

# Office of the Government of the Czech Republic

Government Council for Roma Minority Affairs  
Unit and Secretariat of the Government Council for  
National Minorities



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**OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting 2019**  
**Statement by the Czech Republic**  
Working session 16: Specifically selected topic: Roma and Sinti  
25 September 2019

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Mr. Moderator,

The Czech Republic fully aligns itself with the Chapter VI of the OSCE Action Plan and supports Roma participation in public and political life.

Institutional arrangements for Roma integration and participation in the Czech Republic continue their work. In the meetings of the Government Council for Roma Minority Affairs many topics and steps connected with Roma integration are discussed between representatives of central government, local government and the Roma minority. All regions continue to have a coordinator for Roma affairs who are methodically guided and financially supported by the Office of the Government. Major municipalities shall also employ a Roma adviser at the municipal level.

In order to strengthen existing arrangements for Roma inclusion and participation at the national/regional and local level and to encourage self-organisation of Roma the Office of the Government as the National Roma Contact Point (NRCP) implemented the project Activation and Empowerment of Roma Stakeholders by the National Roma Platform in years 2016 and 2018. The ambition of the project was to empower Roma personalities to become partners for local, regional and national public authorities. Thanks to project implementation we were able to activate many Roma with whom we are still in contact. Several participants in project activities have already been successfully involved in the activities of advisory bodies of the Government Council for Roma Minority Affairs.

With the financial support of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014 – 2021 we are currently starting a new programme addressing empowerment and engagement of Roma at the local level. By the end of this year calls for proposals will be opened for municipalities, Roma and pro-Roma NGOs. The call for municipalities will be focused on capacity building of Roma advisors involved in policy making and also empowerment of Roma advisors to contribute to the implementation of the Roma integration strategy at the local level. The call for Roma and pro-Roma NGOs shall support development of Roma platforms at the local and regional level and support them to be actively involved in local and regional politics.

Thank you.