



**ASSISTING PARTICIPATING STATES
IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN
ON IMPROVING THE SITUATION OF ROMA AND SINTI
WITHIN THE OSCE AREA**

• WORKING D R A F T •

Status report for the period 2004-2006

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Foreword

Recent years have seen the resurfacing of centuries-old prejudices and hostilities against Roma and Sinti, who are negatively portrayed, especially in debates on European enlargement, reform of asylum and immigration laws, and social-welfare systems. Despite some progress in a number of participating States, obstacles and challenges persist. While relations between Romani communities and the police have traditionally been strained, there are an increasing number of reports suggesting that police use disproportionate force and resort to violence that could be qualified as degrading treatment. For many Roma and Sinti, obtaining legal residence with secure living conditions is a prerequisite for the fulfilment of other rights. Without an address, it is often impossible to register for public services or engage in lawful income-generating activities. Problems include: forced evictions, lack of secure land tenure, inadequate alternative housing, lack of civil and voter registration, and the inability of Roma and Sinti children to attend school.

This situation prompted the 56 OSCE states to adopt, in 2003, a comprehensive Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area. This ODIHR report marks an initial effort to provide information and analysis on the state of implementation of the Action Plan. It highlights actions undertaken by participating States and the structures of the organization, especially the ODIHR's Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues (CPRSI), to implement the tasks assigned by the Action Plan. While many governments succeeded in developing and adopting national strategies for improving the situation of Roma and Sinti, there are substantive shortcomings with regard to their effective implementation at the local level. One area of particular concern is the absence of institutional mechanisms to provide sustainable support for Roma and Sinti integration programmes. This includes insufficient funding, lack of political will at the national level, and apathy or neglect to implement policies at the municipal or local levels.

This status report is based on participating States' replies to an ODIHR questionnaire reproduced at the end of this document. These replies have shown that governments frequently under-report initiatives and action related to implementation. As a result, the assessment may not fully reflect actual trends in implementation in a given state. Therefore, the report also underscores the importance of periodically reviewing measures in support of the objectives laid down in the Action Plan.

Overall, the report seeks to raise awareness of the Action Plan among OSCE states. There are instances where such awareness is lacking, and the Plan's very existence is overlooked by national authorities. In spite of the rather large number of international and national Roma-related initiatives, these have not alleviated, in proportion to the resources invested, the ongoing social inequalities, marginalization, racism, and discrimination against Roma and Sinti. The Action Plan should be used fully by states and OSCE institutions and field missions with which the ODIHR enjoys excellent co-operation. The motto "For Roma, with Roma" stands not only for the Action Plan, but it must also guide its implementation at the local, national, and international levels.

Ambassador Christian Strohal
ODIHR Director

Introduction and Summary

Roma and Sinti communities are found throughout the OSCE region, but predominantly reside in Central and South-Eastern Europe. Largely settled, with occasional seasonal migration for work, Roma and Sinti are now the largest minority in Europe. Lacking a territory of their own, these communities have common cultural, linguistic, and ethnic ties. Casualties of the effects of overwhelming discrimination in all spheres of public life, Roma and Sinti have been largely excluded from wider society. Most lack access to social services, education, employment, and participating in the public and political life of the countries in which they live. To address the challenges facing Roma and Sinti groups, and particularly from the perspective of ensuring that their individual and human rights are respected, the OSCE participating States have agreed upon a number of commitments that are laid out in the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area (hereinafter referred to as the “Action Plan”).¹

The Action Plan is a comprehensive document in which the 56 participating States pledge to take steps to ensure that Roma, Sinti, and other groups are able to participate in all aspects of public and political life, effectively eliminating obstacles caused by discrimination. Such discrimination is widespread and also creates disparities that affect the ability of Roma and Sinti populations to gain access to social services on equal terms, and to enjoy the same economic opportunities as others. It places special emphasis on those human dimension areas where Roma and Sinti encounter particular challenges such as: access to housing, health, education, employment and relations with law enforcement institutions, including the police. The Action Plan provides participating States with recommendations and a range of possible measures to be undertaken as a remedy to those challenges. It also underlines the fact that Roma and Sinti themselves should be actively involved in any actions targeting their communities.

This report follows the structure of the Action Plan and summarizes examples of initiatives undertaken with a view to addressing challenges faced by Roma and Sinti in the OSCE area. It highlights actions undertaken by participating States, but also the CPRSI, through OSCE meetings, international conferences and assistance activities, to implement the specific tasks assigned within the Action Plan.

The need to strengthen Roma-related policies and their implementation at the local level is evident from the initiatives carried out by the ODIHR CPRSI over the last several years, projects dealing with public and political participation, crisis and post-crisis situations, security-of-residence issues, to gender equality and trafficking in human beings. The CPRSI receives feedback and analysis that points to a lack of co-ordination between Roma and Sinti representatives and those developing policies at the national level. The ODIHR pays attention when it comes to addressing these challenges and has been able to provide substantive support to Roma and Sinti in the South-Eastern European region to enhance their participation in political and public life. This includes specific attention to empowering young Roma and Romani women.

In addition, the report presents an overview of related initiatives and projects implemented by other organizations. A general observation emerging from these initiatives is that, while many governments have achieved successes in developing and

¹ Decision No. 3/03 of the 2003 Maastricht Ministerial Council; PC Decision 566 (27 November 2003). Under the Action Plan, the ODIHR CPRSI is tasked to “reinforce the efforts of the participating States and relevant OSCE institutions and structures aimed at ensuring that Roma and Sinti people are able to play a full and equal part in our societies, and at eradicating discrimination against them” (Art. 1).

adopting national strategies for improving the situation of Roma, there are substantive shortcomings with regard to their effective implementation. One area of particular concern is the absence of concrete mechanisms to provide sustainable support for Roma and Sinti integration. OSCE participating States too often develop policy initiatives at the national level, without ensuring commensurate impact at the local level within the targeted communities. Furthermore, policy commitments too often are not followed through with the necessary budgetary allocations to ensure their realization. In summary, the implementation process often suffers due to a lack of political will at the national level, and apathy or neglect to implement policies at the municipal or local levels. This scenario can be compounded by a practice through which state actors vie to attract donors who will merely provide funds rather than maintain the focus on programmes or strategies that address priority issues facing the Roma community.

There are numerous positive examples of international-organization co-operation between those actively engaged in Roma and Sinti-related activities. This includes recent initiatives supported by the European Commission in facilitating activities carried out by the ODIHR CPRSI to assist Roma and Sinti communities to participate in public and political life in South-Eastern Europe. Yet, more effective co-ordination at the national and local level, among authorities, the Roma community and other relevant actors is required. The same is true for governments and international organizations whose policies related to Roma and Sinti should be further harmonized to avoid duplication and to reinforce the impact of such international initiatives. These include: the OSCE Action Plan, the Council of Europe's relevant recommendations on Roma and Travellers, European Union standards, and initiatives undertaken in the Decade of Roma Inclusion, 2005-2015. Harmonization may be improved by establishing mechanisms to conduct regular monitoring and evaluation of implemented actions by participating States.

Of significant concern is that awareness of the Action Plan is generally lacking, and its very existence is often overlooked by national authorities. In addition, a lack of progress on implementation may not always be the effect of insufficient efforts, but it may also be generated by a multiplicity of competing programmes and initiatives that are not interconnected. On implementation, it is important to periodically review the status of national and local policies and action plans related to Roma, Sinti, and Travellers, and to assess their effectiveness and sustainability.

Since the adoption of the Action Plan, the main forum for reviewing and assessing its implementation has been provided by the regular OSCE Human Dimension Meetings, especially the annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM). Based on participating States' input at these forums, including from civil society representatives, this report emphasizes that there are several aspects to implementation that need to be given serious consideration. In addition, the ODIHR has developed a pilot initiative to provide comparable information on measures participating States have undertaken to implement the Action Plan. To this end, a questionnaire was addressed to participating States.² Twenty-seven responses from participating States were received by April 2007.

An informal briefing session was held at the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna in late April 2007 for delegations from participating States. Feedback from participating States to the status report was encouraged, as were responses to the questionnaire from those participating States that had not submitted a reply. Five participating States provided updates and feedback to the report, while two submitted responses to the questionnaire.

² See Section III, Table VIII.

This status report represents all the information received from participating States. These responses have been recorded in Table IX of the report. Over half of those participating States that submitted replies to the questionnaire are allocating state funds specifically for the implementation of Roma- and Sinti-related strategies, either as part of a larger initiative to assist minorities or as targeted action for Roma. Many participating States also have specialized offices that oversee the implementation of Roma-related policies.

The ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues will use this initial report to further develop a methodology for collecting information from participating States and relevant actors in order to better assist in implementing the various provisions contained in the Action Plan. Towards this effort, the CPRSI would like to strengthen its relations with various delegations who may assist in updating the ODIHR on new and developing Roma-related initiatives.

As the status report stands now, it is still a working draft. Given the magnitude of Roma-related strategies and policies that have emerged since the adoption of the Action Plan in 2003, the ODIHR recognizes the need to provide further analysis in some of the sections of this report. Another area that needs to be further clarified and strengthened is the methodology for collecting information from participating States. While the questionnaire served as a starting point to identify the main elements of states' minority policies, it does not offer a tool for regular data collection. Towards this effort, the ODIHR is exploring various alternatives in an attempt to gather information from participating States, anti-discrimination bodies, and civil society. It is expected that this status report will be finalized and launched at the second Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting held in 2008 and on the topic of Roma.

The report is structured in three sections:

Section I analyses the actions and measures undertaken by the OSCE participating States to address the challenges faced by their respective Roma communities in light of the commitments they have agreed to in various Ministerial and Summit Decisions.³ This section of the report includes analysis of participating State responses to the questionnaire, and a review of states' input into various OSCE human dimension events (i.e., HDIMs and SHDMs). In addition, follow-up responses from the informal briefing that was held for participating States in late April have been included. This part is organized according to the main themes of the chapters and articles of the Action Plan and also includes input made by NGOs at various human dimension events.⁴

Section II examines some of the practical initiatives the ODIHR has undertaken to fulfil its mandate and assist participating States to implement the Action Plan. Recent trends in areas such as political and public participation, political and civil rights, access to employment, education, health, and relations between police and Roma are discussed. This section is organized thematically to mirror the various chapters and articles of the Action Plan, and also according to the ODIHR's programmatic activities to assist states to implement the Action Plan.

Section III maps existing international frameworks, bodies, and mechanisms to monitor and/or review the implementation of Roma-related policies in the OSCE area,

³ See Section III, Table IV.

⁴ For a complete list of participating States and NGO responses at OSCE human dimension events, contact the ODIHR CPRSI at Roma@odihhr.pl.

including mechanisms for regular review and assessment of the progress and achievements in implementing the Action Plan. It is complemented by a number of tables.

I – IMPLEMENTING THE OSCE ACTION PLAN

OSCE commitments, including the Action Plan, are politically binding on the 56 participating States, referring also to the commitment to implement them efficiently. This section emphasizes the need to look at what countries are doing to address issues pertaining to Roma and Sinti communities, using an integrated and comparative approach. For instance, while a country may have adopted a national action plan or policies that are specifically relevant for its Roma and Sinti population, it may not have the legislative measures in place to ensure implementation of the action plan at the local level.

This analysis is presented thematically, following the structure of the Action Plan. The information that substantiates this analysis is collected from, first, statements and recommendations delivered at OSCE human dimension events between 2004 and 2006, after the Action Plan was adopted;⁵ states' responses to the questionnaire;⁶ and excerpts of NGO statements at various human dimension events. The HDIM, held annually in Warsaw, provides an opportunity to raise awareness among OSCE participating States and institutions about the particular problems and challenges Roma and Sinti communities encounter across the OSCE area. It also offers both international and national advocates working on issues related to Roma and Sinti the opportunity to debate issues of concern and explore possible solutions.

1. Combating Racism and Discrimination

Racism and discrimination against Roma and Sinti, also known as anti-Gypsyism or Romaphobia, is a centuries-old phenomenon; however, it has been increasing in the OSCE region during the last decade and a half. Roma are victims of racially motivated crimes, and new forms of hostility, rejection, (cyber-)hate speech and hate incidents are increasingly being reported. The effects of racism and discrimination hamper the access of Roma individuals to employment, education, housing, and health care, as well as their capacity to mobilize and become effective political stakeholders.

Legislation and law enforcement

Well over half of the states that completed the CPRSI questionnaire have signalled that anti-discrimination legislation exists or is in preparation. This was particularly propelled by the EU's enlargement process and criteria⁷ requiring acceding countries to develop and adopt anti-discrimination legislation. Countries with existing anti-discrimination legislation were encouraged to harmonize it with EU Directive 43.

Roma communities and organizations must become increasingly aware of the existence of anti-discrimination legislation and be able to make use of it by effectively reporting situations of discrimination to the specialized bodies mandated to combat discrimination. On their side, the anti-discrimination bodies should regularly conduct nationwide awareness-raising campaigns to prevent and combat discrimination, ensuring proper outreach to Roma communities.

⁵ A list of all Roma-related statements and interventions made by participating States may be found in Section III, Table V.

⁶ See Section III, Table VIII.

⁷ Directive 43/2000: http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/pri/en/oj/dat/2000/l_180/l_18020000719en00220026.pdf.

A few examples of national legislative developments with regard to combating discrimination and how these laws apply in cases involving Roma are outlined below.

In **Bulgaria**, anti-discrimination legislation was strengthened with the adoption of the Law for Protection against Discrimination (January 2004) and the Law on the Ombudsman (January 2003). The Commission on Protection against Discrimination was established in 2005 to promote tolerance and equal opportunities.⁸ Additional budgetary support was provided to support programmes in the areas of anti-discrimination, education, culture, housing, employment, and social protection.⁹ Since the adoption of this law, there have been several court decisions against perpetrators of acts of discrimination against Roma.¹⁰ In 2006, the Bulgarian government implemented an Action Plan to support the implementation of the *“Framework Programme on the Equal Integration of Roma in Bulgaria Society”*. An update is currently under way and should be completed by the end of 2007.¹¹

In **Romania**, according to the Law No. 324/2006, the National Council for Combating Discrimination (NCCD)¹² is the state authority (autonomous and under parliamentary control) that investigates and sanctions acts of discrimination independently, without being influenced by other institutions or public authorities. The current legal framework is transposing the provisions of Council Directive No. 2000/43/CE regarding the equal-treatment principle regardless of race or ethnicity, as well as the provisions of Council Directive No. 2000/78/CE regarding the creation of a framework for equal treatment, employment, and occupation of labour forces. Since its establishment, in 2002, the NCCD has handed down more than 60 sanctions on various cases related to discrimination against Roma.¹³

According to its mandate, the NCCD co-operates with NGOs in general and Roma NGOs in particular in anti-discrimination-related matters, as well as in several projects aiming to prevent and combat ethnic discrimination. It provides training sessions on anti-discrimination, with emphasis on ethnic discrimination, for police officers, public servants, judges, and prosecutors. The NCCD is currently acting as a partner to Roma NGOs in several PHARE projects on anti-discrimination and was involved in promoting and implementing public campaigns for combating racism and ethnic discrimination in football in 2005 and 2006.

