

2012-2020 National Strategy for Roma Social Inclusion and its 2014-2016 Operational Plan

2012-2016 EVALUATION: SUMMARY OF PROGRESS AND PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Conclusions of the reports: monitoring of the 2014-2016 Operational Plan and intermediate monitoring of the Strategy (evaluation)

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Introduction

In March 2012, the Spanish Government approved the *National Strategy for Roma Social Inclusion 2012-2020*, inspired by the European Commission's Communication *A European Framework of National Strategies for the Inclusion of Roma until 2020*. In April 2014, the 2014-2016 Operational Plan was approved for the implementation of the Strategy, which developed the measures to be undertaken to achieve the objectives defined in the Strategy. Both documents supported reliable monitoring and methods for evaluating the progress and impact of the measures for the social inclusion of Roma.

This report, therefore, responds to the mandate to prepare an evaluation of the results obtained during the 2012-2016 period. The information included is extracted from various sources:

- Progress reports on the Operational Plan for the years 2014, 2015 and 2014-2016.
- Mid-term monitoring report (evaluation) on the National Strategy for Roma Social Inclusion for the 2012-2016 period.
- Consultation with key actors involved in the implementation of the Strategy: Government departments, departments responsible for Roma social inclusion policies in the autonomous regions, Spanish Roma Council.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the people who have been involved in improving the tools for monitoring and evaluating the policies for Roma social inclusion. Their active contribution has made this report possible and enabled us to show the results obtained, as well as the areas that need to be improved, so that in the future we can have increasingly effective policies to make Roma social inclusion a reality.

1. National Strategy for Roma social inclusion: impact results

1.1. Education

The educational level of adult Roma has improved:

- Although there aren't comparable data, there has been an improvement of the absolute illiteracy rate among Roma.
- The proportion of young people who are neither studying nor working among Roma has been reduced. The rate between age 15-19 is 43.3 % and age 20-24 is 48.5 % (objective 85%).
- The rate of Roma population who have completed post-compulsory education has increased. The rate is 7.7% (target: 5%).

The percentage of Roma pupils attending secondary school has increased:

- Enrolment in Secondary Education for Roma aged 13-15 has increased: in the case of boys it has increased by 8 percentage points (from 84.2% in 2007 to 92.3% in 2012); in the case of girls it has increased by 17.5 percentage points (from 71.7% in 2007 to 89.2% in 2012), exceeding the targets set for 2015.

For the first time, data is available in some areas that will allow targets to be set for 2020:

- School drop-out rate among Roma students.
- Secondary school diploma rate among Roma students.

There is no up-to-date information on the other indicators:

- Increase in the enrolment of the Roma population in pre-school Education.
- The universal enrolment and increased academic success of Roma pupils in primary education.

1.2. Employment

Although there is no detailed and updated information on the employment situation of Roma population, there is a perception among the actors that the following progress has been made:

- The number of Roma accessing employment has increased, especially among young people.
- The range of occupational sectors where Roma work is expanding.
- There is some decline in the black economy.
- Improvement in the employability of Roma. There is a greater number of better trained Roma, especially among young people and women.

Despite the improvements noted above, this is one of the fields where important challenges remain, especially in the following areas:

- Access to regular employment is still well below the average compared to the total population. There is a tendency towards limited professional development and worse working conditions compared to the rest of the population, as well as a tendency towards excessive concentration in certain sectors. Antigypsyism feelings, the prejudices and the stereotyping make it much more difficult for a Roma person to be hired, simply because they belong to this minority.
- The vulnerability of Roma people engaged in itinerant trade is still significant.
- The level of qualifications and skills required to improve employability and professional development remains well below that of the rest of the population. The number of Roma people entering vocational training is still very small.

