

HUNGARY

Country Fiche

Assessment of the progress in the NRSF implementation
between 1 June 2023 and 30 March 2025

APPROACH OF THE NATIONAL ROMA STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK (NRSF)	National Social Inclusion Strategy 2030 - aims to address social exclusion by focusing on key areas like education, employment, and territorial inequalities, with a particular emphasis on the Roma population
ESTIMATED ROMA POPULATION	national census: 2011: 330,000, 2022: 210,000 (KSH) Council of Europe: 750,000. Expert estimation ¹ : 876,000
National Roma Contact Point (NRCP)	Ministry of Interior

HORIZONTAL OBJECTIVES

1. FIGHT AND PREVENT ANTIGYPSYISM AND DISCRIMINATION

PROGRESS MADE	AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the context of antigypsyism and discrimination, the government believes in “mutual awareness-raising”, the cultivation of Roma culture and the dissemination of Roma culture as a tool of intervention (and plans to carry out a study on discrimination in the rental housing market). It is questionable and, in the absence of monitoring reports, it cannot be demonstrated that these cultural programmes have an impact on antigypsyism or widespread discriminatory practices. A Thematic Working Group on Roma Issues within the Ministry of Justice worked as a consultative body to consult with civil society organisations - but it met only once a year. Training of law 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the Roma Coordination Council (ROK-T) the issue of antigypsyism was not included on the agenda, despite a specific request by one of the members. There were plans to conclude special agreements with Roma organisations to inform communities about legislative changes, but the President of the National Roma Self-Government (ORÖ) is not aware of any. Antigypsyism and discrimination against Roma is still an issue in Hungary.³ The previous RCM report⁴ stresses the weakening of the institutional basis for law enforcement, while ECRI stresses⁵ the need to increase the capacity of law enforcement agencies to detect hate crime. Support for

¹ János Péntzes, Patrik Tátrai, and István Zoltán Pásztor (2018), ‘Changes in the Spatial Distribution of the Roma Population in Hungary During the Last Decades’, ‘University. of Debrecen. Available at: <https://real.mtak.hu/85799/>

³ European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) (2025) Fundamental Rights Report, p99. <https://wp.table.media/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/10173241/fundamental20rights20report202025-TK0125002ENN.pdf> ECRI: CONCLUSIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF HUNGARY SUBJECT TO INTERIM FOLLOW-UP (2024) Adopted on 3 July 2024 <https://rm.coe.int/ecri-conclusions-on-the-implementation-of-the-recommendations-in-respe/1680b1e956>

⁴ Civil Society Monitoring Report (2022). <https://romacivilmonitoring.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/RCM2-2022-C1-Hungary-FINAL-PUBLISHED-CATALOGUE.pdf>

⁵ ECRI *ibid*.

enforcement officials on the Hate Crime Protocol has been carried out. ²	independent, free or low-fee legal aid services, even run by CSOs, well-functioning public complaints mechanisms and authorities, and anti-discrimination training for law enforcement officials would be necessary to improve this situation.
2. REDUCE POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION	
PROGRESS MADE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There have been improvements in family benefits, with an increase in family tax benefits and the introduction of personal income tax exemption for mothers with four or more children, partial exemption for mothers⁶ having children under the age of 30. 	AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As the Strategy is based on increasing employment, it does not aim to improve social support beyond improving access to regular child protection benefits and housing subsidies. The number of people in receipt of Regular child protection allowance has decreased, and the extended housing subsidies favour those on higher incomes. Social protection spending as a share of GDP has fallen and the poverty-reducing impact of transfers has eroded.⁷ 15% of the total population and 42% of Roma lived in income poverty⁸ in 2023. Significant improvements in social benefits and high quality, accessible social services⁹ would be needed to reduce exclusion. The low progressivity of the tax system, the declining impact of social benefits, unequal access to services, poorly targeted tax, housing and energy subsidy schemes have left the poorest groups of the population unprotected¹⁰, and increased wealth inequalities (the highest in the EU¹¹ in 2023).

