

Procedure file

Basic information			
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2013/2066(INI)	Procedure completed	
Gender aspects of the European framework of national Roma inclusion strategies			
Subject 4.10.04 Gender equality 4.10.08 Equal treatment of persons, non-discrimination			

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible FEMM Women's Rights and Gender Equality	Rapporteur PPE JÁRÓKA Lívia Shadow rapporteur S&D CLIVETI Minodora ALDE NICOLAI Norica Verts/ALE ROMEVA I RUEDA Raül ECR YANNAKOURDAKIS Marina	Appointed 13/03/2013
	Committee for opinion EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	Rapporteur for opinion PPE BAUER Edit	Appointed 13/03/2013
	REGI Regional Development	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
European Commission	Commission DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion	Commissioner REDING Viviane	

Key events			
18/04/2013	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
14/10/2013	Vote in committee		
25/10/2013	Committee report tabled for plenary	A7-0349/2013	
09/12/2013	Debate in Parliament		
10/12/2013	Results of vote in Parliament		
10/12/2013	Decision by Parliament	T7-0545/2013	Summary

Technical information

Procedure reference	2013/2066(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	FEMM/7/12470

Documentation gateway

Committee draft report		PE516.873	29/08/2013	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE519.697	25/09/2013	EP	
Committee opinion	EMPL	PE514.570	30/09/2013	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A7-0349/2013	25/10/2013	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T7-0545/2013	10/12/2013	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2014)260	06/05/2014	EC	

Gender aspects of the European framework of national Roma inclusion strategies

The Committee on Womens Rights and Gender Equality unanimously adopted the own-initiative report by Lívia JÁRÓKA (EPP, HU) on gender aspects of the European Framework of National Roma Inclusion Strategies.

Members recalled that Roma women often face multiple and intersectional discrimination on the grounds of gender and ethnic origin. Acts of violence against Roma women are frequently committed by authorities in all EU Member States. Members reiterated the fact that Roma education gaps have an important gender dimension, since the literacy rate of Roma women averages 68 %, compared to 81 % for Roma men, and the primary school enrolment rate among Roma girls is just 64 %.

In this context, Members called for National Roma Integration Strategies (NRIS) focussing on empowering Roma women. They called on Member States that have received, in addition, country-specific recommendations under the European Semester on Roma-related issues, to implement these recommendations swiftly and to fight discrimination.

In view of the vulnerable situation of Roma women, Members regretted that the lack of efficiency of the EU Framework for NRIS. They asked Member States to develop National Action Plans in the four key priority areas:

- health,
- housing,
- employment, and
- education,

with specific goals and targets, funding, indicators and timeframes; evaluate progress by measuring implementation outcomes.

Defend the rights of Roma women and ensure their integration at all levels of society: Members called on Member State governments and local authorities to involve Roma women, through womens organisations, Roma NGOs and relevant stakeholders, in the preparation, implementation, evaluation and monitoring of the NRIS. They also proposed numerous measures to be implemented by Member states or with the support of the Commission. The main ones called on Member States and the Commission to:

- develop a Dashboard of EU Roma inclusion indicators setting out measures taken, objectives and progress made;
- eliminate the spatial segregation, forced evictions and homelessness faced by Roma men and women, and to set up effective and transparent housing policies;
- ensure that the fundamental rights of Roma women and children are respected and further combat patriarchal and sexist traditions;
- mobilise Roma organisations;