1.3. Housing

In general terms, Roma have improved their situation with regard to access to and maintenance of housing:

- The percentage of slum dwellings among Roma homes has been reduced to 2.17% (in 2007 it was 3.9%, with a target of 2%).
- The percentage of Roma people living in dwellings considered as "substandard housing" has been reduced to 6.46% (in 2007 it was 7.8%, with a target to reduce it to 6%).
- The percentage of Roma households lacking some basic facilities has been reduced: 4.2% for water and 5.2% for electricity (in 2007 it was 8.5%, with a target to reduce it to 4.2%).
- The percentage of Roma households in areas with a lack of urban facilities has been reduced to 10.34% (in 2007 it was 19.5%, with a target to reduce it to 15%).
- The percentage of Roma households that are overcrowded has been reduced to 8.9% (in 2007 it was 29.4%, with a target to reduce it to 25%).

1.4. Health

In general terms, the health of Roma population has remained at similar levels, having improved in relation to:

- The perception of the state of health among women who perceive that their state of health is good or very good has improved (from 51.4% to 55.5%); specifically, in the 35 to 54 age group it has increased from 51.4% to 55.6%, with the objective of reaching 58%.
- The number of Roma women who have never attended a gynaecological consultation has been reduced from 25.3% to 16.4% (the target being 20%), and the differences between the general population and the Roma population have also been reduced.
- For Roma children, the occurrence of accidents of any kind, including poisoning or burns, has remained practically constant between 2006 (15.5%) and 2014 (15.7%); however, in girls it has decreased, going from 13.0% in 2006 to 7.9% in 2014. In addition, the disparity has also been reduced with respect to the occurrence of accidents in the general population (8.4% in 2006 and 6.7% in 2012).
- The number of accidents at home (house, stairs, doorway, etc.) among Roma children has decreased from 36.7% to 33.3% in 2014 and, for girls, from 53.8% to 50.0% in 2014, with a target to reduce it to 30% for boys and to 40% for girls.
- Dental care for Roma children: the number of children who have never been to the dentist has dropped from 49.5% to 37.7% and the number of girls from 51.4% to 43.9%, with a target to reduce it to 45%.

In the next few years, there should be improvements in the levels of health of Roma, especially in the following areas:

- Improvement in the self-perceived state of health for both Roma women and men.
- Reduction of accidents of any kind, including poisoning or burns, in the Roma population aged 16 or over.
- Reduction in smoking among Roma over 16 years of age.
- Promotion of healthy eating and physical activity and reduction in a sedentary lifestyle.
- Reducing obesity in Roma women.
- Reducing childhood obesity.
- Reducing the prevalence of major chronic diseases in the Gypsy population.

There is no detailed information on:

- Road accidents among Roma.

2. 2014-2016 Operational Plan: process results

2.1. National government

1. The 2014-2016 Operational Plan has made it possible to monitor the implementation of specific measures for the social inclusion of Roma and also those areas that are key to their social inclusion, due to planning based on thematic areas of action. Education (23%), equality and non-discrimination (19%), culture and social participation (14%), health (10%) and employment (10%) are the areas in which the greatest number of measures are implemented.
2. The combination of planning based on the inclusion of specific measures, on the one hand, but also on general measures, on the other hand, has considerably improved our knowledge of the type of measures being carried out:
 - The measures explicitly aimed at promoting Roma social inclusion are the most frequent type of measure (62%).
 - Adaptations to ensure access to other policies account for 25% of measures.
3. In relation to the specific measures, the seven types of actions which receive the most funding in overall terms (national budget and European Social Fund) are: 1) funding of NGO programmes aimed at promoting Roma social inclusion; 2) active inclusion itineraries; 3) access to employment for young Roma; 4) funding of internal development programmes from Roma civil society organisations; 5) funding of programmes aimed at promoting Roma social inclusion; 6) promotion of Roma culture; 7) studies on the situation of Roma in various areas.
4. The system of inter-departmental coordination with the directive centres of the ministries responsible for sectoral policies has made very good progress, as although the coordination and leadership of the Operational Plan falls under the Sub-directorate General for Social Programmes of the Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality, there is active involvement from ten departments from four different ministries.
5. The data collection system has improved the information available on the resources invested in specific measures to promote the social inclusion of Roma. In 2015 and 2016, it is estimated that:
 - The national government invested approximately 18.5 million Euros (2015: 8.9 million Euros; 2016: 9.6 million Euros) via 79 measures, mainly in three areas of action: 1) employment; 2) reduction in poverty through social investment; 3) education.
 - The European Social Fund contributed 12.77 million Euros (2015: 8.11 million Euros; 2016: 4.66 million) via the Operational Programme on Social Inclusion and Social Economy (POISES) and the Operational Programme on Youth Employment (POEJ).
6. The 2014-2016 Operational Plan has had a high degree of achievement: 84% of the planned actions have been carried out in full or partially.