² <https://rm.coe.int/ecri-conclusions-on-the-implementation-of-the-recommendations-in-respe/1680b1e956>

⁶ <https://kormany.hu/hirek/kalkulator-az-szja-mentessegezes-a-csaladi-adokedvezmenyekhez>

⁷ COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT, 2025 Country Report – Hungary, 2025: 22.

⁸ KSH https://www.ksh.hu/stadat_files/ele/hu/ele0004.html

⁹ https://employment-social-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies-and-activities/social-protection-social-inclusion/addressing-poverty-and-supporting-social-inclusion/active-inclusion/access-high-quality-social-services_en; https://employment-social-affairs.ec.europa.eu/european-pillar-social-rights-20-principles_en

¹⁰ COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT, 2025 Country Report – Hungary, 2025: 6.

¹¹ COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT, 2025 Country Report – Hungary, 2025: 22.

3. PROMOTE PARTICIPATION THROUGH EMPOWERMENT, COOPERATION AND TRUST

PROGRESS MADE

- The Strategy emphasises cooperation with Roma and pro-Roma CSOs and Roma self-governments at municipalities on several points. There are forums for consultation on its implementation, but some of these are formal (working groups to meet only once a year; exclusion of recognised CSOs from consultation processes, formal cooperation with the Roma Minority National Self-Government (ORÖ).
- In addition to the budget support for local and regional Roma self-governments, the government has allocated HUF 189 million (approx. EUR 472.500) for Roma national minority organisations, and HUF 300 million (EUR 750.000) for Roma cultural initiatives in 2025 - typically grants of a few hundred thousand forints, which do not allow for systematic work.)¹²

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

- Resources for Roma CSOs, independent of political loyalties, are steadily decreasing. State funding for locally elected Roma self-governments was also around HUF 1 million¹³ in 2025 (EUR 2500) –that does not allow for effective advocacy, according to both experts and the president of the National Roma Self-Government.
- Winning applications to the government's Village and Municipal Civil Fund - to support CSOs,- have been channelled to government related CSOs. Analyses show that in 2024 a good part of the funds went to CSOs set up by government politicians.¹⁴ In 2025, many Hungarian CSO-s were confronted with the so-called Law on the Protection of Sovereignty. CSOs that won EU funding for projects related to transparency, the rule of law, human rights, and other core EU values were labelled as threats to national sovereignty. The European Court of Justice has launched a legal action against Hungary over this.¹⁵
- Roma inclusion policies cannot be expected to foster empowerment, active cooperation, or the trust of local communities without the presence of independent CSOs that operate free from government control, as well as adequate government funding to enable elected local representatives to fulfil their roles.
- Support for Roma CSOs must be insulated from the political struggles of the ruling government. A comprehensive strategy should be developed to build the capacity of Roma CSOs. This includes multi-year, substantial support and consistent mentoring, provided by independent organisations specializing in organisational development.

¹² <https://tef.gov.hu/roma-nemzetisegi-palyazatok/>

¹³ https://emet.gov.hu/app/uploads/2025/04/2025.-cvi-feladatalapu-tamogatas_MODOSITOTT.pdf

¹⁴ <https://www.valaszonline.hu/2024/01/22/fidesz-varosi-civil-alap-nemethszilard-valasztasok/>

¹⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/hu/ip_24_4865

SECTORAL OBJECTIVES

4. INCREASE EFFECTIVE EQUAL ACCESS TO QUALITY INCLUSIVE MAINSTREAM EDUCATION

PROGRESS MADE

- The share of early school leavers has decreased.¹⁶ Among the Roma population aged 15 and over, the share of those with a higher education diploma or a school leaving certificate has increased and the share with no more than primary school education has decreased.¹⁷ Little progress has been made in infrastructure and teacher competence development. A law was passed¹⁸ in 2023 that takes away 10% of funding, where the proportion of disadvantaged pupils is well below the local average. On the other hand, only 38 schools¹⁹ fall into this category – while it is obvious that school segregation is much more widespread. Teachers' salaries have been increased, and teachers of disadvantaged pupils receive a pay supplement.²⁰ Methodological support on various fields (leadership development; kindergarten-school transition; education methodology, aggression management, career guidance, etc) is being provided in 100 municipalities under the FETE programme.²¹

