

**OSCE Conference on Combating Discrimination and Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding -
Follow-up to the Cordoba Conference on Anti-Semitism and Other Forms of Intolerance
Romania, Bucharest, 7 - 8 June 2007**

***Statement on behalf of the Romanian Delegation in the Plenary Session 3:
Combating discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding
By Mr. Gruia Ioan Bumbu, President of National Agency for Roma***

The main and the only targeted public policy on Roma, adopted by the Government of Romania is “The Strategy for improving the roma situation”. The Strategy encompasses all the areas identified in the OSCE Action Plan.

In 2001 the Strategy for Improving the Roma situation was adopted by the Government Decision No. 430/2001. In this regard, the fulfilment of the objectives laid down in the Government’s Strategy for improving the condition of the Roma is a priority for the National Agency for Roma. These objectives entail commitment for social policies focused on preventing and combating institutional and social discrimination, preserving Roma identity, ensuring equal chances for the achievement of a decent living standard and encouraging Roma participation in the economic, social, cultural, educational and political life of Romanian society.

In October 2005 following the consultative process with the non governmental organizations and line ministries partners in the Strategy for Improving the Roma Situation, was modified and completed. National Agency for Roma under coordination of the General Secretariat of the Government, has initiated the approval and the endorsement procedure of the Strategy. The strategy was completed based on the real problems, needs and priorities of Roma communities. It was introduced a balanced and sustainable approach combining human rights goals with social and economic status. At the same time, national policies or implementation strategies should be adapted and implemented according to the specific needs of Roma.

Within the session from 19 April 2006, the Government approved the new Strategy through the Government Decision No. 522 regarding the modification and completing of the Strategy for Improving the Roma Situation approved by the Government Decision No. 430/2001. The Government Decision No. 522/2006 relates to the re-arrangement and the establishment the

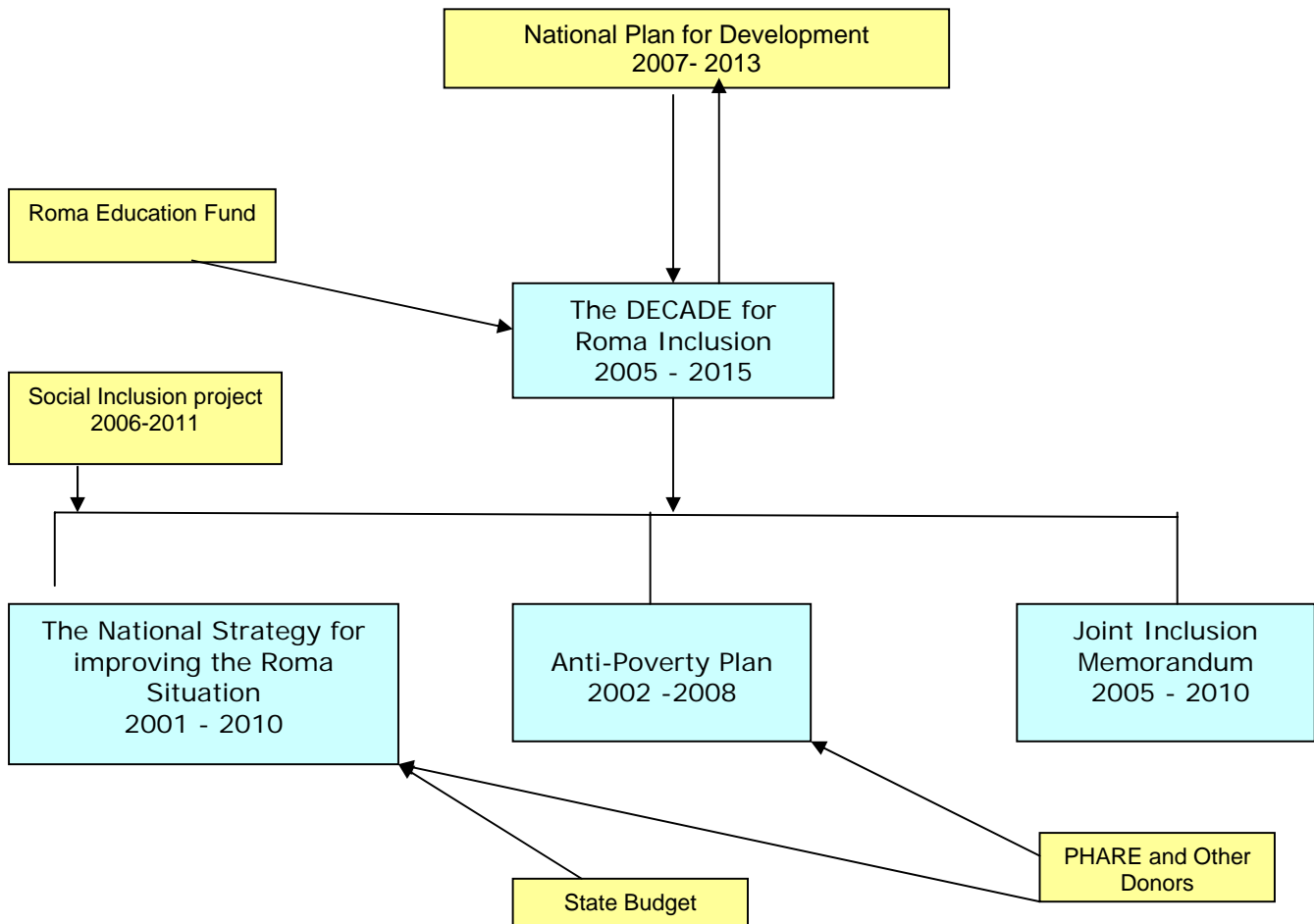
implementation structures of the Strategy and their function and the New General Master Plan encloses the activities for 2006-2008, the responsible institutions, the indicators were elaborated on the basis of the Chapter 14 from National Anti-Poverty Plan for Promoting the Social Inclusion, also inclusively re-updated on the basis of the measures comprised into the Joint inclusion Memorandum.

