

**Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for  
Roma Communities – Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic**

**OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, 1st October 2015, Warsaw**

**Working session 16: Tolerance and Non-discrimination I, including: Roma and Sinti issues**

Madame Moderator,

To ensure the implementation of the Action plan for improving the situation of Roma and Sinti in the OSCE Area Slovak administration has continued the implementation of the Strategy of the SR for Roma integration in 2020, adopted the resolution of the Government of the SR no. 1 on 11 January 2012. Part of the strategy is the revised Action Plan for the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005 to 2015, updated for the years 2011 to 2015 as an action plan for the strategy of the Slovak Republic for Roma integration by 2020 in the following areas: education, employment, health and housing. Strategy of the Slovak Republic for Roma integration up to 2020 is based on the framework of the EU Council Presidency Conclusions “EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies” adopted on 18 March 2011. The strategy is in line with principles of a comprehensive solution against stigmatization, segregation and ghettoization. Principles were established on the basis of solidarity, rule of law, partnership, comprehensiveness, conceptualisation, systematic approach and sustainability, respect for regional and sub-ethnic characteristics, gender equality, accountability and predictability.

**The main aim of the Strategy is to stop the segregation of Roma communities, achieve a significant positive turnaround in social and economic inclusion of Roma communities, non-discrimination and to change the attitude of the majority population towards the Roma minority through measures of inclusive policies and legal standards at all levels of government and public administration in the Slovak Republic in the period years 2012 - 2020.** The Slovak Strategy for Roma integration by 2020 is targeting several groups, including the Roma as a national minority, Roma communities and marginalized Roma communities.

Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Government for Roma Communities in cooperation with the government, local authorities, civil society representatives and the Roma community is currently preparing an **update of strategy** for Roma integration by 2020, as part of updating the global objectives and targets. The Office has prepared new action plans for the four priorities: education, housing, employment and health. Furthermore, the Office prepares an action plan for the cross-cutting themes: the field of non-discrimination in the area of financial inclusion and the access area towards the majority society - A Roma Integration through Communication.

Part of the implementation of the Strategy of the Slovak Republic for Roma integration in 2020 was the implementation of the horizontal priority “marginalized Roma communities”, as provided for in updated National Strategic Reference Framework 2007- 2013. As part of that, these activities were in support of local strategies allocated 200 mil. EUR. Of the total allocation, the amount of 177 907

751.00 EUR was spent in 2007-2013 on the basis of contracts between the six managing authorities of the operational programs.

**For the programming period 2014-2020 the Slovak Republic approved the Operational Programme Human Resources. The programme addresses the improvement of the situation of marginalized Roma communities in all six priority areas. Two of them are specifically designed for 150 priority municipalities situated in the largest zone of exclusion with a financial allocation of EUR 380 mil EUR.**

Finally, Slovak Republic is aware of the call made in the report by ODIHR on the status of the implementation of the Action Plan to improve the situation of Roma and Sinti in the OSCE Area in 2013, that while implementing, it is important to monitor the achieved progress in the life of the Roma community itself and to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of programs aimed at improving the situation of Roma. Therefore, Slovak Republic set in the new programming period the national project for monitoring, measuring and evaluating progress and resources aimed at Roma integration into society.

The integration of Roma into society in general is a topical issue for the Slovak Government. Therefore due attention will be paid to this issue also during the Slovak EU Council Presidency in the second half of 2016.

Thank you, Madame Moderator.