In **Serbia** a four national action plans have been adopted to support the Draft Strategy for Integration and Empowerment of Roma. The action plans, adopted through the international initiative Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015, are being implemented by the relevant ministries, and activities began in late 2006. The Roma National Secretariat of the Agency for Human and Minority Rights has been responsible for updating and organizing the action plans developed in the relevant ministries.¹⁴

⁸ The Commission has sponsored several surveys on issues related to prevention of discrimination, including vis-a-vis Roma, and this has resulted in an Action Plan against Discrimination, 2006-2010.

⁹ “The Policy of the Bulgarian Government Towards Equal Integration of Roma in the Society”. HDIM 6 October 2004, Doc. No. 178.

¹⁰ See <http://web.amnesty.org/report2006/bgr-summary-eng> and www.errc.org/cikk.php?cikk=2166#4.

¹¹ Both Action Plans can be viewed at www.nccedi.government.bg.

¹² See <http://www.cncd.org.ro>.

¹³ http://www.osce.org/documents/odihr/2007/07/25569_en.pdf.

¹⁴ Information provided to the ODIHR CPRSI by **Serbia** in response to the informal briefing on this report.

Improvements in anti-discrimination legislation noted by many participating States have, however, not necessarily led to better protection of Roma and Sinti against discrimination. Translating government policies on Roma and Sinti issues into practical action at the local level has been very slow, while NGOs working on these issues report continuing widespread anti-Gypsyism and anti-Roma feelings.

Police

There is extensive evidence from across Europe that Roma and Sinti do not benefit from adequate police protection, and do not have effective judicial remedies. There is also growing evidence to suggest widespread abuse and violence at the hands of the police. Specific challenges include:

- Extensive racial profiling and criminalization of Roma and Sinti;
- Disproportionate exercise of police powers and excessive use of force, including with the use of firearms, by police against Roma and Sinti (including raids on Roma settlements);
- Personal abuse and exploitation of Roma by police (e.g., demanding bribes);
- Denial of rights to Roma and Sinti following arrest or while in custody;
- Failure by police to respond effectively to Romani victims of crime and racist violence;
- Lack of means for Roma and Sinti to challenge and obtain redress for police malpractice.

As a consequence, Roma, Sinti, and Travellers have little trust in the police, and as a result, are often unwilling to co-operate with them. Further action is needed to address prejudices against Roma and Sinti within law enforcement agencies, and to improve community relations with the police. In this respect, some good initiatives are under way. In **Bulgaria**, a special commission on human rights within the police service carries out specific programmes that aim at improving communication between police personnel and the Roma community.¹⁵ To strengthen dialogue between police and Roma, in 2006 the Bulgarian Ministry of Interior organized seminars on Roma-related issues.¹⁶ In **Slovakia**, the Ministry of the Interior submitted a project for police specialists working within Roma communities to the government in 2004 (working group).¹⁷ Based on the outcome of the pilot project, the Minister of Interior adopted in April 2006 the evaluation of the project and from January 2007 increased the number of police specialists from 18 to 118.¹⁸

In **Poland**, a Plenipotentiary of the Police High Commander for the Protection of Human Rights has been appointed to:

- Co-ordinate and initiate activities to prosecute and punish acts of violence, including those directed against members of the Roma community;
- Train police officers in prevention of discrimination and violence against Roma; and

¹⁵ *Op. cit.*, note 9.

¹⁶ Information provided to the ODIHR CPRSI by **Bulgaria** in response to the informal briefing on this report.

¹⁷ **Slovakia**, "Statement of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Roma Communities", HDIM, 29 September 2005, Doc. No. 432.

¹⁸ Information provided to the OSCE ODIHR by **Slovakia** in response to the informal briefing on this report.

- Appoint individuals at municipal police stations responsible for contacts with Roma and for co-operating with Roma community leaders.¹⁹

Prevention work is also being undertaken by the NGO sector in co-operation with government bodies, the ODIHR, and local authorities. **Romania**, for instance, has launched a Strategic Initiative on Roma and Policing in Romania. This is being carried out in partnership between the ODIHR and the Romanian Interior Ministry, the Police Inspectorate, and the Roma NGO Romani CRISS, through a memorandum of understanding signed in 2005. Its main aim is to develop good practice for undertaking a systematic assessment of policing policy and practice relating to Roma, with reference to Action Plan recommendations, including those of the SPMU and the HCNM, and international human rights standards. Further, a draft resource manual has been prepared, containing examples of existing initiatives and practices related to police and Roma that will be the basis for a booklet aimed at building understanding and trust between police and Roma.

In **Poland**, an international seminar was held with the aim of presenting and disseminating the results of a number of different initiatives designed to improve relations between Roma and the police. Further, a workshop was carried out in the **Russian Federation** on relations between the police and ethnic minorities, with particular reference to relations between Roma and the police.²⁰ In December 2006, in Derbyshire, **United Kingdom**, an international workshop “policing in relation to Roma, Gypsy and Traveller communities” was organized with the aim of identifying practical measures that would help to implement the recommendations of the policing chapter of the OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti in the UK and other countries of Western Europe with substantial Traveller communities.

Mass Media

Regarding initiatives through mass media focusing on Roma, there have been no statements by participating States delivered during HDIMs to illustrate good practice. Nevertheless, there are a variety of state initiatives and provisions regarding the preservation and promotion of cultural identity, including radio, TV programmes, and print media, including in the Romani language.²¹

As for examples of NGO activities, the Dzeno Association in the **Czech Republic** publishes a magazine dealing with Roma social and cultural issues and is also responsible for running an Internet-based radio station, Radio Rota,²² which broadcasts in Romani, Czech, and English. Dzeno also runs training programmes for Roma journalists through the *INTRINSIC project* and co-operates with other Roma press centres in the region, including in Slovakia and Hungary.²³

In **Hungary**, the Roma Press Centre has been instrumental in creating a forum for Roma and non-Roma journalists to access information on Roma issues. The Press

¹⁹ **Poland**, statement by A. Czajkowski, “Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess the effective implementation of measures and their impact on the grass root community level”, International Implementation Conference on Roma, Sinti, Travellers, 20 October 2005, Doc No. 22.

²⁰ **European Dialogue**, Information on the Programme “Police and Roma: Toward Safety for Multi-ethnic Communities Progress Report”, HDIM, 28 September 2005, Doc. No. 355.

²¹ OSCE RoFM, *Media in Multilingual Societies* (http://194.8.63.155/publications/rfm/2003/08/12247_105_en.pdf).

²² Radio Rota, http://www.dzeno.cz/?r_id=33.

²³ **Dzeno Association**, www.dzeno.cz.

Centre provides balanced coverage of Roma affairs to the Hungarian mainstream print media, with the goal of increasing public awareness. In 1998, in co-operation with the Centre for Independent Journalism, the Press Centre launched an intensive one-year internship programme for young Roma journalists.²⁴

The Human Rights Project based in **Bulgaria** works to lobby radio and television outlets to include shows reported by Romani journalists on socio-cultural issues. After years of being denied access to mainstream media, Romani journalists are beginning to participate as equals with non-Romani journalists in television and radio broadcasts. Bulgarian National Television and Bulgarian National Radio are obliged to broadcast programmes for all Bulgarian citizens, including in their own language. For instance, since 2004 the first Roma television programme in Bulgaria has been broadcast on the Balkan TV Network.²⁵

2. Addressing Socio-Economic Issues

Widespread discrimination has resulted in the exclusion of many Roma and Sinti groups from access to adequate living conditions, health care, education, and employment. For many Roma, secure living conditions and residence are a prerequisite for recognition and fulfilment of rights. In addition, due to endemic poverty and social marginalization, Roma communities are becoming increasingly vulnerable to trafficking in human beings and exploitation of children.

In February 2005, eight countries of Central and Eastern Europe (Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro, Romania, Slovakia) launched an initiative called Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015, thereby reiterating at the highest political level their commitment to the improvement of the situation of Roma. The Decade is intended to be implemented through national action plans. The national action plan adopted in **Bulgaria** in accordance with the Decade contains, for instance, focused measures on the four priority areas of the Decade: education, employment, housing, and health. In addition, Bulgaria has supplemented its Decade priority areas to include developing Roma culture and providing equal opportunities for effective integration into wider society.²⁶

In **Greece**, steps have been taken to integrate Roma and overcome discrimination by allowing for more flexible administrative procedures. For instance, Roma who are illiterate may obtain a driver's license by taking an oral exam.²⁷

Housing and Living Conditions

Over the last decade, living conditions have been inadequate for many Roma communities in Central and South-Eastern Europe, as well as communities of Travellers in Western Europe.

Without a registered domicile, it is often impossible to register for public services or to become employed. Problems that have resulted from the status of unsettled legality of Roma houses include: forced evictions, lack of alternative and durable housing solutions, lack of civil registration, and problems for Roma children to attend school.

²⁴ **Roma Press Center**, www.romapage.hu.

²⁵ Information provided to the ODIHR CPRSI by **Bulgaria** in response to the informal briefing on this report.

²⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁷ Information provided to the ODIHR by **Greece** in response to the informal briefing on this report.

This further marginalizes Roma communities and prevents them from accessing their human, social, and political rights.

In addition to poor living conditions and often virtually missing infrastructure (water, sewerage, electricity, sanitation, roads and access to transportation), forced evictions of Roma have become commonplace in the region. In **Albania**, Roma and Egyptians are reportedly being evicted from houses, mostly in Tirana, where they have been living for many years, and are not provided with possibilities of alternate housing or loans, as are their non-Roma counterparts in a similar situation.²⁸ In the **former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**, local authorities evicted several Romani families under the pretext of “cleaning the municipality”, without providing any alternative housing; this was at the same time that the government committed itself to the Decade of Roma Inclusion.²⁹

A number of participating States are undertaking practical initiatives to implement their policies regarding housing. In **Bulgaria**, specific projects on urbanization and housing are being implemented on a municipal level in various cities. For instance, by the end of 2006, almost all those municipalities whose populations were at least 10 per cent Roma had developed municipal plans for development for the period 2007-2013, which include specific measures to improve the living conditions of Roma.³⁰ The Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works carried out an elaborate survey on urbanization and Roma housing in Bulgaria, which came up with additional recommendations for future project development. Local project management committees have been established in municipalities, which include representatives of the Roma community.³¹ The municipalities of Sofia and Plovdiv are implementing projects called “Roma Housing Construction”. In December 2003, 105 Roma families were accommodated. During the period 2003-2004, 30 Roma families were accommodated. A detailed urbanization plan for the Roma quarter is being elaborated with funds from the state budget.³²

Greece had issued and guaranteed 5,910 housing loans to Greek Roma as of May 2007. To date, some 5,288 beneficiaries have received their loans from the banks engaged in the programme.³³ In addition, the legal framework was modified in order to safeguard the programme’s effectiveness by:

- Establishing evaluation committees at local level with the participation of Roma representatives and social workers;
- Adopting social assessment criteria taking into consideration Roma living conditions and lifestyle, i.e., one-parent families, families with many children, people of low income, people with physical disabilities, etc.;
- Simplifying the application procedure and actively engaging local authorities on the basis of solidarity and proximity principles.³⁴

²⁸ ECRI Third Report on Albania (adopted 17 December 2004, published 14 June 2005), para. 53 (available at www.coe.int/t/e/human_rights/ecri/).

²⁹ ERRC Shadow Report Submitted to CEDAW on the “Situation of Romani Women in Macedonia”, p. 13 (available at www.errc.org/cikk.php?cikk=2489&archiv=1).

³⁰ Information provided to the ODIHR CPRSI by **Bulgaria** in response to the informal briefing on this report.

³¹ *Op. cit.*, note 9.

³² **Bulgaria**, “Fostering Equal Integration of Roma into Bulgarian Society”, written contribution to the HDIM, 28 September 2005, Doc. No. 396.

³³ Information provided to the ODIHR by **Greece** in response to the informal briefing on this report.

³⁴ **Greece**, “Statement by the Greek delegation on Roma”, HDIM, 12 October 2006, Doc. No. 582.

As an NGO reported, Roma communities living in different parts of Patras have, however, been forcibly evicted and have seen their homes demolished since August 2001. There have been reports of hate speech in public statements about Roma, an increase in anti-Roma campaigns by local residents' associations, and meetings between local authorities and residents to take decisions on Roma, without including Roma in the discussions.³⁵ This was further supported in a statement issued by the NGO Greek Helsinki Monitor at the 2006 HDIM. The **Greek** Ministry of Interior, however, points out that, while Greek Roma live in Patras, and are accessing housing loans, there are also non-Greek Roma, and these non-nationals are subject to the law on entrance and residence permits for non-nationals within Greek territory. Moreover, the Ministry of Interior has addressed this issue by approving 320,000 euros from the national budget to purchase land for use as temporary adequate accommodation for Travellers (regardless of their nationality).³⁶

With the aim of proposing supporting instruments to ensure an adequate standard of housing for marginalized Roma communities, **Slovakia**, through the Ministry of Construction and in co-operation with the Office of the Plenipotentiary, elaborated a Long-term Concept of Housing for Marginalized Population Groups and related Model of Funding (approved in January 2005).³⁷

The Bucharest-based Roma NGO Romani CRISS has expressed its concern about patterns of discrimination and abuse relating to the housing and living conditions of the Roma population in **Romania**. Since 2000, Romani CRISS has raised attention about the issue of the local public authorities and their racist practice of evicting and segregating Roma from the cities to the outskirts. This concern has been documented in various cases and situations in several parts of the country. The governmental authorities do not have any instrument to correct or prevent such decisions adopted by local councils regarding the demolition of Roma houses or eviction of Roma from their neighbourhoods.³⁸

In an effort to improve the living conditions of Roma in **Italy**, local authorities are implementing legislation that seeks to provide adequate temporary accommodation. For instance, in the Prefecture of Naples, local authorities have set up small camps for Roma and similar initiatives are taking place in Milan and Rovereto.³⁹

To address the living conditions of Roma in **Serbia**, the government has assisted local self-governments, such as the City of Belgrade, to establish a Co-ordination Centre for the Inclusion of Roma and a Council for the integration of Roma.⁴⁰

Unemployment and Economic Problems

The Action Plan recommends that the unemployment and economic challenges confronting Roma and Sinti communities should be met by:

³⁵ HDIM, Working Session 14, Tolerance and non-Discrimination II: National and Ethnic Minorities. International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights, 27 September 2005, Doc. No. 325.