2.2. Autonomous Regions

7. In the Autonomous Regions, the areas in which the greatest number of measures are implemented are: the reduction of poverty through social investment (26%); education (25%); employment (17%); and equality and non-discrimination (14%).
8. There has been a combination of the type of measures being carried out:

- Targeted measures are the most frequent type of measure (56%).
 - Adaptations to ensure access to mainstream policies account for 44% of measures.
9. In relation to these measures, the seven types of actions which receive the most funding in overall terms (General Public Administration budget, regional funding and European Social Fund aid) are: 1) active inclusion itineraries; 2) integrated intervention in slums or substandard housing neighbourhoods; 3) programmes for social and community inclusion at local level; 4) promotion of participation by Roma civil society organisations; 5) school continuity and success; 6) socio-educational actions with families aimed at school continuity and success; 7) community participation.
 10. The coordination system with the Autonomous Regions, via the Technical Cooperation Group, has achieved the involvement of the seventeen Autonomous Regions and one autonomous city (Melilla) in the processes of exchange of information, mutual learning and annual monitoring.
 11. Ten autonomous regions have a strategy or plan (Andalusia, Catalonia, Galicia, La Rioja, Madrid, Basque Country), or are in the process of preparation or approval (Andalusia, Aragon, Asturias, Navarra and Valencia).
 12. Some autonomous regions take into account the specific needs of Roma, including specific mentions within the framework of sectoral policies, generally on social inclusion (Asturias, Castile and Leon, Madrid, Melilla, Navarra and the Basque Country), but also in other areas such as health (Andalusia and Navarra), children (Murcia, La Rioja) and equal opportunities (La Rioja, Basque Country).
 13. Ten autonomous regions take into account the National Strategy when designing and implementing their policies, especially those related to social and inclusion policies, which in many cases give rise to the implementation of specific actions and programmes or which take into account the Roma population (Aragon, Asturias, Balearic Islands, Cantabria, Castile-la-Mancha, Castile and Leon, Extremadura, Murcia, Navarra and Valencia).
 14. Thirteen autonomous regions have systems for coordinating with the departments responsible for the key areas for Roma social inclusion, which are mainly channelled through 3 methods: 1) Interdepartmental commissions (12%: Andalusia and Catalonia); 2) Commissions, participation groups or councils in which the different departments and organisations of Roma civil society organisations participate (63%: Aragon, Cantabria, Castile-la-Mancha, Catalonia, Extremadura, Galicia, La Rioja, Madrid, Murcia, Basque Country); 3) Participation of the department responsible for Roma social inclusion policies in sectoral committees in areas such as education, housing, health, employment, etc. (25%: Castilla-la-Mancha, Castilla y Leon, Murcia, Navarra).
 15. Thirteen autonomous regions have systems for coordinating with local authorities, mainly through 2 methods: 1) Coordination meetings with local authorities that develop projects subsidised through the Roma Development Plan or through regional calls for proposals (64%: Andalusia, Asturias, Aragon, Cantabria, Castile-La Mancha, Castile-Leon, Extremadura, La Rioja, Madrid, Murcia); 2) Councils or discussion groups in which local authorities participate (36%: Catalonia, Extremadura, Galicia, Navarra and the Basque Country).
 16. Sixteen autonomous regions have systems for coordinating with Roma civil society organisations, mainly through 5 methods: 1) Regular informal meetings (32%: Andalusia, Castile and Leon, Galicia, La Rioja, Navarra, Valencia); 2) Commissions or working groups for specific topics (16%: Andalusia, Galicia and Navarra); 3) Councils or discussion groups specifically focusing on Roma social inclusion (37%: Aragon, Castile-la-Mancha, Catalonia, Extremadura, Madrid, Murcia, Basque Country); 4) Councils or discussion groups on social inclusion (10%: Aragon, Cantabria); 5) Coordination with

networks specialising in poverty and social exclusion (5%: Balearic Islands).

