

# Combating racism and discrimination against Roma

HDIM. NGO/0071/13

24 September 2013

Brief intervention OSCE: HDIM - Tolerance and non discrimination Session 2

## CZECH REPUBLIC

A REPORT BY THE EUROPEAN ROMA RIGHTS CENTRE

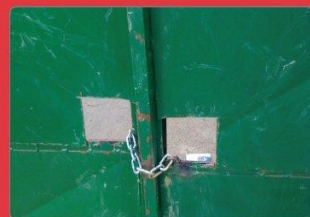


### Country Profile

2011-2012

## SLOVAKIA

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### Country Profile

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## ITALY

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## ROMANIA

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## MACEDONIA

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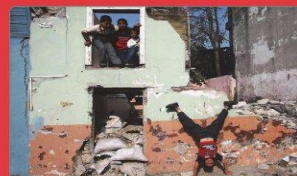


### Country Profile

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## TURKEY

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## SERBIA

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## RUSSIAN FEDERATION

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CHALLENGING

CHALLENGING DISCRIMINATION: PROMOTING EQUALITY

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CHALLENGING DISCRIMINATION: PROMOTING EQUALITY

# Discrimination faced by Roma communities in Europe

- Negative stereotypes and strong anti-Roma sentiments are the chief obstacles in improving the life standards of Roma. Discrimination is still a common factor in all countries.
- In a significant number of countries, violence against Roma remains a serious problem. Not only because it harms the Roma directly affected by the attack, but Roma as an ethnic group are impacted by the lack of an effective response by State authorities.
- Despite efforts to improve the situation of Roma communities and policy developments human rights challenges remain largely ineffectively addressed in several OSCE participating States.

# Stigmatizing discourse and violence against Roma

- Stigmatizing anti-Roma rhetoric in public and political discourse with explicit reference to Roma as an ethnic group engaged in anti-social or criminal behavior have been present in the discourse of public or political figures in Romania, Hungary, Czech Republic, Ukraine, Italy or France which in general, remains unsanctioned.
- Often, in the context of strong anti-Roma rhetoric attacks against Roma settlements, against Roma and their propriety as well as anti-Roma protests and manifestations have taken place in Czech Republic, Hungary, Bulgaria, Serbia, Ukraine, Italy or France.
- In some cases, law enforcement interventions led to excessive use of force by physical and verbal abuse against Roma including of elderly and disabled people in Slovakia as well as killing Roma individuals in Romania.

# Recommendations for OSCE participating States

- **Key Recommendations for Government Action**
- 1. Scale up or implement programmes to increase the number of Roma employed in police forces;
- 2. Develop community safety and policing programmes, with close cooperation between police, Romani NGOs and Romani communities;
- 3. Respective authorities should regularly collect, publish and analyse data disaggregated by ethnicity on violence against Roma, including hate crimes, and their prosecution;
- 4. Ensure full assistance, protection, prosecution and compensation to the victims of violence;

# Recommendations for OSCE participating States

- **Key Recommendations for Government Action**
- 5. Senior government officials should publicly denounce every instance of anti-Roma violence and other kinds of hate crimes;
- 6. Draft and distribute to all respective authorities clear guidance on the investigation and prosecution of violence against Roma and hate crimes, in line with guidance available from the OSCE and countries such as the United Kingdom;
- 7. Provide systematic and ongoing training to police officers, prosecutors and judges on addressing violence against Roma and hate crimes; and
- 8. Prosecute to the fullest extent of the law all perpetrators of violence and hate crimes against Roma.