³⁶ Information provided to the ODIHR by **Greece** in response to the informal briefing on this report.

³⁷ **Slovakia**, Statement by the Slovak Government's Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities, HDIM, 12 October 2006, Doc. No. 586.

³⁸ **Romani CRISS**, "Equal access of Roma to Housing, Residential Security, and Quality Education", HDIM side event: How to Match Words with Funds, HDIM, 27 September 2005, Doc. No. 312.

³⁹ Information provided to the ODIHR by **Italy** in response to the questionnaire on participating States' implementation of the OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti.

⁴⁰ Information provided to ODIHR CPRSI by **Serbia** in response to the informal briefing on this report.

- Promoting increased representation of qualified Roma and Sinti people in public employment (Article 48);
- Developing policies and programmes, including vocational training, to improve the marketable skills and employability of Roma and Sinti people, particularly young people and women (Article 51); and
- Adopting social policies that strengthen incentives to seek employment, as a sustainable way to avoid dependency on social benefits (Article 52).

In **Bulgaria**, a number of national employment programmes aim at eradicating Roma unemployment. The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (MLSP) is continuing the implementation of its national programme “From Social Assistance to Provision of Employment”, which is directed towards the employment and social integration of long-term unemployed individuals who receive monthly social assistance. Assessments indicate that over 80 per cent of the people trained and approximately 50 per cent of the people employed are of Roma origin.⁴¹ In 2006, the MLSP established a special Council on the Integration of Roma, which has been carrying out awareness-raising and information campaigns regarding the ongoing efforts of the government’s integration programmes. For instance, the 2006 programme “Job opportunities through business support” provided employment opportunities for many on social welfare, and many of those helped were of Roma origin.⁴²

The UNDP and the Bulgarian Government are implementing a “Job Opportunities through Business Support” (JOBS) programme. The project promotes the creation of micro and small enterprises. In April 2004, the scope of the project was enlarged with a new component called “JOBS for Roma”. The Integration of Roma-Social Inclusion project is being implemented with the MLSP, the Ministry of Culture, and the National Council on Ethnic and Demographic Issues.⁴³

According to the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma, poverty among Roma in many countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe has worsened drastically as a consequence of cuts in social welfare support without genuine alternatives for the affected people, especially when government-run employment programmes are under-funded. In the course of a fact-finding mission to **Slovakia** in June 2005, and following cuts in social welfare support of 50 per cent in spring 2004, it was observed that poverty among Roma has reached a “catastrophic level”.⁴⁴ In 2004, in the field of employment, the **Slovak** Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family provided subsidies of 18.6 million SKK to municipalities for the salaries of 50 field social workers and for the establishment of personal hygiene centres and laundries in those municipalities with Roma settlements that apply to the Ministry for this type of subsidy.⁴⁵ In addition, the Slovak government has created outreach programmes to support integration of marginalized groups, including the Roma, through activities that include subsidizing

⁴¹ **Bulgaria**, “Fostering Equal Integration of Roma into Bulgarian Society”, HDIM, 28 September 2005, Doc. No. 396.

⁴² Information provided to ODIHR CPRSI by **Bulgaria** in response to the informal briefing on this report.

⁴³ **Bulgaria**, “Fostering Equal Integration of Roma into Bulgarian Society”, HDIM, 28 September 2005, Doc. No. 396.

⁴⁴ Central Council of German Sinti and Roma, 27 September 2005, Doc. No 335.

⁴⁵ **Slovakia**, “The Slovak Government Policy Towards Roma Communities in the Period of 2003-2004” Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Government for Roma Communities, HDIM, 14 October 2004, Doc. No. 450.

income-generation projects, school material and meals for Roma children, and information campaigns regarding relevant legislation.⁴⁶

In **Romania**, job fair exchanges for Roma were organized at the national level in 2003 and 2004. In addition to the regular promotion activities involving contacts with companies and media campaigns, a central steering committee was set up. Job fair exchanges for Roma were set up in each county and are currently under evaluation.⁴⁷

Greece has encouraged the combating of discrimination while at the same time facilitating access to the labour market. This has been done through subsidizing new posts for Roma and Sinti and employment training under the EQUAL initiative.⁴⁸

According to the Roma Humanitarian Association Sun, unemployment in the **former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia** is a general problem that affects all communities, both majority and minorities. However, some minorities are disproportionately affected. The Roma community is suffering the most. The official unemployment rate of Roma is 70 per cent. Roma are severely affected because often they are the least educated and least skilled workers. Consequently, Roma have minimal access to the state's economic development programmes. Moreover, Roma are underrepresented in decision-making bodies and therefore their specific unemployment needs are inadequately addressed. There are no records of participation of Roma (or other minorities) in most of the employment programmes.⁴⁹

In **Italy**, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies has concluded a number of programme agreements with different Regional authorities to facilitate the integration of immigrants, including Roma. Funds have been allocated to provide services with the aim of facilitating integration, including: language courses, legal services, workshops, and vocational training seminars and cultural mediation.⁵⁰

The Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Policy of **Serbia** has allocated financial resources from the state budget to implement the Decade's National Action Plan for Employment of Roma. Funds are used to implement affirmative-action programmes that assist unemployed Roma.⁵¹

Health Care

At the 2006 HDIM, the **European Roma Rights Center** launched the report "Ambulance Not on the Way: the disgrace of health care for Roma in Europe". The report highlights the fact that Roma's access to health care is negatively affected by systemic discrimination in all socio-economic spheres of life. In addition, most countries

⁴⁶ Information provided to the ODIHR by **Slovakia** in response to the informal briefing on this report.

⁴⁷ **Romania**, "Overview of the latest measures undertaken by the Government of Romania in order to improve the situation of the Roma community, within the framework of the national strategy for Roma", Delegation of Romania to the OSCE, HDIM, 6 October 2004, Doc. No. 200.

⁴⁸ **Greece**, HDIM Working Session 15: Tolerance and non-discrimination II: Roma and Sinti., Implementation of the OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti Issues, "Statement by the Greek Delegation on Roma and Sinti issues", HDIM, 11 October 2006, Doc. No. 582.

⁴⁹ **Sun**, Roma Humanitarian Association in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, intervention at the HDIM, 28 September 2005, Doc. No. 344.

⁵⁰ Information provided to the ODIHR by **Italy** in response to the questionnaire on participating States' implementation of the OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti.

⁵¹ Information provided by **Serbia** to the ODIHR CPRSI in response to the informal briefing on this report.

included in the report lack an inclusive legislative framework for health-insurance coverage. The report provides examples of Roma being denied access to health care and explains some of the underlying causes such as lack of citizenship documents or living far from urban centres where hospital standards are often below par. Examples of forms of racism are presented such as inadequate attention to Roma patients, the avoidance of physical contact with Roma patients, and ambulances not coming to emergency situations in Roma homes.⁵²

In **Bulgaria**, health-care promotional campaigns among the Roma population, introduction of Roma social workers (mediators) in the field of health care, ensuring immunization for Roma children, and provisions for special care for children and mothers are some of the measures being undertaken in the field of health care.⁵³ Twenty-five socio-medical centres, including mobile socio-medical units, are operating already in temporary and permanent settlements throughout **Greece**, providing basic health services, vaccinations, counselling, and psychological support. Roma mediators are engaged in these socio-medical centres.⁵⁴

In **Italy**, a national health plan has been established that emphasizes access for immigrant populations and new minorities, including Roma. The plan focuses on adapting public assistance services to make them open and easily comprehensible for immigrant and new minority groups. Priority areas of the plan include: improving assistance to migrant and minority pregnant women; prevention campaigns among minority social groups about the risks of HIV and sexually transmitted diseases; vaccination of children from migrant and minority communities; and enforcing equal treatment and safety regulations for migrant workers.⁵⁵

In **Serbia**, the Ministry of Health has approved 42 projects submitted by health institutions and Roma NGOs, including projects on promoting Romani women's health, immunization of children, and oral health.⁵⁶

3. Improving Access to Education

Education features prominently as one of the four pillars of the Decade of Roma Inclusion. The countries involved in this initiative have done significant work to establish measures that specifically address issues of education for Roma communities. For instance, **Bulgaria** has set up a Consultative Council on Education of Children and Schoolchildren from Ethnic Minorities, adopted a Strategy for Educational Integration of these children and schoolchildren, and established a special budgetary fund to support this. In addition, free textbooks and transportation are provided to Roma children, and the position of Roma teaching assistant has been introduced.⁵⁷ In 2006, the Bulgarian Ministry of Education set up a centre for the educational integration of

⁵² "Launching the ERRC Report on Access to Roma Health", HDIM side event, 4 October 2006.

⁵³ **Bulgaria**, "Fostering Equal Integration of Roma into Bulgarian Society", HDIM, 28 September 2005, Doc. No. 396.

⁵⁴ **Greece**, HDIM Working Session 15: Tolerance and non-discrimination II: Roma and Sinti, Implementation of the OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti Issues, "Statement by the Greek Delegation on Roma and Sinti", HDIM, 11 October 2006, Doc. No. 582; and updated information provided to the ODIHR by **Greece** in response to the informal briefing on this report.

⁵⁵ Information provided to the ODIHR by **Italy** in response to the questionnaire on participating States' implementation of the OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti.

⁵⁶ Information provided to the ODIHR CPRSI by **Serbia** in response to the informal briefing on this report.

⁵⁷ **Bulgaria**, "The Policy of the Bulgarian Government towards Equal Integration of Roma in the Society", HDIM, 6 October 2004, Doc. No. 178.

ethnic minorities. The centre, which has been allocated state resources, aims to fund the purchase of textbooks and teaching aids and set up scholarships totalling 2 million euros for Roma students to attend institutions of higher learning.⁵⁸

In **Poland**, the Programme of Assistants of Roma Education was initiated to provide children and young people taught in integrated classes with assistance both at school and home. The task of the assistants is to monitor the progress made by children, conduct activities that help to eliminate educational performance gaps, help with homework, and stay in permanent contact with families.⁵⁹

In **Greece**, the University of Thessaly has launched the third phase of the project “Education of Greek Roma students”. The project is supported by a network of 90 mediators, 170 “schools of intervention”, 150 “schools of attendance”, 80 support courses, and 43 creative engagement workshops. Upon review of the enrolment requirements and by removing any requirement restraints, during the 2005-2006 academic year, approximately 9,884 Roma students attended elementary-school classes, out of which 2,031 were supported through the authorities’ innovative initiative of creating “itinerant student cards”.⁶⁰

The **United States of America** has emphasized the need of governments to redouble their efforts to examine and revise outdated textbooks that either do not reflect Romani history or include bigoted or prejudicial reflections of Roma. In this regard, it is particularly important that the experiences of Roma during the Holocaust are taught and remembered.⁶¹

NGOs have found that an integrated approach is needed when tackling access to education for Roma and Sinti communities. This was illustrated by the **Albanian** NGO Amaro Drom, which recommended to the Albanian Government the implementation of employment and education programmes, applying the National Strategy for the Improvement of Living Conditions of the Roma Minority. According to Amaro Drom, the low education level of the Roma community is the most serious barrier to the integration of the Roma minority into mainstream society. Most Roma children are illiterate, and many drop out of school. Some of the factors influencing the situation are poverty in the family, linguistic differences encountered in elementary school, and the attitude of parents.

Some NGOs point to the lack of effective implementation of government strategies for integrating Roma and Sinti into national education systems. In 2003, the **Albanian** Government designed and approved a strategy to improve the living conditions of Roma people in collaboration with Roma NGOs. However, NGOs report that the strategy has not been implemented.⁶²

⁵⁸ Information provided to the ODIHR CPRSI by **Bulgaria** in response to the informal briefing on this report.

⁵⁹ **Poland**, Ministry of Interior and Administration, “Governmental programs on the Roma Community in Poland”, HDIM, 5 October 2004, Doc. No. 69.

⁶⁰ **Greece**, HDIM Working Session 15: Tolerance and non-discrimination II: Roma and Sinti, Implementation of the OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti Issues, “Statement by the Greek Delegation on Roma and Sinti”, HDIM, 11 October 2006, Doc. No. 582.

⁶¹ **United States of America**, Statement on Roma and Sinti as prepared for delivery by Erika Schlager, U.S. Helsinki Commission, HDIM, 29 September 2005, Doc. No. 474.

⁶² **Amaro Drom**, Albanian Roma Union, HDIM, 5 October 2004, Doc. No. 77.

According to the Roma Centre for Democracy in **Serbia**, the National Action Plan for the Education of Roma, adopted in January 2005, has not been implemented.⁶³ However, through a programme of the OSCE Mission to Serbia, the Agency for Human and Minority Rights is currently implementing a project that seeks, among other areas, to increase Roma participation to educational institutions. The project supports a number of Roma teaching assistants and is co-ordinated by the Ministry of Education and Sports and the Roma Education Fund.⁶⁴

Italy passed a legislative decree in 2005 that recognizes the scholastic obligation, the right and duty, of children up to the age of 18 years of age to attend educational institutions. To assist schools with high numbers of immigrants, including Roma students, the Ministry of Education has allocated financial resources with the aim of effective integration through education. This includes the signing of a protocol of agreement on the schooling of Roma children between Opera Nomadi (a charity organization) and the Ministry of Education. The results of data collection by the Ministry of Education show that there has been an increase in Roma school attendance, most notably in pre-primary and primary school.⁶⁵

4. Enhancing Participation in Public and Political Life

Intolerance and widespread discrimination have hindered Roma and Sinti populations' ability to fully participate in the public and political life of the countries in which they live. This is often compounded by a lack of awareness and capacity among Roma of their ability to influence their own circumstances through political participation. Particularly affected are the most vulnerable groups within the Roma and Sinti communities, including internally displaced people, refugees, young people, and women.