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

- In Hungary, the school system continues to maintain and reinforce social differences, which is one of the main consequences of segregation.²² The reduction of segregation within and between schools should be a priority as no effective action has been taken in recent years. There is a need to improve the capacity and territorial accessibility of specialised services related to public education (psychologists, speech therapists, development teachers). The shortage of professionals in rural areas needs to be addressed, and capacity needs to be organised and distributed more efficiently. An estimated 16,000 teachers are missing from the education system.²³ The presence of professionals (mainly psychologists) is concentrated in Budapest and a few large cities. The FETE (300 most disadvantaged settlements) programme - which is also facing a capacity shortage - aiming for covering less than a tenth of the municipalities in Hungary should suggest structural reform solution to policy and decision makers.

5. INCREASE EFFECTIVE EQUAL ACCESS TO QUALITY AND SUSTAINABLE EMPLOYMENT

PROGRESS MADE

- Employment in Hungary has increased significantly - 81% employment in 2025 is

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

¹⁶ https://www.ksh.hu/stadat_files/okt/hu/okt0028.html

¹⁷ <https://www.koppmariaintezer.hu/hu/osszeszir/850-sajtokoezlemleny-a-nemzetkoezi-roma-nap-alkalmabol>

¹⁸ <https://net.jogtar.hu/jogszabaly?docid=a2300092.tv#>

¹⁹ <https://infostart.hu/belfold/2023/12/15/psz-a-szegregacio-elleni-torvenyrol-puder-ami-a-lenyege-nem-valtoztat#>; <https://ckpinfo.hu/2023/10/15/kikre-vonatkozik-a-diszkriminacioellenes-torveny-telepulesenkenti-adatok/>

²⁰ <https://net.jogtar.hu/jogszabaly?docid=a2300052.tv>

²¹ <https://fete.hu/szakteruletek/oktatasi/>

²² Hermann Zoltán–Kertesi Gábor–Varga Júlia (2024): Segregation in primary schools and the social inequalities in test results in Hungary. *Közgazdasági Szemle*, LXXI. évf., 2024. április (353–378. o.) Available at: <https://kti.krtk.hu/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/A-teszteredmenyek-tarsadalmi-egyenlotlensege-es-az-altalanos-iskolai-szegregacio.pdf>

²³ Szapáry et al. (2024)' Recommendations for ensuring sustainable replenishment of. Available at: https://mkt.hu/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Javaslatok-a-pedagogusok-utanpotlasi-biztositas-erdekeben_2024_clean.pdf

<p>above the EU average. The labour market is characterised by labour shortages rather than unemployment (the latter rate is 4.3%). Of the employed, 64,000 people were in public employment on average per year, which is about 20,000 fewer than in 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of low labour-intensive households, and hence the number of residents at risk of income poverty, has fallen - but serious concerns have been raised in recent months about the reliability of the EU SILC survey containing these data.²⁴ • At the same time, the Strategy addresses targeted improvements under 13 headings in response to the labour market disadvantages faced by Roma -- these programmes were completed during 2023, and no new calls for proposals have been launched since. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The progress indicated above goes hand in hand with increasing in-work poverty²⁵ and very low levels of worker protection - especially in low-skilled jobs and public work. The Strategy does not address the increasing cross-border labour market migration.²⁶ • A key problem for Roma communities is the high drop-out rate partly due to the lowering of compulsory schooling to 16, which results in a particularly high rate of NEETs among Roma youth. While tens of thousands of migrant workers are arriving in the country²⁷, masses of Roma youth are not getting the skills and qualifications they need to find work because of state dysfunction.
6. IMPROVE ROMA HEALTH AND EFFECTIVE EQUAL ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTHCARE AND SOCIAL SERVICES	
<p>PROGRESS MADE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A telemedicine component²⁸ was launched in the FETE programme – targeting the most disadvantaged settlements in Hungary.²⁹ The programme provides screenings, examinations and eye examinations for children through mobile medical clinics. Under the Hungarian Village programme, the tender for the renovation of village medical clinics continued.³⁰ A governmental decree of grouping GP practices³¹ hopefully will improve access to some specialised health care services. The Active Hungary 	<p>AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Telemedicine Programme is under way in only 36 municipalities, while the number of vacant GP practices is increasing (864 in June 2025).³³ A programme to improve health culture would be inevitable. Discrimination against Roma patients remains a problem in the health sector.³⁴ • Social services need further improvement. Although the FETE will bring increase in services in the affected small settlements, it will not make up for the widespread shortcomings in state-independent

