of months from the last employment experience, especially for **no employment** indicator or **long term unemployment**
- **Data are again missing** for a significant number of indicators, especially in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czech Republic

Housing

- a possible reduction of the gaps **and improvement** of the situation of Roma in regard to **homelessness, access to drinking water and electricity**; however only very

modest, while in some of the countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina, this situation has even worsened

- a possible **worsening** of the situation regarding **holding property documents** and **over-crowding** overall
- living in **segregated neighbourhoods** also seem to persist overall
- detailed **data are unavailable** in a number of cases, especially in relation to homelessness

Health

- a possible **improvement in access to health insurance** for Roma, and a reduction in the gap with the total population, especially in Czech Republic, Hungary, Macedonia, Serbia and Slovakia, while significant shortcomings are detected in Bulgaria and Romania
- While the same is true **for infant mortality and life expectancy**, the gaps remain vast overall
- **Missing data** remains a problem in regards to health as well

Overall, the report suggests a worsening of the situation of Roma and widening of the gap with the total population in regard to poverty, particularly the risk of poverty. Although experiences of discrimination seem to have declined in general, still about one-third of Roma continue to report discrimination.