According to the Open Society Institute's European Union Monitoring and Advocacy Program (EUMAP), European governmental administrative structures have advocated the establishment of country offices for Roma, local expert advisers, and joint working groups. However, monitoring reveals that most of these structures lack the resources and authority to conduct any kind of meaningful local activities. Poor co-ordination among local bodies also hinders effective action at this level. A concern identified in a EUMAP report⁶⁶ is the apparent politicization in selecting staff for the country offices for Roma. So far, only the nationally dominant Roma Social Democrat Party in **Romania** has been consulted. A lack of Roma participation in decision-making and project implementation is raised in several sections of the report.⁶⁷

In **Bulgaria**, the National Council for Co-operation on Ethnic and Demographic Issues (NCCEDI) is the main consultative body regarding the government's ethnic-minority policies. Of the 42 NGOs that are represented on the Council, 13 claim to represent the interests of Roma. Within the NCCEDI, a Commission on the Integration of Roma has

⁶³ **Roma Centre for Democracy**, intervention made by Dragan Gracanin, HDIM, 28 September 2005, Doc. No. 415.

⁶⁴ Information provided to the ODIHR CPRSI by **Serbia** in response to the informal briefing on this report.

⁶⁵ Information provided to the ODIHR by **Italy** in response to the questionnaire on participating States' implementation of the OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti.

⁶⁶ Monitoring of the local implementation of the Government Strategy for the Improvement of the Condition of Roma in Romania, www.eumap.org/topics/minority/reports/romap/.

⁶⁷ **Open Society Institute**, "Government Strategy lags behind while Roma capacity is underused", Resource Centre for Roma Communities, EU Monitoring and Advocacy Program and Roma Participation Program, HDIM, 29 September 2004, Doc. No. 25.

been established.⁶⁸ With regard to Roma participation in Bulgarian political life, the government acknowledges that while challenges remain to increase Roma representation, progress has been seen in terms of Roma candidates on mainstream political party lists, voter-awareness campaigns in Roma communities, and media coverage of Roma issues. Most importantly, as the National Democratic Institute (NDI) has noted: “For the first time in Bulgaria, a mainstream party [the Bulgarian Socialist Party] created a specific platform on Roma-related issues.”⁶⁹

In **Croatia**, the Governmental Office for Ethnic Minorities organized six training and educational seminars for young Roma, with the aim of implementing measures from the National Programme for Roma.⁷⁰ With the support of the European Agency for Reconstruction (EAR), the **Serbian** Ministry of Human and Minority Rights has started a programme of hiring Roma co-ordinators in local self-government units, paid by the EAR.⁷¹ Furthermore, the Serbian government has adopted a decision to improve effective participation of national minorities, including Roma, to participate in state institutions. This was made clear in amendments made to the Law on Elections, which lifted the 5 per cent threshold for minority political parties. As a result, in the January 2007 parliamentary elections, two Roma political parties secured representation in the Serbian Parliament. In addition, the Agency for Human and Minority Rights has, since 2004, established Roma facilitators in 20 municipalities to assist in liaising between Roma communities and local authorities. This has helped ensure that Roma are able to effectively participate in the decision-making process of their municipality.⁷²

In the **former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**, the Centre for Democratic Development and Initiative noted that in 2003 the government, in co-operation with the European Agency for Reconstruction, launched a one-year course for civil servants from minorities in the sphere of public administration. However, the Centre reports that participation of Roma was neglected. Roma represent one of the largest ethnic groups in the country and have the right to be integrated into public institutions.⁷³

Upon the initiative of local authorities in **Greece**, an intermunicipal ROM network has been created that facilitates co-operation between local authorities and Greek Roma. In addition, the central government supports Roma participation at all levels of decision-making regarding Roma-related policies and strategies. Furthermore, a Roma political party was formed, ASPIDA ROM, which represents Greek Roma in local and national elections.⁷⁴

5. Roma and Sinti in Crisis and Post-Crisis Situations

⁶⁸ Information provided to the ODIHR CPRSI by **Bulgaria** in response to the informal briefing on this report.

⁶⁹ For the full **National Democratic Institute** assessment report, visit http://www.accessdemocracy.org/library/1976_bg_roma_011806.pdf.

⁷⁰ **Croatia**, Statement on Roma and Sinti, Working Session 14: Tolerance and non-discrimination II, National Minorities, Roma and Sinti, HDIM, 28 September 2005, Doc. No. 377.

⁷¹ **Serbia**, “Implementation of the OSCE Action Plan For the Promotion of the Position of Roma and Sinti”, Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, HDIM, 28 September 2005, Doc. No. 382.

⁷² Information provided by **Serbia** to the ODIHR CPRSI in response to the informal briefing on this report.

⁷³ **Centre for Democratic Development and Initiative**, statement and written recommendations on the integration of Roma within the public administration at the local level in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, HDIM, 5 October 2004, Doc. No. 50.

⁷⁴ Information provided to the ODIHR by **Greece** in response to the informal briefing on this report.

In this regard, the focus for many participating States has been the territory of **Kosovo**. The OSCE Mission in Kosovo (OMIK) and UNMIK have acknowledged the serious problem that exists regarding Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian (RAE) communities. A number of joint activities have been undertaken over the last several years between OMIK and UNMIK. These include, among others, support for the establishment of kindergartens in several municipalities in Kosovo; and catch-up classes for RAE with the aim to integrate them into the Kosovo education system. In the 2004-2005 school year, almost 1,000 RAE attended these catch-up classes, organized jointly by the Kosovo Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and OMIK. In 2004, OMIK assisted the Ministry of Education in drafting a Feasibility Study for Roma Education. In addition, it financed the placement of a Roma consultant within the Ministry of Education. While there are still no teaching materials or additional lessons for Roma in their mother tongue, additional classes are being provided for RAE children on their tradition and culture.

To implement the OSCE Action Plan with regard to the situation in Kosovo, the OSCE Mission included in its 2006 programme the facilitation of, and support for, the development by the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government of a comprehensive RAE strategy for Kosovo. UNMIK and the OSCE will support the institutions, by providing expertise in developing a strategy and action plans.⁷⁵ In August 2006, Kosovo's Prime Minister, OMIK, and the Kosovo Foundation for Open Society hosted the "Conference for the Development of a Kosovo Strategy for the Integration of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians". Since then, a number of thematic workshops have been organized, facilitated by OMIK, with the participation of the RAE community, to prepare draft contributions to the Kosovo Strategy for RAE.

In a joint statement made by the European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC), the European Network Against Racism (ENAR), and the European Roma Information Office (ERIO) Roma and Ashkali Documentation Centre (RADC) at the 2005 HDIM, the following challenges and issues concerning Kosovo were raised: security and freedom of movement for minorities, especially Roma and Ashkali; discrimination in obtaining identification documents; ethnic cleansing and denial of access to remedy violent crimes committed against RAE communities; racially motivated violence and threats of further violence; and systemic and pervasive racial discrimination in most socio-economic areas. At the 2006 HDIM, the National Roma Centrum NGO noted that effective government enforcement is insufficient and that a concrete plan and strategy for Roma refugees and IDPs should be adopted and implemented.⁷⁶

6. Recommendations to OSCE Participating States

To counter the challenges in these five areas, action is required at the national and local levels.

In this regard, the promotion of regional co-operation on human rights training for police officers, civil registration campaigns for Roma who lack personal documents, and the sharing of information regarding hate-motivated incidents seem vital. These may be done through the following:

Addressing Hate-Motivated Crimes

⁷⁵ UNOMIK, Speech of UNOMIK Representative, Deputy Head of OSCE Mission in Kosovo, 21 October 2005, International Implementation Conference on Roma, Sinti, Travellers, Doc. No. 34.

⁷⁶ "Roma refugees and IDP's from Kosovo", HDIM, 5 October 2006, Doc. No. 161.

- Promote minority protection, including through the media, across the OSCE region, and in particular in those states with recent incidents of hate-motivated crimes against Roma and Sinti;
- Raise awareness among law enforcement and justice personnel on the importance of actively combating and punishing hate-motivated crimes and their perpetrators, and underline the threat and consequences of hate crimes for the process of consolidating democracy and rule of law; conduct nationwide campaigns and relevant training programmes to sensitize institutions and the general public on these phenomena;
- Disseminate positive practice in this area. Support the development of programmes and policies addressed to public institutions and media with the purpose of combating prejudice and stereotypes and for promoting a balanced and objective portrayal of Roma in official documents and through the mass media.

Strengthening the Conduct of Law Enforcement Personnel

- Strengthen legislation and practices to ensure full respect of human rights by law enforcement officers, and allocate funding to implement this legislation at the local level;
- Encourage participation of international and national organizations in thematic workshops and conferences on the conduct of law enforcement personnel towards Roma communities;
- Establish a task force on police and Roma issues between the ODIHR, the OSCE's SPMU, the HCNM, the Council of Europe, and the EUMC with the purpose of conducting a review and assessment of various existing initiatives on police and Roma and of how to provide more effective assistance to participating States in implementing the relevant provisions on this issue, including those from the Action Plan;
- Consider the inclusion of the issue of police and Roma in the agendas of high-level meetings on combating racism and xenophobia;
- Organize a Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on police and Roma matters;
- Support the creation of an ODIHR Police and Roma Fund to support local-level initiatives that promote effective implementation of international standards of policing in multiethnic communities and contribute to improving relations and co-operation between police and Roma representatives.

Personal Documents and Access to Citizenship

- Conduct a comprehensive assessment of the extent of the issue and what measures would be required by the relevant authorities to solve it;
- Support the conduct of outreach campaigns by Roma civil society in Roma communities in order to raise awareness about the importance of civil registration as a means for Roma to access their basic rights and gain increased access to public services;

- Eliminate all administrative obstacles related to applying for registration documents and allow financial exemptions to Roma, where required, when applying for such documents;
- Support structures assisting the unregistered to fill in the applications and fulfil the requirements for registration, including providing free-of-charge legal assistance;
- Consider the dissociation of access to health, education, and other services from the question of housing or the problem of the lack of permanent residence, since access that is conditional on housing and registration criteria may lead to discrimination;
- Legally regulate the status of Roma refugees, IDPs, asylum seekers, and returnees, bearing in mind the current status and conditions in post-conflict areas, and the fact that many Roma are left without citizenship and survive through constant migration.

II – IMPLEMENTING THE ODIHR’S MANDATE

1. Racism and Discrimination

The Action Plan recommends the development of “policies: (1) to improve relations between Roma and Sinti communities and the police, so as to prevent police abuse and violence against Roma and Sinti people; and (2) to improve trust and confidence in the police among Roma and Sinti people” (Art. 28). Since 2004, the CPRSI has been implementing the project “Police and Roma: Towards safety in multiethnic communities”. This project aims to provide law enforcement institutions, especially the police, with a framework for sharing information about best practices on policing in ethnic communities and implementation of international standards on policing. The project is a part of a larger effort to translate recommendations of the Action Plan into practice along with full respect of human rights. A series of roundtables, workshops and training sessions were implemented through this project in Romania, Poland, the Russian Federation, and the United Kingdom. A booklet aimed at building understanding and trust between police and Roma, illustrating some good examples on policing and Roma, will be published by the ODIHR CPRSI.

Across Europe, the mass media are used as a powerful tool to shape, perpetuate, and crystallize public perception of Roma communities. The mainstream media have become, for many people, the sole source of knowledge concerning Roma. In order to examine the way that Roma and Sinti are portrayed in European mass media, the ODIHR has commissioned the drafting of a booklet that will be available later this year.

In co-operation with the ODIHR’s Tolerance and Non-discrimination Programme, the CPRSI provided input for the report “Hate-Motivated Incidents in the OSCE Region: A preliminary report on challenges and response”. The CPRSI provided information about a variety of cases across Europe in which Roma were victims of racist incidents, hate crime and hate speech. Roma individuals actively contributed to the ODIHR-driven civil society expert meetings for developing a Hate Crimes Resource Guide.

2. Gender Dimension of Roma and Sinti Policies and Programmes

The ODIHR has put a strong emphasis on the inclusion of Roma, including women and young people, as important contributors to the design and implementation of project initiatives. Furthermore, the CPRSI recognizes the vacuum between international human rights discourse and Romani human rights activists with regard to discussing taboo issues connected with gender equality in Roma and Sinti communities. Aspects of this issue, along with specific recommendations, are contained in the recent European Parliament Resolution on Romani women in the European Union.⁷⁷

To assist in opening a dialogue on sensitive issues, such as early marriages, reproductive rights, trafficking in human beings, etc., in Romani communities, the CPRSI has initiated a series of debates among Romani activists, both women and men, traditional and progressive. These debates focus on the challenges between human rights and some

⁷⁷ This is a comprehensive document that tackles the inter-sectionality between gender and race discrimination in the case of Romani women. For further details, please see European Parliament Resolution P6_TA-FROV (2006) 0244.

cultural practices of particular Romani groups. The main objective of these meetings is to develop a common platform when publicly discussing issues considered as taboo among Roma communities. This allows Romani activists and representatives to raise awareness among non-Roma in an effort to eradicate the existing stereotypes about Roma and their cultural practices.

3. Housing and Living Conditions

The CPRSI supports projects related to overcoming obstacles to formalizing informal settlements. A Serbian-language publication that surveys the definitions, international principles and documents, and gives detailed descriptions of the status of illegal Roma settlements in Serbia was commissioned by the ODIHR, and a summary of its recommendations is available in English on the ODIHR's website.⁷⁸

4. Civil Registration and Participation in Public Life

Since 2001, the ODIHR has carried out a project with the Council of Europe and the EU/EC under the title "Roma and the Stability Pact in SEE". The project has ended the second stage (May 2003-June 2006) of activities under "Roma, Use Your Ballot Wisely". The goal of the project was to enhance participation of Roma and Sinti in the public and political life of societies in which they live. Strong emphasis was put on post-crisis areas and on the participation of displaced persons. The project promoted the use of electoral mechanisms (increased participation in elections and advocacy with elected bodies) as tools for empowering Roma, and for advocacy in view of enforcing the implementation of Roma-related policy measures adopted by governments.