²⁴ <https://www.valaszonline.hu/2025/06/03/eu-silc-magyar-jovedelmi-adatok-minosegi-problemak-tanulmany/>

²⁵ Data on Poverty: Available at: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/tgs00107__custom_11195519/default/table?lang=en; https://www.ksh.hu/stadat_files/ele/hu/ele0004.html

²⁶ <https://kti.krtk.hu/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/tukor-23-24.pdf>; https://www.ksh.hu/s/kiadvanyok/munkaeropiaci-folyamatok/munkaeropiaci_reszvetel; <https://library.fes.de/pdf-files/bueros/budapest/21809.pdf>

²⁷ <https://www.portfolio.hu/uzlet/20240108/kiderult-hany-kulfoldi-vendegmunkas-dolgozik-magyarorszagon-661659>

²⁸ <https://fete.hu/telemedicinalis-egeszsegugyi-ellatas/>

²⁹ https://telemedicina.maltai.hu/wp-content/uploads/pdf/NAEP_zarotanalmany_web.pdf

³⁰ <https://magyarfaluprogram.hu/palyazat> MFP/ÖTIFB/2024

³¹ <https://net.jogtar.hu/jogszabaly?docid=a2100053.kor>

³³ <https://alapellatas.okfo.gov.hu/tajekoztato-a-tartosan-betoltetlen-haziorvosi-korzetekrol/>

³⁴ https://emmaegyesulet.hu/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/lehetne_web.pdf

<p>Programme supports leisure (sports) activities for disadvantaged people.³²</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU funds have been used to improve social services and reduce territorial disparities - but after 2023, these were only in the FETE programme, which intends to cover less than a tenth of municipalities. The number of nursery places has increased, available in a third of municipalities, but there are only a few cumulatively disadvantaged children among those attending nurseries (576 out of 45 994 in 2024.) 	<p>services.³⁵ Here Maltese Charity of FETE programme should suggest structural reform solution to policy and decision makers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary care for children is under-resourced, specialised care is overburdened and hundreds of babies trapped in hospital cannot be accommodated.³⁶
<p>7. INCREASE EFFECTIVE EQUAL ACCESS TO ADEQUATE DESEGREGATED HOUSING AND ESSENTIAL SERVICES</p>	
<p>PROGRESS MADE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Among the housing interventions for Roma communities, the launch of complex anti-segregation programmes (EFOP, VEKOP, TOP OPs) is planned, as well as the complex development of the most disadvantaged 300 settlements under the FETE programme, including the introduction of multi-level housing programmes. The EFOP, TOP and VEKOP programmes from the previous funding cycle have already been closed in 2023, and no new round of calls for proposals has been launched due to the lack of EU funding. • Housing-related subsidies include a nearly decade-old subsidy scheme for utility bills, and the development of a system of housing subsidies linked to the start of a family and the raising of children, ranging from the purchase of new properties to the renovation of second-hand properties in rural areas. 	<p>AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groups in the lowest income quintile are not reached by many of the subsidies (e.g. firewood prices were not covered by the firewood subsidy - although there were small-scale state firewood programmes).³⁷ Nearly one third of households in the country live in housing poverty,³⁸ the same proportion for Roma households is 52%.³⁹ • There are nearly 1,300 segregated settlements in Hungary, where legally precarious forms of housing, informal renting, very poor infrastructure, no access to fundamental services (i.e. piped water) and undeclared sales are common. Following the acquisition of new data from the 2021 Census, several EU-funded programmes were halted due to differing interpretations among governmental stakeholders regarding the definition of segregated settlements. Until a consensus is reached on this definition, planned projects under the EFOP and TOP Operational Programmes cannot be implemented. This issue must be resolved urgently.

