The use of the Structural Funds for Roma inclusion. Lessons learnt from the current programming period

*EURoma Network*

*Structural Funds: Investing in Roma*
Progress made

- The volume of funds invested for Roma has increased significantly. Roma are more visible in OPs, mainly in ESF.
- Roma-related issues are being incorporated more systematically on the SF agenda of Member States and EU institutions.
- New coordination mechanisms and managing models are being built in the framework of the development of regional and national OPs.
- Targeted approaches to Roma inclusion are being incorporated and positive results can be observed in several national and local contexts.
- Civil society participation, in particular Roma involvement, has been improving (consultation in project design, implementation, representation in the Monitoring Committees).
- A number of projects have achieved substantial evidence-based results and help to generate information, methodologies and know-how.
Shortfalls

There is often a gap between planning and implementation, as implementation does not achieve the objectives planned.

In most cases results are poor due to inadequate institutional frameworks.

Poor leadership and management capacity leads to limited results.

The effective involvement of the Roma community continues to be a challenge in most projects.

Lack of accurate data results in lack of demonstrable results and poor measurement of effectiveness.

Lack of ownership on the part of the governments, especially at the local level.

Inefficient managing models and weak coordination mechanisms between different departments at vertical and at horizontal level.

Implementation bottlenecks related to policy changes, delays in the timing, lack of cofounding, etc.