The long series of activities focused on mapping the electoral participation and representation of Roma, voter education, training for Roma candidates (including women and young people), coalition-building roundtables, joint projects in view of mainstreaming Roma-related issues in electoral platforms, networking of elected Romani representatives on national and regional levels, training and facilitation of secondment of Roma individuals as observers in ODIHR election observation missions and in networks of domestic election observers, and identifying and tackling the particular problems of Roma in relation to voter registration and participation (e.g., lack of IDs, unclear citizenship status, lack of property/land rights, repatriated persons/families in areas of previous conflicts, voter registration for Roma IDPs). Concerning the situation of Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptians in Kosovo, the CPRSI has, since 2005, supported a locally based NGO (Roma and Ashkali Documentation Center) to work with the RAE community on the mentioned issues.

The ODIHR's work also focuses on empowering Romani representatives and communities in crisis and post-crisis situations through building their capacity in representing their interests in a better and more effective way in relations with the responsible authorities, both national and international. This ensures proper consultation of Romani communities in decision-making matters that affect their lives.

In 2003, in co-operation with the ODIHR's Anti-trafficking Programme, the CPRSI issued an assessment on trafficking of children from Roma and Egyptian communities in Albania. Several recently published NGO expert reports highlighted that Roma communities are especially vulnerable to trafficking in human beings. In particular,

⁷⁸ http://www.osce.org/odihr/item_11_22727.html.

children begging or selling small items on the street has become an issue of rising concern in Central and South Europe, but in Western European cities as well.

Based on the findings of a series of meetings on trafficking in human beings in different countries, the CPRSI produced a position paper, “Awareness Raising for Roma Activists on the Issue of Trafficking in Human Beings in South-Eastern Europe”.⁷⁹ The goal of this initiative is to open debates and raise awareness within Roma communities about the risks and consequences of trafficking in human beings, in particular to communities that lack access to other mainstream campaigns, especially for children and women. It is equally important to provide a forum for Roma activists to express their concerns and views on this matter. One of the objectives of this initiative is to include Roma activists in all spheres of national activities and networks for combating trafficking in human beings and to contribute to promoting working relations between Roma organizations and mandated institutions to combat trafficking and protect children. This entails promoting capacity-building to conduct assessment reports and promoting ownership/participation in analysing and working on this topic.

In September 2006, a roundtable on “Making Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings Effective: Building Regional and Local Capacity of Roma Communities”, was organized jointly by the ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues, the ODIHR’s Anti-Trafficking Programme, and the OSCE Presence in Albania. A roundtable report that analyses the discussion is available on the ODIHR’s website.⁸⁰

III – FRAMEWORKS FOR ROMA- AND SINTI-RELATED POLICY-MAKING

The Action Plan elaborates on the issue of co-operation among international institutions and organizations in Chapter VIII. Linking the Action Plan’s various recommendations with Roma-related measures that are based on international treaties or legislation (such as the Framework Convention for Protection of National Minorities of the CoE or EU Directive 43/2000) may ensure more effective implementation of Roma-related policies. The challenge is to complement one institution’s mechanisms and resources with another. Co-operation between the CPRSI and the CoE Roma and Travellers Division provides this kind of example, which can be replicated by other organizations. Another example of co-operation is the regular meetings of the Informal Contact Group on Roma of Intergovernmental Organizations. However, co-operation needs to be strengthened, especially with a view to implementing joint initiatives.

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Roma-related policy-making processes have been developed within the major intergovernmental organizations working throughout the OSCE region, including through the powerful mechanisms offered by the European Union’s accession procedures. Not only has the EU demonstrated its political commitment towards Roma

⁷⁹ “Awareness Raising for Roma Activists on the Issue of Trafficking in Human Beings in South-Eastern Europe”, Position Paper, ODIHR, Warsaw, April 2006 (available at: www.osce.org/odihr/18148.html).

⁸⁰ “Building the Capacity of Roma Communities to Prevent Trafficking in Human Beings”, available at http://www.osce.org/odihr/item_11_25035.html.

communities, but it has offered substantial funding to implement its social policy strategies.⁸¹

The ODIHR recognizes the importance of further strengthening co-operation with those bodies that have been consistently introducing mechanisms to assist states and Roma communities implement the provisions contained in the OSCE Action Plan. Throughout its work, the ODIHR seeks to complement its various programmatic activities with other intergovernmental and international organizations working on Roma- and Sinti-related issues. This is done with the purpose of ensuring that the work of the CPRSI and of other international organizations is mutually reinforcing.

Roma-related meetings are attended on a regular basis by the CPRSI. Among others, the CPRSI attends the regular meetings of the Committee of Experts on Roma, Gypsies and Travellers (MG-S-ROM) set up by the Council of Europe in 1995. Two international conferences on Roma, Sinti and Travellers were held in 2005 and 2006, which addressed the most pressing issues facing Roma and Sinti communities today. Solutions of how intergovernmental and international organizations can harmonize their activities to better address these issues were discussed. Below is a brief summary of these two events.

Joint Conference on Implementation of Policies/Action Plans for Roma, Sinti and Travellers, and Measures against the Anti-Gypsyism Phenomenon in Europe (Warsaw, Poland, 20-21 October 2005)

The Warsaw conference addressed the process of implementation of policies/action plans for Roma, Sinti, and Travellers, as well as the issue of anti-Gypsyism in Europe. Emphasis was placed on the working groups of this conference to discuss methods of establishing measures for participating States to take to implement the commitments of intergovernmental organizations, including: the Action Plan for Improvement of the Situation of the Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area, the Council of Europe's relevant recommendations on Roma and Travellers, European Union standards, as well as the participating States' own applicable national strategies and action plans. Included in these initiatives are those undertaken in connection with the Decade of Roma Inclusion. The conference also focused on the phenomenon of anti-Gypsyism in Europe and how participating States, NGOs, and the international community can effectively combat racism and intolerance faced by Roma, Sinti, and Travellers.

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International Conference on the Implementation and Harmonization of National Policies for Roma, Sinti and Travellers: Guidelines for a Common Vision (Bucharest, Romania, 2-6 May 2006)

Following up on the 2005 Warsaw conference, participants at the Bucharest conference were asked to pay attention to the challenges of co-ordination among numerous actors and partners. Contributors to the conference noted that there was no synchronization among a number of Roma initiatives, because each one is bound by its own mandate and sometimes these mandates lead to competition and replication, especially when competition for funds is at stake.

⁸¹ Structural funds are used to support the four pillars of the EU's social policy strategies, which include: the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund, and the European Employment Strategy.

Positive results achieved to date point to the need to bridge initiatives in order to generate a noticeable improvement in the situation of Roma and Sinti. To implement this approach, a combination of political commitments and legally binding mechanisms could be efficiently pursued. The Collective Complaints Procedure of the European Committee of Social Rights could, for instance, be followed up with concrete initiatives aiming to maximize results of these rulings for the Roma population.

The following tables provide a brief overview of some of the frameworks and institutions set up by intergovernmental organizations. It shows that Roma and Sinti issues are attracting more and more attention from international organizations, reflecting growing awareness and stronger response capacities.

Table I: FRAMEWORKS AND INSTITUTIONS

OSCE	COUNCIL OF EUROPE	EUROPEAN UNION	UNITED NATIONS
<p>OSCE Action Plan for Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area (OSCE PC Decision 566/2003, and Maastricht MC Decision 3/03)</p> <p>OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Resolution on “Education of Roma Children” (Berlin, 2002)</p> <p>Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings on Roma and Sinti (1999 – present)</p> <p>ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues (since 1994)</p> <p>HDIM and ODIHR seminar recommendations regarding Roma (1994 – present)</p> <p>High Commissioner for National Minorities Reports on the situation of Roma and Sinti in the OSCE in 1993 and 2000</p> <p>OSCE Field Missions Roma assistants in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia (including Kosovo), and in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; Projects on Roma</p>	<p>DG IV Education, Culture, Heritage, Youth and Sport: Project “Education of Roma /Gypsy children in Europe” (2003)</p> <p>Expert Committee of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (Charter entered into force 1 March 1998)</p> <p>Coordinator of activities on Roma/Gypsies /Travellers <i>Committee of Experts (MG-S-ROM) (1996)</i></p> <p>DG III Social Cohesion Roma and Travellers Division</p> <p>Advisory Committee FCPNM</p> <p>Commissioner for Human Rights (1999): Reports and information on the situation of Roma/Gypsies /Travellers</p> <p>European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) General Policy Recommendation No. 3: Combating racism and intolerance against Roma/Gypsies</p> <p>Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) Reports and recommendation on the situation of Roma/Gypsies (Rec.1203/1993 and 1557/2002)</p> <p>European Court of Human Rights Case law related to Roma</p> <p>European Committee of Social Rights Collective complaint procedure (2005 - last ruling on Roma)</p>	<p>European Parliament resolution on the situation of Roma women in the European Union (2005/2164(INI))</p> <p>European Parliament resolution on the situation of the Roma in the European Union P6_TA(2005)0151</p> <p>High Level Group on labour market and disadvantaged minorities (DG Employment and Equal Opportunities)</p> <p>European Commission Inter-service group on Roma issues (2004)</p> <p>EU “Race Directive” 43 (2000); EU Employment Equality Directive (2000)</p> <p>European Council’s COCEN Working Group: EU Guiding Principles to improve the living conditions of Roma (Tampere, 1999)</p> <p>EC yearly progress reports on candidate countries (since 1998)</p> <p>EU PHARE and Structural Funds support programmes for Roma projects on Roma/Gypsies of EU member countries</p> <p>European Monitoring Center against Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC) and RAXEN National focal points</p>	<p>UNDP Report: <i>The Roma in Central and Eastern Europe. Avoiding the Dependency Trap</i> (2003, revised 2005)</p> <p>UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Reports on situation of Roma in the Czech Republic, Slovakia (1997), and on Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptians from Kosovo (1999-2003) in co-operation with the OSCE and CoE</p> <p>Declaration of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (Durban, 2001)</p> <p>UN CERD: General Recommendation No. 27: Discrimination against Roma, 16/08/2000</p> <p>UN Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR) Resolution 69 (1993) - Protection of Roma/Gypsies</p> <p>Roma issues addressed in current reports/activities/projects of various bodies of the UN: CHR, CERD, UNICEF, etc.</p>

Table II: INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS' ACTIVITIES (2003-2006)

OSCE	COUNCIL OF EUROPE	EUROPEAN UNION	UNITED NATIONS	WORLD BANK AND OTHER IOs	MAJOR NGOs Actively working with Roma and Sinti
<p>Activities by the participating States (see Section I of this report)</p> <p>OSCE Human Dimension events (debates on Roma and Sinti) (1994-present)</p> <p>ODIHR CPRSI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects done in co-operation with other OSCE institutions, field missions, other organizations CPRSI conferences on harmonization among IGOs in Warsaw (2005) and Bucharest (2006) <p>ODIHR/Council of Europe/European Commission Joint projects on "Roma and Stability Pact in SEE" (2001-2003 and 2003-2005)</p> <p>ODIHR activities within the Informal Contact Group of IGOs (paras. 119-121, <i>Action Plan</i>)</p>	<p>Provisions in Rec. 1557 (2002): <i>European Roma Ombudsman; European Roma Study and Training Centre; European Solidarity Fund for Roma</i></p> <p>Committee of Ministers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendation 10 on better access to healthcare for Roma and Travellers in Europe (2006) Recommendation 4 on improving the housing conditions of Roma and Travellers in Europe (2005) Recommendation 14 on the movement and encampment of Travellers in Europe (2004) <p>Meetings of the MG-S-ROM – Committee of Experts drafts and proposed recommendations to various international organizations, i.e., ECRI, Committee of Ministers, etc.</p> <p>Projects of the various DGs</p>	<p>EC initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Roma in an Enlarged Europe</i> (2004) Roma Interservice Group within DG Employment and Social Affairs (2004) Establishment of High Level Group on Social and Labour Market Integration of Ethnic Minorities (2006) <p>EU Enlargement Participation of Roma of newly admitted countries in the election of the European Parliament</p> <p>Decision on the Year of Equal Opportunities (2007)</p>	<p>UN Millennium Goals to be implemented during the Decade for Roma Inclusion</p> <p>Follow-up to the provisions on Roma of the Dublin Declaration, by the UNOHCHR (2001)</p> <p>Debates on Roma within the UN working group on rights of the national, ethnic, linguistic minorities</p> <p>Roma issues in the country reports to the specialized committees on human rights treaties</p> <p>UN Beijing +10 (2005) Romani-women-related issues on the agenda</p>	<p>Follow-up by the World Bank and the OSI Conference "Roma in an Expanding Europe: Challenges for the Future" (Budapest, 29 June-1 July 2003)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launching of the Decade of Roma Inclusion, 2005-2015 (February 2005), Sofia, Bulgaria <p>Roma Education Fund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings of the Roma Decade International Steering Committee <p>Roma Education Fund hosted by the European Bank for Development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OSI Project on Ethnic Relations NDI (USA) SPOLU Int'l (Netherlands) PAKIV (Germany and Sofia) ERRC (Budapest) ERIO (Brussels-based NGO) CARE CCFD <p>European Forum for Roma & Travellers (EFRT)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Setting up of the EFRT as an international NGO Signature of the official agreement, (2004) European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI)