³² <https://aktivmagyarorszag.hu/evertkelo/>

³⁵ <https://gyermekjogicivilkoalicio.hu/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/JAVASLATOK-GYERMEKVEDELEM-2024.-VEGLEGES-02.29.docx-2-1.pdf>

³⁶ https://infovilag.hu/tulzsufoltsag-elszakitas-eroszak-menekules-a-gyermekvedelembol/?utm_source=chatgpt.com, https://index.hu/belfold/2024/11/11/korhazban-hagyott-ujszulott-csecsemo-belugyminiszterium-ogysz-orokbefogadas/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

³⁷ <https://kormany.hu/dokumentumtar/szocialis-tuzeloanyag-tamogatas-2025>

³⁸ <https://habitat.hu/sites/lakhatasi-jelentes-2024/>

³⁹ https://www.parlament.hu/documents/10181/64399821/Infojegyzet_2023_3_EU_romapolitika_lakhatas.pdf

- Both housing-related FETE programmes have either not even been contracted for implementation (EFOP Plusz-7.2.1-24) or facing significant delays in implementation (RRF). Under the RRF, the target was to reach 2,000 housing units, but according to the latest available data (May 2025), fewer than 200 have been delivered, while RFF has to be completed by June 2026. The causes and lessons of these underperformances should be thoroughly analysed and addressed. Also, the anti-segregation effect of these housing investments should be analysed.

PARTNERSHIPS AND INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

Roma and pro-Roma organisations independent of the government, the Egalipe Network, asked in vain to comment on the revised Strategy due to the conditionality procedure - and the members of the Roma Coordination Council were given only four days to do so.

There has been very modest participation in implementation. In the largest programme, FETE, seven out of 300 municipalities had a Roma implementing organisation.⁴⁰

There is no institutional monitoring of implementation of the Strategy, to which independent civil society actors can be linked. However, several organisations could delegate members to the Monitoring Committees of the six OPs. The possibilities to act against hate speech and hate crime have been reduced (see chapter 1). Roma organisations have been using the power of publicity raise attention to incidents of Roma or hate crime⁴¹ including those committed by politicians.⁴² The Roma Coordination Council has not put the issue of antigypsyism on the agenda, even when requested to do so by on CSO member of the Council.

PROMISING PRACTICES

Today, the FETE telemedicine programme⁴³ reaches around 40,000 people in nearly 40 municipalities. The programme visits the municipalities with 12 “mobile clinics”, backed up by a virtual tele-clinic in the fields of cardiology, dermatology, pulmonology and endocrinology. The aim is to provide access to basic health services in disadvantaged municipalities with a high proportion of permanently vacant GP practices. Since its launch, the number of people diagnosed with hypertension and diabetes has increased significantly.

Since 2011, publicly funded Roma vocational colleges have been helping young people to graduate. Currently, around 350 students from 11 institutions receive professional and financial support to successfully complete their university studies.⁴⁴ To date, more than 700 students have graduated under the

⁴⁰ <https://fete.hu/szervezetek/>

⁴¹ <https://telex.hu/belfold/2025/06/03/lazar-janos-ciganybunozesrol-beszelt-mezoturon>; https://hirtv.hu/ahirtvhirei/ciganygyulolo-kijelenteseket-tettek-az-ujbudai-szocialistak-video-2600462#google_vignette;

⁴² <https://www.gyuloletellen.hu/esetek>

⁴³ https://telemedicina.maltai.hu/wp-content/uploads/pdf/NAEP_zarotanutmany_web.pdf

⁴⁴ <http://romaszakkollegiumok.hu/2024/09/30/roma-szakkollegiumok-orszagos-tanevnyitoja-hajduboszormenyben/>

programme. Most of the institutions are church-run, state-supported and work in close cooperation with higher education institutions.

The Szentandrassy Roma Art Gallery 45 opened in Budapest in 2023 with the aim of providing a space for Roma artists to showcase and build community, and to make Roma cultural values visible. The initiative is partly a response to the persistent institutional invisibility of Roma artists, but it does not replace the decades-long need for a comprehensive Roma art, museum and research centre. The Szentandrassy Gallery is an important step, but a systemic, sustainable and complex institutional response is needed.

⁴⁵ <https://szentandrassygaleria.hu/>