17. Twelve autonomous regions have processes or tools to monitor and evaluate the policies for Roma social inclusion (Aragon, Balearic Islands, Cantabria, Castile-La Mancha, Castile and Leon, Catalonia, Extremadura, Galicia, La Rioja, Murcia, Melilla and the Basque Country) through 3 methods: 1) Specific commissions or working groups in which Roma civil society organisations participate (31%); 2) Monitoring of the reports and explanations of the specific programmes for social inclusion of Roma financed through grants (54%); 3) Specific monitoring or evaluation reports related to the corresponding Strategy (15%).
18. For the first time, there is an approximation of the number of people benefiting from the specific measures aimed at promoting Roma social inclusion in the autonomous regions implemented in 2015 and 2016 (although these must be treated with caution since this is not exhaustive information):
 - There has been an increase in the number of estimated beneficiaries: 19,626 in 2015 and 25,027 in 2016.
 - The areas in which there are the greatest number of beneficiaries are: 1) equality, non-discrimination and culture; (2) reducing poverty through social investment; (3) employment; in 2016, however, there has been an increase in housing measures.
19. The data collection system has improved the information available on the resources invested in targeted measures to promote Roma social inclusion. In 2015 and 2016, it is estimated that:
 - The autonomous regions invested approximately 13.58 million Euros (2015: 5.13 million Euros; 2016: 8.45 million Euros) via 115 measures, mainly in three areas of action: 1) reduction of poverty through social investment; 2) equality, non-discrimination and culture; 3) employment; 4) education. The budget increased by 65% between 2015 and 2016, a trend that can be observed in practically all the autonomous regions.¹
 - In 2015 and 2016, the European Social Fund contributed 5.26 million Euros to Roma social inclusion (2015: 1.96 million Euros; 2016: 3.3 million Euros) through the operational programmes of eight autonomous regions (Aragon, Asturias, Castile and Leon, Valencia, Galicia, Madrid, Murcia, Navarre), mainly through two types of measures: 1) targeted (58% of the resources in 2016); 2) adaptations to ensure access to social inclusion measures (37% of the resources in 2016). The measures were primarily implemented in three areas: 1) reduction in poverty through social investment; 2) education; 3) housing.
20. Eleven autonomous regions have programmes or actions to promote Roma social inclusion through the 2014-2020 ESF/ERDF funds allocated to the autonomous regions by means of 3 methods: 1) calls for proposals for programmes for social and/or local organisations for active inclusion of vulnerable groups, including the Roma population (40%: Aragon, Castile and Leon, Galicia, Madrid, Murcia, Valencia); 2) calls for proposals for programmes for targeted Roma social inclusion actions civil society organisations and/or local authorities (47%: Aragon, Cantabria, Castile-La-Mancha, Extremadura, Galicia, Murcia, Navarra); 3) calls for proposals for programmes for civil society organisations and/or local authorities for integrated intervention in underprivileged neighbourhoods (13%: Andalusia, Castilla-la-Mancha).

¹ Bear in mind that this increase may be due to the fact that the autonomous regions have provided more detailed information in 2016 than in 2015.

2.3. Resources invested in 2015 and 2016 in targeted measures

As a result of the establishment of progress reports, for the first time comparative information is available for the years 2015 and 2016 on the budget allocated to targeted measures to promote Roma social inclusion in the national government and the autonomous regions, as well as the contribution of the European Social Fund.