Table III: CoE Sources for Estimated Roma and Sinti Populations

	Official number (last census)	Estimated figures	Average estimate	Seats at Forum**
Romania	535,000 (2002)	1,200,000 to 2,500,000	1,850,000	4
Bulgaria	370,908 (2001)	700,000 to 800,000	750,000	3
Spain	No data available	600,000 to 800,000	700,000	3
Hungary	190,046 (2001)	600,000 to 800,000	700,000	3
Turkey	No data available	300,000 to 700,000	500,000	2 (+1)
Slovak Republic	89,920 (2001)	350,000 to 520,000	435,000	3
Serbia (incl. Kosovo)	108,193 (2002) ⁸²	400,000 to 450,000	425,000	2+1
France	No data available	300,000 to 340,000	320,000	2
Russian Federation	182,617 (2002)	220,000 to 400,000	310,000	2
United Kingdom	4,096 (2001) ⁸³	Up to 300,000	300,000	2
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	43,707 (1994)	220,000 to 260,000	240,000	2
Ukraine	47,600 (2001)	50,000 to 400,000	425,000	1 (+1)
Czech Republic	11,716 (2001)	150,000 to 300,000	225,000	2
Greece	No data available	80,000 to 350,000	215,000	(2)
Italy	No data available	120,000 to 160,000	140,000	(2)
Germany	No data available	70,000 to 130,000	100,000	2
Albania	1,261 ⁸⁴	80,000 to 120,000	100,000	1 (+1)
Moldova	12,280 (2004)	18,691 to 150,000	84,345	2
Portugal	No data available	40,000 to 50,000	45,000	1
Sweden	No data available	40,000 to 50,000 ⁸⁵	45,000	1
Poland	12,731 (2002)	20,000 to 60,000	40,000	1
Bosnia-Herzegovina	8,864 (1991)	20,000 to 60,000	40,000	1
Belarus	No data available	10,000 to 70,000	40,000	1
Ireland	24,000 (2002)	32,000 to 38,500 ⁸⁶	35,250	1
Switzerland	No data available	35,000 ⁸⁷	35,000	1
Croatia	9,463 (2001)	30,000 to 40,000	35,000	1
Belgium	No data available	20,000 to 30,000 ⁸⁸	25,000	1
Austria	No data available	20,000 to 25,000	22,500	1
Netherlands	No data available	5,000 to 40,000 ⁸⁹	22,500	1
Montenegro	2,875 (2003)	20,000	20,000	(1)
Latvia	8,205 (2000)	8,000 to 15,000	11,500	1
Finland	No data available	10,000	10,000	1
Slovenia	3,246 (2002)	7,000 to 10,000	8,500	1
Norway	No data available	2,300 to 11,000 ⁹⁰	6,650	(1)
Denmark	No data available	1,000 to 10,000	5,500	1
Lithuania	2,570 (2001)	2,575 to 4,000	3,287	1
Georgia	1,744 (1989)	Over 2,000	2,000	(1)
Cyprus	No data available	1,500	1,500	(1)
Estonia	542 (2000)	1,000 to 1,500	1,250	(1)
Luxembourg	No Roma/Travellers	100 to 500	300	(1)
Armenia	No official data	a few hundred	a few hundred	(1)
Andorra, Azerbaijan, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Malta, San Marino				None
TOTAL number of seats for national delegations (for a total estimate of 9,700,000 people)				53 to 67
The following 7 international Roma organizations have 3 seats each: Centre Missionarie Evangelic Roma International (CMERI), European Movement for Women and Young Roma Network (EMW-YRN), Forum of European Roma Young People (FERYP), Gypsies and Travellers International Evangelical Fellowship (GATIEF), International Romani Union (IRU), International Romani Women's Network (IRWN), Roman National Congress (RNC)				7 x 3
TOTAL number of seats for international Roma organizations				21
** Total number of seats at the European Roma and Travellers Forum (75 estimated seats according to the Partnership Agreement with the CoE)				74 to 88

For each country, please find below the **source** for the estimated number. In bold are the minimum and maximum figures used to calculate the average. Where an estimated figure provided by an official source is higher than estimates provided by NGOs, the official source has been used.

Country	Source for estimated number of Roma and Travellers	Estimated numbers
Romania	GT-ROMS (2003) (estimate by officials): PACE Doc. 9397rev (2002) on Legal Status of Roma: Framework Convention state report (1 st cycle): Research Institute for Quality of Life (2000): Minority Rights Group (1997): J.P. Liégeois "Roma, Gypsies, Travellers" (1994):	1,200,000 to 2,200,000 1,500,000 to 2,000,000 1,500,000 to 2,000,000 1,452,700 to 1,588,552 1,800,000 to 2,500,000 1,800,000 to 2,500,000
Bulgaria	GT-ROMS (2003) (estimate by officials): MG-S-ROM (2003) 1rev on Nomadic Populations: PACE Doc. 9397rev (2002) on Legal Status of Roma: J.P. Liégeois "Roma, Gypsies, Travellers" (1994):	- - - 700,000 to 800,000
Spain	GT-ROMS (2003) (estimate by officials): MG-S-ROM (2003) 1rev on Nomadic Populations: PACE Doc. 9397rev (2002) on Legal Status of Roma: Minority Rights Group (1995): J.P. Liégeois "Roma, Gypsies, Travellers" (1994): Sociological research/MG-S-ROM member (2006) :	600,000 to 650,000 650,000 - 700,000 to 800,000 650,000 to 800,000 650,000 to 700,000
Hungary	GT-ROMS (2003) (estimate by officials): MG-S-ROM (2003)1rev on Nomadic Populations: PACE Doc. 9397rev (2002) on Legal Status of Roma: Framework Convention state report (1 st cycle): J.P. Liégeois "Roma, Gypsies, Travellers" (1994):	600,000 500,000 to 600,000 400,000 to 800,000 400,000 to 600,000 550,000 to 600,000
Turkey	GT-ROMS (2003) (estimate by officials): PACE Doc. 9397rev (2002) on Legal Status of Roma: J.P. Liégeois "Roma, Gypsies, Travellers" (1994): Publication <i>Etudes Tsiganes</i> No. 25:	- - 300,000 to 500,000 550,000 to 700,000
Slovak Republic	GT-ROMS (2003) (estimate by officials): MG-S-ROM (2003)1rev on Nomadic Populations: PACE Doc. 9397rev (2002) on Legal Status of Roma: J.P. Liégeois "Roma, Gypsies, Travellers" (1994):	350,000 to 380,000 official figure 420,000 to 500,000 480,000 to 520,000
Serbia	GT-ROMS (2003) (estimate by officials): J.P. Liégeois "Roma, Gypsies, Travellers" (1994): UNDP report:	- 400,000 to 450,000 400,000 to 420,000
France	GT-ROMS (2003) (estimate by officials): MG-S-ROM (2003)1rev on Nomadic Populations: PACE Doc. 9397rev (2002) on Legal Status of Roma: J.P. Liégeois "Roma, Gypsies, Travellers" (1994):	- 300,000 - 280,000 to 340,000
Russian Federation	GT-ROMS (2003) (estimate by officials): MG-S-ROM (2003)1rev on Nomadic Populations: PACE Doc. 9397rev (2002) on Legal Status of Roma: J.P. Liégeois "Roma, Gypsies, Travellers" (1994):	- see official figure - 220,000 to 400,000
United Kingdom	GT-ROMS (2003) (estimate by officials): MG-S-ROM (2003)1rev on Nomadic Populations: PACE Doc. 9397rev (2002) on Legal Status of Roma: J.P. Liégeois "Roma, Gypsies, Travellers" (1994): CRE Strategy for Gypsies and Travellers (2004): Morris and Clements (September 2002): International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights:	- see official figure 300,000 90,000 to 120,000 300,000 max. 300,000 100,000 to 150,000
Former Yugoslav	GT-ROMS (2003) (estimate by officials): PACE Doc. 9397rev (2002) on Legal Status of Roma:	- -

Country	Source for estimated number of Roma and Travellers	Estimated numbers
Republic of Macedonia	J.P. Liégeois "Roma, Gypsies, Travellers" (1994):	220,000 to 260,000
Ukraine	GT-ROMS (2003) (estimate by officials): PACE Doc. 9397rev (2002) on Legal Status of Roma: Roma sources (Roma NGO Strategy, 2004): J.P. Liégeois "Roma, Gypsies, Travellers" (1994): NGO estimate from MG-S-ROM member (2006):	- - 80,000 to 120,000 50,000 to 60,000 over 400,000
Czech Republic	GT-ROMS (2003) (estimate by officials): MG-S-ROM (2003)1rev on Nomadic Populations: PACE doc. 9397rev (2002) on Legal Status of Roma: Minority Rights Group (1995): J.P. Liégeois "Roma, Gypsies, Travellers" (1994):	150,000 to 200,000 150,000 to 250,000 - 275,000 200,000 to 300,000
Greece	GT-ROMS (2003) (estimate by officials): PACE Doc. 9397rev (2002) on Legal Status of Roma: J.P. Liégeois "Roma, Gypsies, Travellers" (1994): Greek Helsinki Monitor:	- 80,000 to 150,000 160,000 to 200,000 300,000 to 350,000
Italy	GT-ROMS (2003) (estimate by officials): PACE Doc. 9397rev (2002) on Legal Status of Roma: J.P. Liégeois "Roma, Gypsies, Travellers" (1994): Official statistics according to International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights (IHFHR): NGO statistics according to IHFHR:	- 120,000 90,000 to 110,000 130,000 105,000 to 160,000
Germany	GT-ROMS (2003) (estimate by officials): MG-S-ROM (2003)1rev on Nomadic Populations: PACE Doc. 9397rev (2002) on Legal Status of Roma: Framework Convention state report (1 st cycle): J.P. Liégeois "Roma, Gypsies, Travellers" (1994):	70,000 - 70,000 70,000 110,000 to 130,000
Albania	GT-ROMS (2003) (estimate by officials): PACE Doc. 9397rev (2002) on Legal Status of Roma: ERRC report 1996, Minority Rights Group (1995): J.P. Liégeois "Roma, Gypsies, Travellers" (1994): International Group of Minorities Rights (1995):	- - 80,000 to 120,000 90,000 to 100,000 up to 120,000
Moldova	GT-ROMS (2003) (estimate by officials): MG-S-ROM (2003)1rev on Nomadic Populations: PACE Doc. 9397rev (2002) on Legal Status of Roma: Framework Convention state report (1 st cycle): J.P. Liégeois "Roma, Gypsies, Travellers" (1994): Roma sources (NGO Roma of Moldova):	- 18,691 - 19,000 20,000 to 25,000 up to 150,000
Portugal	GT-ROMS (2003) (estimate by officials): PACE Doc. 9397rev (2002) on Legal Status of Roma: J.P. Liégeois "Roma, Gypsies, Travellers" (1994):	- - 40,000 to 50,000
Sweden	GT-ROMS (2003) (estimate by officials): MG-S-ROM (2003)1rev on Nomadic Populations: PACE Doc. 9397rev (2002) on Legal Status of Roma: J.P. Liégeois "Roma, Gypsies, Travellers" (1994):	40,000 to 50,000 40,000 to 50,000 40,000 to 50,000 15,000 to 20,000
Poland	GT-ROMS (2003) (estimate by officials): PACE Doc. 9397rev (2002) on Legal Status of Roma: Framework Convention state report (1 st cycle): Minority Rights Group (1995): J.P. Liégeois "Roma, Gypsies, Travellers" (1994): Malopoloska Regional Roma Programme (2001): Roma leaders (Mirga 1999, Stankiewicz 2001):	20,000 25,000 to 30,000 20,000 to 30,000 50,000 to 60,000 40,000 to 50,000 30,000 to 35,000 15,000 to 50,000
Bosnia and Herzegovina	GT-ROMS (2003) (estimate by officials): MG-S-ROM report (1996): J.P. Liégeois "Roma, Gypsies, Travellers" (1994):	20,000 to 50,000 50,000 to 60,000 40,000 to 50,000
Belarus	Official sources:	10,000 to 17,000

Country	Source for estimated number of Roma and Travellers	Estimated numbers
	Belarusian Section of International Society for HR: Civic organization Belarusian Gypsy Diaspora survey (2006):	70,000 58,435
Ireland	GT-ROMS (2003) (estimate by officials): MG-S-ROM (2003)1rev on Nomadic Populations: PACE Doc. 9397rev (2002) on Legal Status of Roma: J.P. Liégeois "Roma, Gypsies, Travellers" (1994):	32,000 to 38,500 26,000-26,500 - 22,000 to 28,000
Switzerland	GT-ROMS (2003) (estimate by officials): MG-S-ROM (2003)1rev on Nomadic Populations: PACE Doc. 9397rev (2002) on Legal Status of Roma: J.P. Liégeois "Roma, Gypsies, Travellers" (1994):	35,000 35,000 35,000 30,000 to 35,000
Croatia	GT-ROMS (2003) (estimate by officials): PACE Doc. 9397rev (2002) on Legal Status of Roma: J.P. Liégeois "Roma, Gypsies, Travellers" (1994):	over 30,000 20,000 to 30,000 30,000 to 40,000
Belgium	GT-ROMS (2003) (estimate by officials): MG-S-ROM (2003)1rev on Nomadic Populations: PACE Doc. 9397rev (2002) on Legal Status of Roma: J.P. Liégeois "Roma, Gypsies, Travellers" (1994):	- 20,000 25,000 to 30,000 10,000 to 15,000
Austria	GT-ROMS (2003) (estimate by officials): PACE Doc. 9397rev (2002) on Legal Status of Roma: J.P. Liégeois "Roma, Gypsies, Travellers" (1994):	- 20,000 to 25,000 20,000 to 25,000
Netherlands	GT-ROMS (2003) (estimate by officials): PACE Doc. 9397rev (2002) on Legal Status of Roma: J.P. Liégeois "Roma, Gypsies, Travellers" (1994): Forum/MG-S-ROM member (2006):	- 5,000 to 6,000 35,000 to 40,000 5,000 to 33,000
Montenegro	UNDP report:	20,000
Latvia	GT-ROMS (2003) (estimate by officials): MG-S-ROM (2003)1rev on Nomadic Populations: PACE Doc. 9397rev (2002) on Legal Status of Roma: J.P. Liégeois "Roma, Gypsies, Travellers" (1994): 2003 Report from Latvian Centre for Human Rights and Ethnic Studies "The situation of Roma in Latvia"	8,000 - - 2,000 to 3,500 13,000 to 15,000
Finland	GT-ROMS (2003) (estimate by officials): PACE Doc. 9397rev (2002) on Legal Status of Roma: J.P. Liégeois "Roma, Gypsies, Travellers" (1994):	10,000 10,000 7,000 to 9,000
Slovenia	GT-ROMS (2003) (estimate by officials): MG-S-ROM (2003)1rev on Nomadic Populations: PACE Doc. 9397rev (2002) on Legal Status of Roma: J.P. Liégeois "Roma, Gypsies, Travellers" (1994):	7,000 to 10,000 official figure 6,500 to 7,000 8,000 to 10,000
Norway	GT-ROMS (2003) (estimate by officials): MG-S-ROM (2003)1rev on Nomadic Populations: PACE Doc. 9397rev (2002) on Legal Status of Roma: J.P. Liégeois "Roma, Gypsies, Travellers" (1994):	2,300 to 3,400 11,000 2,300 to 3,400 500 to 1,000
Denmark	GT-ROMS (2003) (estimate by officials): MG-S-ROM (2003)1rev on Nomadic Populations: PACE Doc. 9397rev (2002) on Legal Status of Roma: J.P. Liégeois "Roma, Gypsies, Travellers" (1994):	1,000 to 10,000 1,000 to 10,000 1,750 1,500 to 2,000
Lithuania	GT-ROMS (2003) (estimate by officials): MG-S-ROM (2003)1rev on Nomadic Populations: PACE Doc. 9397rev (2002) on Legal Status of Roma: J.P. Liégeois "Roma, Gypsies, Travellers" (1994):	- 2,575 - 3,000 to 4,000
Georgia	GT-ROMS (2003) (estimate by officials): PACE Doc. 9397rev (2002) on Legal Status of Roma: Human Rights Information & Doc. Centre (2003): J.P. Liégeois "Roma, Gypsies, Travellers" (1994):	- - over 2,000 -
Cyprus	GT-ROMS (2003) (estimate by officials): PACE Doc. 9397rev (2002) on Legal Status of Roma:	1,500 -

