



Hungary

**Statement by the Delegation of Hungary at the  
OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting**

Warsaw, 01 October 2015

*Working Session 16: Humanitarian issues and other commitments II – Roma and Sinti issues,  
including: Implementation of the OSCE Action Plan on improving the Situation of Roma and  
Sinti*

Hungary fully aligns itself with the statement made earlier on behalf of the European Union. In addition to that, let me make the following points:

In 2011 Hungary set up its **National Social Inclusion Strategy**. The results can already be recognized. It is my pleasure to inform you that some weeks ago the Government adopted the **new action plan** for the implementation of the Strategy until 2017. It determines specific tasks, identifies the responsible Members of the Government and sets deadlines.

**Our social inclusion policy focuses on three target groups, namely the people living in extreme poverty, the children and Roma.**

Let me emphasize some of **our recent achievements in the field of child-welfare:**

The governmental measures **give assistance to children from birth to graduation**. Since it was an issue that disadvantaged children, those who are most in need, did not have access to pre-school and school services we introduced **whole day schooling** in primary schools and we changed **compulsory pre-school education from the age 5 to 3 of the children**. We extended largely the **child-meal system** as it is unacceptable if even one child lives in hunger. Besides, in order to reduce school drop-out we run several **scholarship programs**, such as the **‘On the Road Programme’** (“Útravaló” program), **“Afternoon School”-type** (“Tanoda”) programmes, **“Second Chance”-type** (“Második Esély”) programmes and **Sure Start** programmes. At the same time the **Network of Christian Roma Special Colleges** gives assistance to Roma students studying in higher education.

Regarding the people living in extreme poverty, we would like to stress that the Government is fully committed to **extend the labour market opportunities** of the most disadvantaged people using different tools of labour market programs. Our main goal is to do it in the open labour market. If it is not possible the **Public Employment Programme** is a good tool to prevent people from extreme poverty and to increase chances of the most disadvantaged groups re-joining or joining the open labour market. Within the programme **we facilitate the transition from public works to the open labour market** by providing continuous training, development of basic competencies and different services.

The under-privileged situation of the Roma population is the result of a number of closely related social and economic problems. We believe that the **comprehensive problem management is the only solution and complex programmes simultaneously**

**concentrating on a number of problem areas are able to lead to satisfactory results.** In addition the **continuous cooperation of stakeholders** including policy-makers working in different sectors as well as NGOs and churches is inevitable in getting results.

The Hungarian Government is **committed to the social inclusion** of Roma. We hope that all the mentioned measures will further contribute to the improvement of the situation of Roma.

Let me conclude by thanking the OSCE Contact point for Roma and Sinti Issues, Ms Mirjam Karoly for her work aiming at the promotion of Roma inclusion at European level.

Thank you for your attention.