In overall terms, and taking into account that the information shown in the table is not necessarily exhaustive, a 4% increase can be observed between the 2015 and 2016 budgets.²

Source of funding	2015	2016	Total
National government (grants awarded through the Income Tax)	€ 7,525,000.00	€8,331,243.16	€15,856,243.16
National government (grants for the organisational development of Roma civil society organisations)	€ 546,082.76	€ 502,385.00	€ 1,048,467.76
National government (budget from the various departments involved in the strategy)	€361,967.60	€439,395.77	€801,363.37
Roma Development Plan (national government)	€412,500.00	€355,516.03	€768,016.03
Roma Development Plan (autonomous regions)	€864,964.04	€809,528.39	€1,674,492.43
Roma Development Plan (local authorities)	€245,006.27	€601,453.06	€846,459.33
Autonomous regions (own budget)	€3,778,687.70	€6,664,619.37	€10,443,307.07
European Social Fund (national government)	€8,111,140.00	€ 4,656,128.90	€12,767,268.90
European Social Fund (autonomous regions)	€ 954,666.48	€ 1,239,122.48	€2,193,788.96
	€ 22,800,014.85	€ 23,599,392.16	€ 46,399,407.01

² Bear in mind that the data included in the table is not necessarily exhaustive and must be interpreted with caution since the information included has been provided by the various management centres of the General Public Administration and the autonomous regions. The information provided may be incomplete.

3. 2017-2020 Challenges for the future

ACHIEVING A GREATER POLITICAL COMMITMENT TO ROMA SOCIAL INCLUSION FROM ALL KEY ACTORS

Guidelines and steps to be taken:

1. Approve the new 2017-2020 Operational Plan for the Strategy with the collaboration of the departments from the national government, the autonomous regions, local authorities and the Spanish Roma Council.
2. Consolidate and strengthen the coordination with the national government, the autonomous regions and local authorities in order to direct resources towards achieving the objectives of the Strategy by 2020.
3. Promote the approval of a strategy, plan or set of measures for Roma social inclusion in the autonomous regions and local authorities in the medium/long term. In this regard, special attention should be paid to the local level, since this is where people's problems must be addressed and where intervention is most real and effective.
4. Adequate funding in line with the objectives and actions envisaged, ensuring that the potential of the European Structural and Investment Funds is exploited.
5. Consolidate and develop the systems for collecting information, monitoring and evaluating the situation Roma in Spain as well as the measures that are put in place to promote their social inclusion at state, regional and local level.
6. Consolidate and develop mechanisms for information, knowledge transfer and mutual understanding between key actors, especially the professionals.

CONTINUE WITH THE COMMITMENT OF COMBINING THE TARGETED APPROEACH WITH THE MAINSTREAMING APPROACH

Guidelines and steps to be taken:

1. Reinforce the action emphasis by thematic areas of work in order to achieve the social inclusion objectives set out in the Strategy. This will mean continuing with the lines of work that have been implemented since 2012, introducing the appropriate improvements, but also implementing new lines of work in those areas where there has been less progress.

SCOPE	Areas to be consolidated and improved	Expected results
EDUCATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the enrolment of Roma students in Secondary Education. • Reduction in early school leaving before the end of the compulsory stage. • Increase in the number of Roma students achieving the secondary school diploma. • Improvement in the educational level of adults. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the enrolment of Roma population in pre-school Education. • Increased academic success of Roma pupils in primary education.
EMPLOYMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved access to regular employment. • Improvement in the professional qualifications of Roma. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in job insecurity among Roma.

