



## Right of Reply Delegation of Hungary

### Working Session 15: Tolerance and non-discrimination II. HDIM, 28. September 2016. Warsaw

#### Educational segregation

The **current Hungarian legislation prohibits separation based on ethnic origin** as well as creating situations which could lead to the deepening of disadvantaged status. In practice, however, there is a **natural process** in our country, as regards regional specificities. It means the territorial concentration of people living in extreme poverty which **cause marginalisation not only in housing but also in education**. Therefore in some cases separated education may occur, to which phenomenon the concerned Hungarian authorities are in possession of the necessary set of tools and authority to act effectively.

According to the present status of the long-standing dialogue with the Commission, it appears that the clarification of the Equal Treatment Act and of the related legislation may indeed contribute to the satisfactory solution of this matter to which we are open and we also assured the Commission about our willingness. **The Hungarian Government is committed to combat segregation and to find solutions for the Commission's concerns**. By establishing the **Anti-segregation Roundtable** in December 2013, the aim of the government was not only to prohibit segregation by law, but also to take effective measures to eliminate spontaneous and deliberately forced segregation that prevents disadvantaged children from inclusion. The Anti-segregation Roundtable involves the participation of professionals operating in the field of integrated education of disadvantaged children, and officials working in education management and other stakeholders. Under the aegis of the Roundtable, a team was set up to develop a medium-term desegregation strategy that involves explicit measures, and the preparation of its implementation.

In order to support desegregation and in-school success of disadvantaged children, including the Roma, a **roadmap** has recently been elaborated which values direct or indirect effects of each measures. The roadmap includes a number of **legislative, contextual and methodological, training and institutional interventions** as well as **several social organisations are involved** in this process, such as the Anti-Segregation Round Table, the Public Education Round Table, the School-book Council and the Roma Coordination Council.

- *Legislative interventions* includes the amendment of the Equal treatment Act, the Decree 20/2012, the maintenance of structure of educational institutions, Act CxCV of 2011, the local equal opportunities programme, the mid-term strategy for dropping out of school without qualification, the Hungarian



National Social Inclusion Strategy, the National Disability Programme as well as the regulation of pedagogical assistance service institutions.

- *The development of content and methodology* includes the restructuring of National Curriculum, development of projects aiming at preventing dropping out of school without qualification, organisational and methodological development projects for desegregation and activities of the changed pedagogical assistance service, and the content reform in skills-developing schools.
- *Teacher trainings* consist of increased harmonization of training areas and class numbers as well as professional methodological reinforcement.
- *Institutional system* the system of pedagogical assistance service institutions.

The roadmap was already **presented to the Commission** during our bilateral negotiations held earlier this year and by now we already have a number of results.

In parallel with creating the legal conditions that the Commission considers appropriate, we proceed with preparing and **taking appropriate practical measures** in order to improve access to quality education for all children, including Roma children, that is void of all kinds of discrimination.