Country	Source for estimated number of Roma and Travellers	Estimated numbers
	J.P. Liégeois "Roma, Gypsies, Travellers" (1994):	500 to 1,000
Estonia	GT-ROMS (2003) (estimate by officials):	-
	MG-S-ROM (2003)1rev on Nomadic Populations:	official figure
	PACE Doc. 9397rev (2002) on Legal Status of Roma:	-
	J.P. Liégeois "Roma, Gypsies, Travellers" (1994):	1,000 to 1,500
Luxembourg	GT-ROMS (2003) (estimate by officials):	0
	PACE Doc. 9397rev (2002) on Legal Status of Roma:	-
	J.P. Liégeois "Roma, Gypsies, Travellers" (1994):	100 to 150
	ENAR Alternative Report (2004):	250 to 500
Armenia	GT-ROMS (2003) (estimate by officials):	0
	MG-S-ROM (2003)1rev on Nomadic Populations:	0
	PACE Doc. 9397rev (2002) on Legal Status of Roma:	0
	J.P. Liégeois "Roma, Gypsies, Travellers" (1994):	-
	FCNM monitoring visit (2006):	a few hundred
Andorra	GT-ROMS (2003) (estimate by officials):	0
	PACE Doc. 9397rev (2002) on Legal Status of Roma:	0
	J.P. Liégeois "Roma, Gypsies, Travellers" (1994):	-
Azerbaijan	GT-ROMS (2003) (estimate by officials):	0
	MG-S-ROM (2003)1rev on Nomadic Populations:	0
	PACE Doc. 9397rev (2002) on Legal Status of Roma:	-
	J.P. Liégeois "Roma, Gypsies, Travellers" (1994):	-
Iceland	GT-ROMS (2003) (estimate by officials):	0
	MG-S-ROM (2003)1rev on Nomadic Populations:	0
	PACE Doc. 9397rev (2002) on Legal Status of Roma:	0
	J.P. Liégeois "Roma, Gypsies, Travellers" (1994):	-
Liechtenstein	GT-ROMS (2003) (estimate by officials):	0
	MG-S-ROM (2003)1rev on Nomadic Populations:	0
	PACE Doc. 9397rev (2002) on Legal Status of Roma:	-
	J.P. Liégeois "Roma, Gypsies, Travellers" (1994):	-
Malta	GT-ROMS (2003) (estimate by officials):	0
	MG-S-ROM (2003)1rev on Nomadic Populations:	0
	PACE Doc. 9397rev (2002) on Legal Status of Roma:	0
	J.P. Liégeois "Roma, Gypsies, Travellers" (1994):	-
San Marino	GT-ROMS (2003) (estimate by officials):	0
	PACE Doc. 9397rev (2002) on Legal Status of Roma:	-
	J.P. Liégeois "Roma, Gypsies, Travellers" (1994):	-

Table IV – Timeline of Roma and Sinti Issues in the ODIHR

The following table shows the developments of Roma and Sinti issues within the ODIHR, first from 1990 to 2003, and then from 2003 to current initiatives. It maps the development stages, from human dimension commitments and reports on Roma and Sinti to relevant actions and recommendations, a process that began with the OSCE's recognition of the need to include Roma and Sinti in the decision-making process, and the establishment of relevant institutional mechanisms to address this inclusion. The period from 2004 to the present indicates practical initiatives undertaken to implement various chapters of the Action Plan on Roma and Sinti.

Period	Human Dimension Commitments and Reports on Roma and Sinti	Actions/ Recommendations to OSCE participating States
1990-1993 <i>Awareness-raising and calls for development of programmes</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSCE HD Copenhagen Document, 1990 • CSCE Meeting of Experts on National Minorities, Geneva 1991 • Helsinki OSCE Document, the Challenges of Change, 1992 • HCNM Statement on Roma at the Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials, 1993 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition of the particular challenges confronting Roma and Sinti; • Emphasis placed on undertaking effective measures in order to achieve full equality of opportunity; • Programmes developed to create the conditions for promoting non-discrimination and cross-cultural understanding; • New measures introduced to tighten east-to-west migration controls.
1994-1995 <i>Creation of an OSCE arrangement to monitor the situation & facilitate information exchange; mapping of Roma and Sinti throughout OSCE area</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Dimension Seminar on Roma and Sinti, Warsaw, 1994 • OSCE Summit of Heads of State, Budapest, 1994 • Report of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting on Warsaw, 1995 • OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, Warsaw, 1995 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing a Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues within the ODIHR; • Suggestion of country-by-country study with regular follow-up
1996-1997 <i>Moving towards state policies and programmes through NGO-state exchange</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapporteurs' Report of the OSCE Review Meeting, Vienna, 1996 • Report of the First Roundtable on Roma and Sinti Issues • Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, Warsaw, 1997 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OSCE delegations put forth policies and structures to address intolerance against Roma and Sinti <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a comprehensive approach to issues relating to Roma and Sinti; • Increase Roma political and public participation; • Combat hate crimes & discrimination

Period	Human Dimension Commitments and Reports on Roma and Sinti	Actions/ Recommendations to OSCE participating States
<p>1998-2003</p> <p><i>Establishing and strengthening the ODIHR CPRSI</i></p> <p><i>Moving toward a "new phase of action":</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -putting best practices of HD into operation; -implementing platform of action in emergency situations; -adoption of the action Plan on Roma and Sinti 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OSCE Parliamentary Meeting, June 1998 • Ministerial Council Meeting, Oslo, December 1998 • Report of the Roundtable on Roma and Sinti Issues • St. Petersburg OSCE Parliamentary Meeting • Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting, Vienna 1999 • Istanbul Document (Summit of OSCE Heads of State), Istanbul 1999 • OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting, Maastricht, December, 2003 	<p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The creation of the position of Adviser on Roma and Sinti Issues at the ODIHR; • Enhanced tripartite co-operation among the ODIHR, CoE, and EC; • OSCE Task Force and Plan of Action on Roma in Kosovo and in other situations of crisis
<p>2004-2006</p> <p><i>ODIHR CPRSI Implementation of various chapters of the Action plan</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Conference on the Civil Registration of Roma in South-Eastern Europe, Belgrade, 28 November 2005 • International implementation Conference on Roma, Sinti and Travellers, Warsaw, October, 2005 • International Conference on the Implementation and Harmonization of National Policies for Roma, Sinti and Travellers: Guidelines for a Common Vision, Bucharest, May 2006 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasizing a regional approach to issues of civil registration of Roma and Sinti in the SEE region • Harmonization of policies related to Roma and Sinti

Table V: Documents Presented at HDIMs 2004-2006

Human Dimension Event	# of docs (DDS)	Number of Documents on Roma and Sinti registered in DDS										
		OSCE pS	OSCE Institutions				OSCE missions	IOs			NGOs	TOTAL
			FOM	HCNM	OSCE ODIHR	Special Repres		UN	CoE	other		
Human Dimension Implementation Meetings, 2004-2006												
HDIM 2006	629	17		1			2		8		44	72 (11.4%)
HDIM 2005	519	25		1	2		1		7		47	81 (15%)
HDIM 2004	470	9	1		8		2	1	4		30	47 (10%)
Other Human Dimension Events, 2004-2006												
Upholding the Rule of Law and Due Process in criminal Justice System, HDS ⁹¹ Warsaw, 10-12 May, 2006	42										1	1 (2.3%)
International Implementation Conference on Roma, Sinti, Travellers, Warsaw, 20-21 October 2005	43	11					2		7	2	18	40 (93%)
Migration and Integration, HDS Warsaw, 19-30 September 2005	24										1	1 (4%)
Democratic Institutions and Democratic Governance, HDS Warsaw, 11-13 May 2004	42										4	4 (10%)

The table presents information on the number of documents related to Roma and Sinti submitted by different participants during human dimension events to the ODIHR's document distribution system (DDS). NGOs usually present the highest number of documents. This can be explained by their numerous and active participation. OSCE participating States present a higher number of documents related to Roma and Sinti during HDIMs than during other human dimension events. Of other international organizations, the Council of Europe is the most active in presenting materials on Roma and Sinti. Overall, in comparison with the total number of documents presented during human dimension meetings, documents on Roma and Sinti comprise about 10 per cent.

Table VI – No. of documents presented by OSCE pS at HDIMs 2004-06

OSCE pS	HDIM - 2004		HDIM - 2005		HDIM - 2006	
	Total # of Statements	# of Statements on R/S	Total # of Statements	# of Statements on R/S	Total # of Statements	# of Statements on R/S
Albania	3		5	1	2	1
Andorra						
United States of America	24	1	23	1	21	2
Armenia	5		7		4	
Austria	1		2		2	
Azerbaijan	6		12		12	
Belarus	2		1		11	
Belgium	3		1		2	
Bosnia and Herzegovina						
Bulgaria	5	1	5	1	2	1
Canada	6		8	1	5	
Croatia	1		8	2	3	
Cyprus						
Czech Republic						
Denmark						
Estonia						
Finland					16	1
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia			5	1	4	
France	2		4		1	
Georgia					9	
Germany	4	1	7	2	6	3
Greece			15	4	12	3
Holy See	5		3		6	
Hungary						
Iceland						
Ireland						
Italy					1	
Kazakhstan	7		6		13	
Kyrgyzstan	6		2		4	
Latvia					1	
Liechtenstein					1	

OSCE pS	HDIM - 2004		HDIM - 2005		HDIM - 2006	
	Total # of Statements	# of Statements on R/S	Total # of Statements	# of Statements on R/S	Total # of Statements	# of Statements on R/S
Lithuania					2	
Luxembourg						
Malta						
Moldova						
Monaco						
Montenegro						
Netherlands	22	1	1		1	
Norway	5	1	10	1	6	
Poland	2	1	6		2	
Portugal						
Romania	3	1	7	4	5	2
Russian Federation	20	1	12		26	1
San Marino					1	
Serbia	2		19	3	6	1
Slovak Republic	2	1	6	1	6	1
Slovenia	1		13	1		
Spain	2		1			
Sweden	1		1		4	
Switzerland	11		14	1	9	1
Tajikistan					1	
Turkey	8		9		10	
Turkmenistan						
Ukraine	1		1		10	
United Kingdom	1		14		4	
Uzbekistan					1	
Total #	151	9 6%	238	25 10 %	231	17 7.3 %

The table above shows the number of documents (as registered in DDS) that were presented by the OSCE participating states during HDIMs 2004-2006 in total, and in regard to Roma and Sinti issues. Seventeen (30 per cent) of the OSCE participating States contributed to discussions on Roma and Sinti during HDIMs 2004-2006. Five states (Bulgaria, Germany, Romania, Slovakia, and the United States of America) contributed to discussions on Roma and Sinti issues during each HDIM, seven states contributed to two HDIMs and six states to one. Greece and Romania presented the highest number of documents (seven).