SCOPE	Areas to be consolidated and improved	Expected results
HOUSING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eradication of slums and substandard housing. Improvement in the quality of accommodation of Roma. 	
HEALTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce social inequalities in health for Roma in both adults and children. Promote healthy lifestyles, focusing primarily on the factors that are addressed in the Health Promotion and Prevention Strategy of the NHS: physical activity, nutrition, smoking, alcohol, injuries and emotional well-being. Facilitate, with the focus on fairness from the outset, a good start in life for all Roma children, continuing the work begun in positive parenthood. Continue giving technical support to the Equi Network in its task of promoting and strengthening the health actions developed by administrations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritise, jointly with the Autonomous Region Working Group on health and Roma, the actions to be undertaken to achieve the objectives outlined in the areas to be consolidated and improved. Advance the regional implementation of health actions prioritised in the Strategy. Advance the local implementation of health actions prioritised in the Strategy, through the Equi Sastipen network.

Guidelines should also be established for improvements in the following areas as well:

- Improving awareness of the Roma culture and its diversity among the population.
 - Greater public recognition of Roma and its contribution to society.
 - Greater participation of Roma in public policies, especially among Roma women and young people.
 - Reduction in discriminatory incidents against Roma people.
 - Reduction in the negative perception and stereotyping by society of Roma.
 - Promotion of gender equality among Roma.
 - Reduction in gender-based violence among Roma.
- Review of the minimum income programmes in the autonomous regions to ensure that:
 - Roma families have access to the programmes;
 - the programmes are adapted to the characteristics of Roma;
 - the programmes encourage access to the employment market or improve employability.
 - Implement specific social inclusion measures targeted at the most vulnerable Roma population, including Roma from Eastern European countries. In this regard, it is recommended to undertake cooperation initiatives with the countries of origin, with information and awareness campaigns, in collaboration with the embassies and with the support of the institutions of the countries of origin as well as the interest groups. In addition, understanding and addressing the characteristics and cultural peculiarities of this population in those municipalities where there is a greater concentration, will allow the implementation of more effective programmes.
 - Implement specific inter-sectoral social inclusion measures in coordination with different departments: socio-educational, socio-health, socio-occupational, socio-cultural, etc.
 - Consult Roma on those policies and measures that may contribute to their social inclusion (design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation) to ensure greater effectiveness of the measures. It is important to improve communication between public administrations and Roma, especially with young people. It is essential to establish specific channels and instruments to reach this population.

6. Have mixed teams that lead the programmes or actions (recruit Roma people when possible).
7. Take steps to achieve greater collaboration and coordination between social services and other public sector programmes with the programmes being implemented by Roma civil society organisations. It is important to make the resources more cost-effective and to support those programmes from social organisations that are most effective.
8. Conduct an impact assessment exercise to identify which programmes or policies produce the best results.

COMMIT TO LONG-TERM PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

Guidelines and steps to be taken:

1. Based on the programmes or services that have had the greatest impact in the 2012-2016 phase, select a series of pilot programmes or services in order to reinforce, continue them or which can be replicated in different areas using a common methodology, with the necessary adaptations depending on the area.
2. Priority should be given to programmes or services in the fields of education and employment as well as to comprehensive intervention plans in neighbourhoods with the highest Roma population concentration, which are segregated and which have a high percentage of substandard housing or slums.

COMBAT AND PREVENT SEGREGATION IN ALL KEY AREAS

Guidelines and steps to be taken:

1. Identify the situations and conditions that cause segregation in the different areas of social inclusion of people in order to define actions to prevent such situations in the future or reduce/eliminate existing segregations.

ACTIVELY INVOLVE ROMA IN THE ENTIRE CYCLE OF PUBLIC POLICIES, ESPECIALLY WOMEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Guidelines and steps to be taken:

1. Reinforce and consolidate the Spanish Roma Council as a mechanism for their involvement in state policies.
2. Have a participation mechanism or instrument for Roma in all the autonomous regions.
3. Implement training and empowerment programmes so that representatives of Roma can lead their change processes, especially among women and young people.

PROMOTE INITIATIVES FOR MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND RECOGNITION OF ROMA

1. Encourage the creation of inter-cultural spaces where there can be participation, dialogue and mutual understanding.
2. Work on inclusive human relationships between equals, especially in adolescence.
3. Making the contribution of Roma visible and valued in the municipalities through specific symbolic events but also promoting the participation of Roma people in other events.
4. Improve knowledge of Roma history and culture.