- ensure that austerity measures do not impact disproportionately on Roma and Traveller women and that budget decisions are underpinned by human rights principles;
- ensure that disaggregated data for gender and ethnicity are collected by all administrations and used to inform policy development;
- match national policy commitments by allocating proper financial resources for the implementation of NRIS,
- establish a proper framework for consultation, peer learning and the sharing of experience among policy-makers and Roma organisations;
- ensure equality in civil rights and equal access to healthcare services, education, employment and accommodation for Roma women;
- ensure the adoption and implementation of specific and comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation in line with international and European standards;
- place greater emphasis on the territorial aspects of social inclusion in their national strategies, and to target the most deprived micro-regions by means of complex, integrated development programmes;
- strengthen gender mainstreaming when implementing their NRIS, by applying a gender equality perspective to all policies and practices affecting Roma women;
- ensure that the NRIS reflect Roma women's specific rights and needs and to develop concrete indicators for their implementation, follow-up and monitoring based on, for example, the United Nations Development Programmes Gender-related Development Index (GDI);
- develop a national monitoring and evaluation framework for the NRIS that covers aspects such as budget monitoring and other forms of civil society monitoring;
- ensure NGOs operating in the field in Member States draw up personalised action plans which aim to help women and young people to find employment;
- increase the number and visibility of Roma and Traveller programmes and beneficiaries, including specific support to Traveller and Roma organisations working to promote women's empowerment and NGO access to structural funds;
- introduce a child poverty reduction target into the EU Roma inclusion process;
- include in their NRIS tailored programmes the active inclusion of Roma women in the labour market;
- develop specific measures targeting large families (with four or more children) and single parent households, and counteract social exclusion and ghettoisation;
- ensure equal access to quality and affordable childcare and early childhood education
- take all necessary measures to prevent the dismissal of employees during pregnancy or motherhood
- develop micro-loan schemes targeting small business start-ups and entrepreneurs with simple, entrepreneur-friendly administrative procedures;
- develop targeted and integration-oriented measures in the field of unemployment support;
- make full use of the opportunities offered by the Structural Funds, in particular the European Social Fund (ESF), to improve both the education and the employment prospects for the Roma girls;
- combat stereotypes, in order to prevent the anathematisation of this ethnic group;
- develop specific programmes to ensure that Roma girls and young women stay in primary, secondary, and higher education;
- promote networks of Roma students, and overcome the isolation of Roma students;
- ensure access to health, and ensure that Roma women and girls can make their own choices about their sexuality, health, and maternity;
- prosecute direct and indirect discrimination against Roma women in exercising their fundamental rights and in accessing public services;
- address all forms of violence against women, such as domestic violence, sexual exploitation and human trafficking, and to support governmental and civil society initiatives to address these problems
- fight against arranged marriage, child marriage and forced marriage;
- fully transpose the provisions of Directive 2011/36 EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims;
- encourage the exchange of information and best practices on the integration of Roma women in all areas of society;
- promote Roma language and culture;
- address the needs of older Roma women.

Members also called for the Commission to deliver legal instruments, including a European directive to combat gender-based violence.

Lastly, they requested European solutions from the Member States and the Commission for Roma peoples problems, taking into consideration their right of free movement as European citizens, and the need for collaboration between Member States to resolve the issues faced by this ethnic group.

Gender aspects of the European framework of national Roma inclusion strategies

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on gender aspects of the European Framework of National Roma Inclusion Strategies.

Parliament recalled that Roma women often face multiple and intersectional discrimination on the grounds of gender and ethnic origin. Acts of violence against Roma women are frequently committed by authorities in all EU Member States. Parliament reiterated the fact that Roma education gaps have an important gender dimension, since the literacy rate of Roma women averages 68 %, compared to 81 % for Roma men, and the primary school enrolment rate among Roma girls is just 64 %.

Parliament noted that Roma women were subject to patriarchal and sexist traditions that prevented them from exercising their freedom of choice in fundamental issues of their lives such as education, work, sexual and reproductive health and even marriage.

In this context, Parliament called for National Roma Integration Strategies (NRIS) focussing on empowering Roma women. It called on Member States that have received, in addition, country-specific recommendations under the European Semester on Roma-related issues, to implement these recommendations swiftly and to fight discrimination.

In view of the vulnerable situation of Roma women, Parliament regretted that the lack of efficiency of the EU Framework for NRIS. They asked Member States to develop National Action Plans in the four key priority areas:

- health,
- housing,
- employment, and
- education,

with specific goals and targets, funding, indicators and timeframes; evaluate progress by measuring implementation outcomes.