Table VII – CPRSI events

year	Title of the Event	Co-organizer(s)	Events Related to Roma and Sinti	Relevant Chapters of OSCE Action Plan
2006	Building Coalition among Roma Representatives to Formalize Informal Settlements and Prevent Forced Evictions of Roma, Sinti and Travellers	UN Habitat Warsaw Office; Council of Europe	HDIM, 2 October Warsaw	Chapter VII. Roma and Sinti in crisis and post-crisis situations
	Exhibition “Unsettled Spaces - Vulnerable People; How Should We Legalize Roma Settlements and Overcome Frozen Conflicts?”	University of Urbanism and Architecture; Roma Museum of Tarnow	HDIM, 2-6 October Warsaw	Chapter VII
	Exhibition: “Historical and contemporary aspects of life of Roma in Poland”	Roma Museum of Tarnow	HDIM, 4-6 October Warsaw	
	The Gender Dimension of Roma and Sinti Affairs, including situation of Roma women as refugees	OSI Roma Participation Program; OSI Joint Roma Women’s Initiative; Romani CRISS	HDIM, 4 October Warsaw	Chapter II. General context: for Roma with Roma; para. 6
	Prospects and policies for Roma Ashkali and Egyptians (RAE) in the framework of the Kosovo political status	Kosovo Roma and Ashkali Forum	HDIM, 5 October Warsaw	Chapter VII
	Bringing Social Partners Together in Facilitating Roma Integration into the Labour Market	Roma Education Fund (REF)	HDIM, 6 October Warsaw	Chapter IV. Addressing socio-economic issues
	Methodology for review and assessment of the implementation of the OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti in relation to the Governmental Programmes for Roma and Sinti	Polish Ministry of Interior and Administration; OSCE Delegation of Romania	HDIM, 9 October Warsaw	Chapter I. Scope and objectives; Chapter II
	Police and Roma: towards safety for multiethnic communities	Romanian Institute for research and Prevention of Criminality (IRPC)	HDIM, 10 October Warsaw	Chapter III. Combating racism and discrimination
	HCNM Recommendations on Policing in Multi-Ethnic Societies		HDIM, 11 October Warsaw	
	Meeting of the Informal Contact Group of International Organizations on Roma, Sinti and Travellers		3 April	
	Roundtable on Making Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings Effective: Building Regional and Local	OSCE Presence in Albania	18-20 September Tirana	Chapter IX. The ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues;

year	Title of the Event	Co-organizer(s)	Events Related to Roma and Sinti	Relevant Chapters of OSCE Action Plan
	Capacity of Roma Communities			provisions 127 and 132
	Current situation and prospects of Kosovo Roma		SHDM, 29-30 March Vienna	Chapter VII
	European Parliament - Hearing on Kosovo Roma		International Status Talks regarding Kosovo, 6 March	Chapter VII
2005	International Conference on the Implementation and Harmonization of National Policies on Roma, Sinti and Travellers: Guidelines for a common vision	CoE, EU, Romanian Government	4-5 May, Bucharest	
	Meeting of the Informal Contact Group of International Organizations on Roma, Sinti and Travellers		19 April, Brussels	
	Trends in international migration of Roma		HDS on Migration and Integration, 11 May Warsaw	
	Implementing the Roma and Sinti Action Plan (economic and social aspects): Promoting local economic development		24 May 13th Meeting of the OSCE Economic Forum	Chapter IV. Addressing socio-economic issues
	Combating Racism and Discrimination against Roma and Sinti: (Implementing Chapter III of the OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti)	European Roma Information Office (ERIO)	7 June	Chapter III. Combating racism and discrimination
	Documentation Point - Kosovo Roma and Roma in crisis and post-crisis situations		HDIM, 20 September Warsaw	Chapter VII
	Kosovo Roma: as minorities in Kosovo; as refugees and IDPs in OSCE area	The International Roma Contact Group (IRCG)	HDIM, 20 Sept., Warsaw	Chapter VII
	Participation of Roma and Sinti in electoral processes		HDIM, 19 September Warsaw	Chapter IV. Enhanced participation in public and political life
	Documentation Point - Participation of Roma and Sinti in electoral processes		HDIM, 18-19 September Warsaw	Chapter IV
	Gender Dimension of Roma	Roma participation	HDIM,	Chapter II

year	Title of the Event	Co-organizer(s)	Events Related to Roma and Sinti	Relevant Chapters of OSCE Action Plan
	and Sinti Issues: Multiple Identities as a Source of Strength and Discrimination	Program (OSI), Women Network Program (OSI), Minority Rights Group International	27 September Warsaw	General context: for Roma with Roma; para. 6
	How to Match Words with Funds: Equal Access of Roma to Housing, Residential security and to Quality Education	CoE (as joint Secretariat of the Informal Contact group of Roma of the IGOs)	HDIM, 19-30 September Warsaw	Chapter IV. Addressing socio-economic issues
	How to teach about the experience of Roma during the WW II	CoE	HDIM, 29 September Warsaw	Chapter V. Improving access to education, para. 71
	Documentation Point - How to teach about the experience of Roma during the WW II	CoE	HDIM, 28-29 September Warsaw	Chapter V. Improving access to education, para. 71
	Meeting of the Roma Focal Points of the OSCE Missions		HDIM, 29 September Warsaw	Chapter IV. Enhanced participation in public and political life
	International implementation Conference on Roma, Sinti and Travellers	CoE, EUMC, Poland, Slovenia	20-21 October Warsaw	
	Meeting of the Informal Contact Group of International Organizations on Roma, Sinti and Travellers		9 November Brussels	Chapter IV. Enhanced participation in public and political life
	Regional Conference on the Civil Registration of Roma in South-Eastern Europe	The Ministry of Human and Minority Rights of Serbia and Montenegro	28 November	Chapter IV. Addressing socio-economic issues.
2004	Improving Access to Education of Roma and Sinti; towards school desegregation and quality education for children and youth	CoE European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC)	OSCE Sofia Ministerial Council Meeting, 7 December	Chapter V. Improving access to education, para. 71
	Situation of Roma Internally Displaced Persons in the framework of the implementation of the OSCE Action Plan, Chapter VII		SHDM "Internally Displaced Persons", Vienna 4-5 Nov.	Chapter VII. Chapter IV. Enhanced participation in public and political life
	Promoting entrepreneurship and opportunities for economic development for Roma and Sinti		12th Meeting of the OSCE Economic Forum, Prague,	Chapter IV. Addressing socio-economic issues.

year	Title of the Event	Co-organizer(s)	Events Related to Roma and Sinti	Relevant Chapters of OSCE Action Plan
			31 May-4 June	
	Meeting of the Informal Contact Group of International Organizations on Roma, Sinti and Travellers		Brussels	Chapter IV. Enhanced participation in public and political life
	Informal discussion with Roma HDIM on the participants ODIHR-EC project "Roma, use your ballot wisely!"		HDIM, 4-15 October Warsaw	Chapter IV. Enhanced participation in public and political life
	Building co-operation between central government, local government and NGOs to improve the situation of the Roma in Poland	Advisory Office, joint project of Ministry of Internal Affairs and Administration of Poland and British Embassy	HDIM, 4-15 October Warsaw	Chapter IV. Enhanced participation in public and political life
	Roma and the right to equal Housing in Europe	European Roma Rights Centre (ERC)	HDIM, 4-15 October Warsaw	Chapter IV. Addressing socio-economic issues (housing and living conditions)
	Improving relations between Roma and the police, in the framework of the OSCE Action Plan	European Dialogue	HDIM, 4-15 October Warsaw	Chapter III. Combating Racism and Discrimination (police)
	Media and Fighting Discrimination against Roma and Sinti: Media as a tool against Anti-Gypsyism		13 September Brussels	Chapter III. Combating Racism and Discrimination

Table VIII – Questionnaire for OSCE participating States 18 August 2006

Review of OSCE Participating States' Implementation of the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area

In order to continue effectively collecting information on participating States' implementation of the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area, please provide the following contact information of the official(s) responsible for Roma and Sinti affairs:

Title:
Name:
Position:
Institution:
Address:
Phone:
Fax:
Direct E-mail:
Website of institution:

1. Please list the action plans/legislation that exist and are specifically relevant for Roma and Sinti populations?
(Please provide web-link to text of national strategy)

2. What measures does the action plan/legislation include that is relevant for Roma and Sinti populations?
(Check appropriate box)
 - ☐ Combating racism and discrimination
 - ☐ Social rights (e.g., adequate housing and living conditions, access to health care)
 - ☐ Economic rights (e.g., access to employment)
 - ☐ Education policies
 - ☐ Participation in public and political life (e.g., voting rights)
 - ☐ Fundamental rights of refugees and internally displaced Roma and Sinti

3. Are funds allocated for implementation of Roma and Sinti action plan/legislation from the national budget?
 - ☐ Yes; Amount: _____ (EURO equivalent)
 - ☐ No

4. Does an anti-discrimination law exist?
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
 - Which areas of discrimination are included? Does it cover special segments (e.g., housing, employment) or does it cover all spheres of life?
 - ☐ Covers special segments; Examples:
 - ☐ Covers all spheres of life
 - Is the establishment of a specialized body included in the law?
 - ☐ Yes; Is this body operational? ☐ Yes; ☐ No
 - ☐ No

5. How often is the action plan/legislation reviewed?
- ☐ Once a year
- ☐ Twice a year
- ☐ Other
6. Does a specialized office exist to oversee implementation of the action plan/legislation?
- ☐ Yes (*Please list the name of the office*) _____
- ☐ No
7. Does an independent support structure that includes Roma and Sinti exist (*ombudsman, specialized body, human rights institution, etc.*)?
- ☐ Yes (*Please list the name of the office and/or officer*) _____
- ☐ No
8. What mechanisms have been established at the national level to implement the action plan/legislation at the local level, and to promote the accountability of local authorities towards their citizens belonging to Roma and Sinti communities?
- ☐ Yearly review of progress of implementing the action plan/legislation at the local level
- ☐ Input from civil society working on Romani issues
- ☐ Other
9. How is the action plan/legislation monitored?
- ☐ Regular local and/or municipal reporting
- ☐ Collection of data on Roma and Sinti regarding local compliance with the action plan/legislation (*e.g., number of Romani schoolchildren enrolled, number of elected Romani officials to local authorities offices, etc.*)
10. Are Roma and Sinti represented in the following areas? In what capacity? (*Please provide official title.*) If possible please provide the number, or percentage, of Roma and Sinti employed in the following areas:
- a. National and local government?
- ☐ Yes ☐ No
- (*if "Yes", please complete the following information*)
- Official title _____
- Number/Percentage employed _____
- b. Law enforcement
- ☐ Yes ☐ No
- (*if "Yes", please complete the following information*)
- ☐ As police officers Number/Percentage employed _____
- ☐ As administrators Number/Percentage employed _____
- ☐ Other
- c. Education system
- ☐ Yes ☐ No

(if "Yes", please complete the following information)

- ☐ As educators /teachers Number/Percentage employed ____
- ☐ As administrators Number/Percentage employed ____
- ☐ Other

d. Health-care system

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

(if "Yes", please complete the following information)

- ☐ As doctors Number/Percentage employed ____
- ☐ As administrators Number/Percentage employed ____
- ☐ Other

11. Does the action plan/legislation address the particular concerns of Roma and Sinti women with regard to incidents of racism, intolerance, and discrimination? Are there any existing practices on addressing the particular issues of Roma and Sinti women during conflict and post-conflict situations?

- ☐ Yes (if "Yes" please provide details)
- ☐ No

12. Are there any effective policy measures to recommend as "good practices" as regards Kosovo Roma and other communities (e.g., Ashkali and Egyptians)?

- ☐ Yes (if "Yes", please provide details)
- ☐ No

13. How is the action plan/legislation publicized?

- ☐ Local and national awareness campaigns
- ☐ Mass media
- ☐ Other

14. Has the action plan/legislation been translated into Romani?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

15. Which NGOs are working on Roma-related strategies in the country? (Please list three of the best known)

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

Table IX – Questionnaire Information from OSCE participating States

STATE	Roma and Sinti population		Anti-discrimination Law	National action plan/legislation relevant to Roma	Specialized office to oversee the implementation of the national action plan	State funds allocated for implementation of Roma and Sinti action plan/legislation
	Official number (last census available)	Estimated Roma/Sinti population				
Albania	1,261	80,000-120,000				
Andorra						
United States of America						
Armenia	N/A	A few hundred				
Austria	N/A	20,000-25,000				
Azerbaijan						
Belarus	9,927	10,000-70,000	N/A			
Belgium	N/A	20,000-30,000	•	•	•	51,058 euros annually for Centre de Mediation des Gens du Voyage + 84,087 euros (2004) for Impuls Fund for immigration policy
Bosnia and Herzegovina	8,864 (1991)	20,000-60,000				
Bulgaria	370,908 (2001)	700,000-800,000	•	•	•	2,989,334 BGN (1,532,990 euros) for Framework Program for Equal Integration of Roma in Bulgarian society; and 9,703,000 BGN (4,975,900) for the National Program for Improvement of the Living Conditions of Roma
Canada	N/A	N/A	•			
Croatia	9,463 (2001)	30,000-40,000	No – it is in preparation	•	•	12,000,000.00 KN (1,613,180 euros)
Cyprus	N/A	App. 1.500				
Czech Republic	11,716 (2001)	150,000-300,000		•	•	3,960,000
Denmark	N/A	1,000-10,000	•	•	•	
Estonia	542	1,000-				

STATE	Roma and Sinti population		Anti-discrimination Law	National action plan/legislation relevant to Roma	Specialized office to oversee the implementation of the national action plan	State funds allocated for implementation of Roma and Sinti action plan/legislation
	Official number (last census available)	Estimated Roma/Sinti population				
	(2000)	1,500				
Finland	N/A	10,000	•	•	•	
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	43,707 (1994)	220,000-260,000				
France	N/A	300,000-340,000	•	•	•	From various budget lines (no exact amount can be calculated)
Georgia	1,744 (1989)	Over 2,000				
Germany	N/A	70,000-130,000	•	•	•	From various budget lines (no exact amount can be calculated)
Greece	N/A	80,000-350,000	•	•	•	339.747 thousand euros
Holy See						
Hungary	190,046 (2001)	600,000-800,000	•	•	•	172.5 million HUF (638,000 euros)
Iceland	nominal	N/A	N/A			
Ireland	24,000 (2002)	32,000-38,000				
Italy	N/A	120,000-160,000	•		•	•
Kazakhstan						
Kyrgyzstan						
Latvia	8,205 (2000)	8,000-15,000	•		•	
Liechtenstein		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Lithuania	2,570 (2001)	2,575-4,000	•	•		
Luxembourg	No Roma	100-500				
Malta						
Moldova	12,280 (2004)	18,691-150,000				
Monaco						
Montenegro	2,875 (2003)	20,000		•		

STATE	Roma and Sinti population		Anti-discrimination Law	National action plan/legislation relevant to Roma	Specialized office to oversee the implementation of the national action plan	State funds allocated for implementation of Roma and Sinti action plan/legislation
	Official number (last census available)	Estimated Roma/Sinti population				
Netherlands	N/A	5,000-40,000	•		•	
Norway	N/A	2,300-11,000	•		•	
Poland	12,731 (2002)	20,000-60,000	•	•		1.5 million euros annually
Portugal	N/A	40,000-50,000	•			From various budget lines (no exact amount can be calculated)
Romania	535,000 (2002)	1,200,000-2,500,000	•	•	•	
Russian Federation	182,617 (2002)	220,000-400,000				
San Marino						
Serbia	108,193 (2002), exc. Kosovo	400,000-450,000		•	•	
Slovak Republic	89,920 (2001)	350,000-520,000	•	•	•	From various budget lines (no exact amount can be calculated)
Slovenia	3,246 (2002)	7,000-10,000	•	•	•	3,245,284 for 2006
Spain	N/A	600,000-800,000	•	•	•	6,487,261 euros for 2005
Sweden	N/A	40,000-50,000	N/A			
Switzerland	N/A	35,000				
Tajikistan						
Turkey	N/A	300,000-700,000				
Turkmenistan						
Ukraine	47,600 (2001)	50,000-400,000				
United Kingdom	4,096 (2001)	Up to 300,000	•	•	•	56 million GBP (83 million euros) for 2006-2008 committed to Gypsy and Traveller sites
Uzbekistan						