4. Recommendations for the future 2017-2020 Operational Plan

4.1. Focus and measures

1. **Maintain and reinforce planning by thematic areas (education, employment, health and housing) which are key to Roma social inclusion, relying on the involvement of the national government departments that lead sectoral policies at both national and regional level.** The 2014-2016 Operational Plan has demonstrated that area-based planning achieves a higher level of involvement of key actors and this approach should be continued, especially at the regional level, where competencies are found in a large number of key areas. In this respect, it is recommended that planning should focus on the following thematic areas:

Education	Employment	Housing	Health	Social inclusion
Culture	Citizenship and participation	Gender equality	Non-discrimination	Gender-based violence

2. **Maintain and reinforce planning that combines specific actions with actions that guarantee access to sectoral policies on education, employment, health, housing and social inclusion.** To this end, it is proposed that three types of measures be included in the next Operational Plan:

<p>TARGETED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aimed explicitly at promoting Roma social inclusion 	<p>ADAPTATION WITHIN MAINSTREAM POLICIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education, Employment, Housing, Health, Social Inclusion, Culture, Citizenship and participation, Gender equality, Non-discrimination and Gender-based violence 	<p>ADAPTATION WITHIN SOCIAL INCLUSION POLICIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not aimed explicitly at the Roma population but from which it benefits to a significant extent
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3. **Conduct more realistic planning, in line with the available financial and human resources of the national government departments.** An excessive number of measures were included in the 2014-2016 Operational Plan, which in some cases could not be implemented or could not be adequately monitored. In this regard, it is recommended that all measures included be assigned to a specific department.

4.2. Coordination and governance

4. **Maintain and strengthen inter-departmental coordination both in the national government and in the autonomous regions, including, where appropriate, joint inter-departmental initiatives.** During the term of the 2014-2016 Operational Plan, considerable progress has been made in inter-departmental coordination at both national and regional level. Several initiatives have been carried out both horizontally (between management centres from different ministries) and vertically (between management centres from the General Public Administration and the autonomous regions). The evaluations for these initiatives have been very positive and it is thus recommended to continue along these lines.

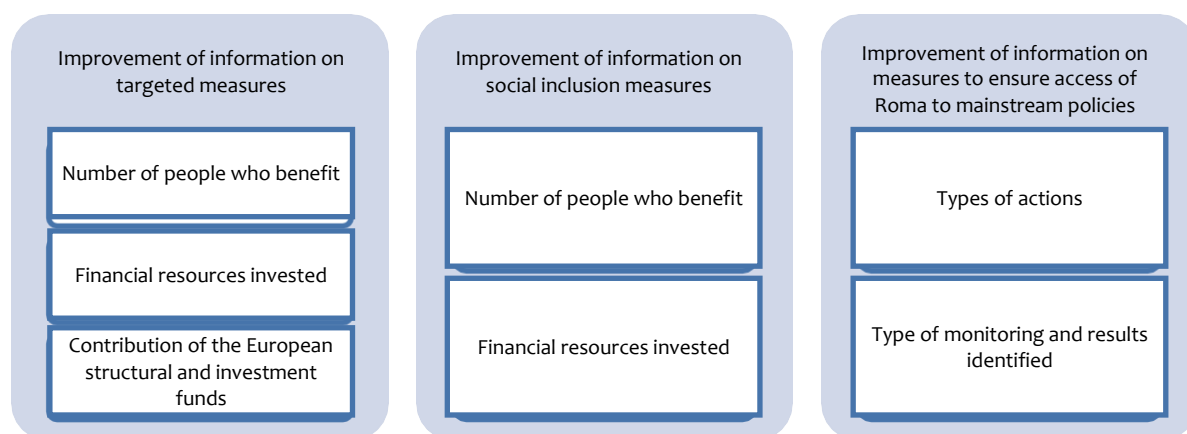
5. **Maintain and strengthen coordination and mutual learning with the autonomous regions and local authorities via the Technical Cooperation Group**, seeking to strengthen the exchange of information, tools and mutual learning as well as incorporating, more intensively, the participation of local authorities. During the term of the 2014-2016 Operational Plan, the Technical Cooperation Group met once a year and participated in the annual thematic conferences organised in collaboration with the autonomous regions and the Spanish Roma Council. These initiatives have been highly praised and it is therefore recommended to strengthen this cooperation.

