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**Roma and Sinti**

The Hungarian National Social Inclusion Strategy is one of the basic strategies on fighting against poverty, social exclusion and inequality. The strategy focuses on **people living in extreme poverty, poor children and Roma people**.

**The key elements of the strategy are the complex approach and the cross-sector cooperation.** The areas of intervention cover all the important areas from child welfare, education, employment, healthcare, housing, territorial cohesion, awareness rising and fight against discrimination. The Hungarian Government is committed to reduce poverty and social exclusion and to avoid relapses in these areas. This has been confirmed throughout the implemented measures during the last years.

I would like to highlight three from our measures that reach seven thousand disadvantaged and roma child every year. Firstly the sure children houses that gives early intervention for zero and three years old disadvantaged children, secondly the tanoda program which prevent drop outs and thirdly roma boarding school programme that give services for roma university students. A while ago these three programs were financed from EU fund but now they are part of the Hungarian service system and funded by national budget.

(There are civil society organizations, churches, municipalities, self-governments of minorities involved in various public funded inclusion programs. Cooperation and consultation with civil society has great importance for us.)

There are several forums of partnership operated under governmental bodies such as **Roma Coordination Council** that ensure a forum for dialogue (and cooperation between governmental bodies, civil organizations and churches) on measures aimed at strengthening the inclusion of Roma people. I can also mention **the Human Rights Roma Sub-Group**, with the main task of monitoring the assertion of human rights in Hungary or the **Roma Platform** that provides a floor for discussion between different levels of the administration (ministry, local municipalities, authorities) and representatives from NGO's, churches, other organisations/bodies, Roma and Non-Roma experts on several issues regarding Roma inclusion.

One unique recent development in the field of Roma integration is that the government decided to implement a complex and long-term programme aiming to enhance the social conditions of the **300 most disadvantaged settlements in Hungary**, based on a good

practice of an NGO. The so called Presence programme aims to implement settlement-level measures in the field of social support, health care, public health, living conditions, employment, local economic development, education and community development. The involvement of locals and local professionals is a key element of the process. Civil and religious organizations are the key partners of the responsible policy actor, the Ministry of Interior in the implementation of the programme. A prime ministerial commissioner was also appointed for the coordination of the process, which begins on the first 33 settlements in 2019.

The full length of the statement will be circulated in written format.