According to the provisions of the Government Decision No.522/2006, the County Offices for Roma are in technical coordination of the National Agency for Roma.

In order to organize the activity of the County Offices For Roma(COR) it was elaborated common documents with the Ministry of Administration and Interior (Framework regulation for the organizing and functioning of the COR and also Job Fiche). Through the Orders of the NAR' President, some of the NAR employees were appointed as members into the Ministerial Commission for Roma (MCR)of the line ministries of the Strategy For Improving the Roma Condition (The Ministry of Education, Research and Youth, The Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reform, the Ministry of Labor, Family and Equal Opportunities, The Ministry of Public Health , the Ministry of Development , Public Works and Housing, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Economy and Finances). In this context, there was transmitted notifications/addresses to the ministries responsible in the implementation of the Strategy for Improving Roma Condition, through which it were informed about the nominated employees within the MCR by the Order of the President of the NAR.

At this moment, five Ministerial Commissions were set up and they are functional. The main tasks of the Ministerial Commissions are the elaboration of the sectorial strategies and budgeting them in order to include them in their own budget.

The public policies which includes measures on improving the roma situation in Romania.



■ Funds for implementing the policy

■ The public policy

The presentation of the public policies.

- ***Government Strategy for Improving the Roma Situation 2001- 2010.***

■ ***National Plan for Fighting Poverty and Promoting Social Inclusion (the Anti-Poverty Plan) 2002-2008 adopted through the Government Decision in July 2002.***

National Plan for Fighting Poverty and Promoting Social Inclusion is elaborated according to the model established by the European Council in 2000 regarding the national plans of the European Countries. National Agency for Roma collaborated with the Ministries of Labor for the elaboration of the 2006-2008 Anti Poverty Plan which includes an entire chapter for Social Inclusion of Roma

■ ***Joint Inclusion Memorandum 2005- 2010***

Within the JIM consultations process it was included as a chapter in the policy named “The implementation of the Strategy for Improving the Roma Situation”.

■ ***The Decade of Roma Inclusion (international initiative) 2005- 2015.***

The Decade of Roma Inclusion is a political commitment by national governments in Central and South-Eastern Europe which is designed within a ten year timeframe 2005-2015 and it is meant to combat Roma poverty, exclusion and discrimination within a regional framework.

On October 4, 2005 in Bucharest, the Government of Romania, by the intermediate of the National Agency of Roma, officially overtook the Presidency of the Decade within a ceremony that took place in Bucharest at its headquarters - the Victoria Palace. Romania was the first country that officially took over the Presidency of the Decade for Roma Inclusion according to the Decade documents and Romanian Official commitments. Until that moment, the Decade had been managed by Hungary.

The Government of Romania ensured the Presidency of the Decade for Roma inclusion during the period July 2005 - June 2006 while the National Agency for Roma (NAR), as its specialized institutional body dealing with Roma issues, was the National Coordinator of this programme and it provided the Technical Secretariat of the Decade

The National Action Plan on the Decade of Roma Inclusion will be adopted through the Government Decision during this year.

■ ***National Development Plan 2007- 2013***

Within the National Development Plan 2007- 2013, NAR department on public policies collaborated on the elaboration of the POR and POS and we included in the Axe No. 6 regarding the Social Inclusion measures regarding the roma communities.

■ ***Social Inclusion Project(SIP)***

The SIP has four components that support the implementation of inclusive programs responding to priority objectives of the Government's JIM: (1) Priority Interventions Program; (2) Inclusive Early Childhood Education Program; (3) Social Assistance Programs (disabilities, youth at risk, and victims of domestic violence); and (4) Capacity Building for Monitoring the Roma Social Inclusion. The NAR will be in charge of the Capacity Building for Monitoring Roma Social Inclusion.

The MER will be in charge of implementing the Inclusive Early Childhood Education Program.

The RSDF will be in charge of implementing the Priority Interventions Program.

The MLSSF will be in charge of implementing the Social Assistance Program that includes: (i) the Disabilities Program; (ii) the Youth at Risk Program; and (iii) the Victims of Domestic Violence Program.

The goal of the component IV is to set up a Monitoring Department in order to evaluate and monitor the Roma Social Inclusion.

The project is adopted by the Law No. 40 in March 2007.

■ **The Commission for Studying the Roma Slavery.**

In March 2007, National Agency for Roma together with Center for Roma Studies started the elaboration of the Government Decision on Roma Slavery. The goal of this commission is to elaborate a report regarding the Roma slavery in Romania. At this moment we are in the stage of obtaining the approval from the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Economy and Finance.