The following initiatives are proposed for the autonomous regions in order to consolidate and strengthen coordination between public administrations at different levels:

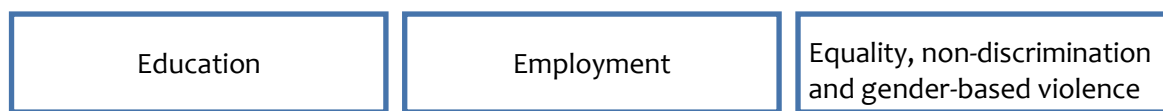
- Electronic library with periodic and up-to-date information, coordinated by the National Contact Point that will allow the inclusion of:
 - A compilation of studies and statistics relating to Roma from the national government and the autonomous regions.
 - Important and innovative news and initiatives on Roma social inclusion.
 - Common models and tools.
 - Learning and exchange seminars and face-to-face and/or on-line courses on common challenges as well as organised visits to innovative projects taking advantage of the annual conferences.
 - Closer connection of the National Strategy with regional strategies.
 - Promotion of interdepartmental commissions with the participation of organisations from the Roma civil society organisations.
 - Strengthening of the Technical Cooperation Group with more meetings per year (in person or on-line) to capitalise on the learning and results obtained through the meetings.
 - Reinforcement of the Roma Development Programme with a more powerful collaboration framework and aligned with the national and regional strategies.
6. **Maintain and strengthen the participation of Roma civil society organisations in the management cycle of public policies, especially those with the greatest impact on social inclusion, at all levels (state, regional and local)**. During the 2014-2016 Operational Plan, various initiatives were undertaken to involve Roma in the management cycle of public policies, mainly through the Roma civil society organisations of the Spanish Roma Council. The evaluation of their participation has been very positive and continuing with this approach is therefore recommended. It would also be useful to analyse the possibility of incorporating some mention of the contribution of Roma civil society organisations in the future Operational Plan.

4.3. Monitoring and evaluation

7. **Provide continuity and improve knowledge, monitoring and coordination of the measures implemented in Spain, both in the national government and in the autonomous regions**. It is proposed to improve the quality of the information that is collected on the specific measures and to take steps to improve the information on social inclusion policies which, due to their characteristics and objectives, have a greater impact on Roma (e. g. access to minimum income programmes, rehousing programmes, etc.) as well as on the actions aimed at guaranteeing their access to mainstream policies:



8. **Develop initiatives aimed at improving knowledge, monitoring and coordination of the measures implemented in local organisations** where there is a higher percentage of Roma population experiencing poverty or social exclusion.
9. **Develop initiatives aimed at improving knowledge, monitoring and coordination of the contribution made by Roma civil society organisations.** It has been proposed that a pilot initiative be conducted through the Spanish Roma Council.
10. **Continue with the thematic studies on Roma in Spain.** There are proposals to produce new editions of the studies in the following areas:



11. **Introduce an initiative for coordination and mutual learning regarding the preparation of thematic studies on Roma at national and regional level.**
12. **Introduce an initiative to evaluate the impact** of the measures that are carried out in order to learn lessons and draw conclusions regarding those actions that obtain the best results (methodologies, processes, organisation, etc.), incorporating cost-effectiveness analysis.
13. **Continue with the annual progress reports, as has been the practice since 2014.** The proposal is to improve these reports so that they provide information of interest to all the actors involved in implementing the Operational Plan, seeking to include both summary and qualitative information.
14. **Encourage the involvement of the various actors through the provision of information, training and learning, in the systems for collecting information** relating to policies concerning the Roma population designed within the European Union framework.