Defend the rights of Roma women and ensure their integration at all levels of society: Parliament called on Member State governments and local authorities to involve Roma women, through womens organisations, Roma NGOs and relevant stakeholders, in the preparation, implementation, evaluation and monitoring of the NRIS. It also proposed numerous measures to be implemented by Member states or with the support of the Commission. The main ones called on Member States and the Commission to:

- develop a Dashboard of EU Roma inclusion indicators setting out measures taken, objectives and progress made;
- eliminate the spatial segregation, forced evictions and homelessness faced by Roma men and women, and to set up effective and transparent housing policies;
- ensure that the fundamental rights of Roma women and children are respected and further combat patriarchal and sexist traditions;
- mobilise Roma organisations;
- ensure that austerity measures do not impact disproportionately on Roma and Traveller women and that budget decisions are underpinned by human rights principles;
- ensure that disaggregated data for gender and ethnicity are collected by all administrations and used to inform policy development;
- match national policy commitments by allocating proper financial resources for the implementation of NRIS,
- establish a proper framework for consultation, peer learning and the sharing of experience among policy-makers and Roma organisations;
- ensure equality in civil rights and equal access to healthcare services, education, employment and accommodation for Roma women;
- ensure the adoption and implementation of specific and comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation in line with international and European standards;
- place greater emphasis on the territorial aspects of social inclusion in their national strategies, and to target the most deprived micro-regions by means of complex, integrated development programmes;
- strengthen gender mainstreaming when implementing their NRIS, by applying a gender equality perspective to all policies and practices affecting Roma women;
- ensure that the NRIS reflect Roma womens specific rights and needs and to develop concrete indicators for their implementation, follow-up and monitoring based on, for example, the United Nations Development Programmes Gender-related Development Index (GDI);
- develop a national monitoring and evaluation framework for the NRIS that covers aspects such as budget monitoring and other forms of civil society monitoring;
- ensure NGOs operating in the field help women and young people to find employment;
- increase the number and visibility of Roma and Traveller programmes and beneficiaries, including specific support to Traveller and Roma organisations working to promote womens empowerment and NGO access to structural funds;
- introduce a child poverty reduction target into the EU Roma inclusion process;
- include in their NRIS tailored programmes the active inclusion of Roma women in the labour market;
- develop specific measures targeting large families (with four or more children) and single parent households, and counteract social exclusion and ghettoisation;
- ensure equal access to quality and affordable childcare and early childhood education
- take all necessary measures to prevent the dismissal of employees during pregnancy or motherhood

- develop micro-loan schemes targeting small business start-ups and entrepreneurs with simple, entrepreneur-friendly administrative procedures;
- develop targeted and integration-oriented measures in the field of unemployment support (retraining, job creation and placement with wage support, social security support, tax allowances, etc.) instead of the current, almost exclusive focus on public work programmes;
- make full use of the opportunities offered by the Structural Funds, in particular the European Social Fund (ESF), to improve both the education and the employment prospects for the Roma girls;
- combat stereotypes, in order to prevent the anathematisation of this ethnic group;
- develop specific programmes to ensure that Roma girls and young women stay in primary, secondary, and higher education by granting subsidies and scholarships, while respecting the principle of equal opportunities, taking account of the fact that girls marry at a younger age than boys;
- promote networks of Roma students, and overcome the isolation of Roma students;
- allocate funds for building schools, kindergartens and nurseries with more places so that the Roma children can participate in classes with other, non-Roma, children without being discriminated against;
- ensure access to health, and ensure that Roma women and girls can make their own choices about their sexuality, health, and maternity;
- prosecute direct and indirect discrimination against Roma women in exercising their fundamental rights and in accessing public services;
- address all forms of violence against women, such as domestic violence, sexual exploitation and human trafficking, and to support governmental and civil society initiatives to address these problems
- fight against arranged marriage, child marriage and forced marriage;
- fully transpose the provisions of [Directive 2011/36 EU](#) on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims;
- encourage the exchange of information and best practices on the integration of Roma women in all areas of society;
- promote Roma language and culture;
- address the needs of older Roma women.

Parliament also called for the Commission to deliver legal instruments, including a European directive to combat gender-based violence.

Lastly, it requested European solutions from the Member States and the Commission for Roma peoples problems, taking into consideration their right of free movement as European citizens, and the need for collaboration between Member States to resolve the issues faced by this ethnic group.