

## Seminar: Social Inclusion of the Roma in the Republic of Serbia

18 June 2013

### Operational Conclusions

#### Second Implementation Report from April 2014 through December 2014

##### Inter-sectoral issues

<b>Operational conclusion:</b>	<b>Competent institution:</b>	<b>Implementation status:</b>
The Strategy for Improvement of the Status of Roma in the Republic of Serbia was adopted in 2009, while the Action Plan for the period until 2015 was adopted in June 2013. The Government will submit annual public reports on the implementation process of the Strategy and its Action Plan in order to ensure a transparent implementation process.	Office for Human and Minority Rights	<p>In cooperation with the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit, the Office for Human and Minority Rights is working on the Report on the Implementation of the Strategy for Improvement of the Status of Roma in the Republic of Serbia 2009–2014.</p> <p>Also, in a wide consultative process with representatives of public authorities, local governments and civil society organisations involved in improving the status of the Roma, the study "Initial Foundations for the Development of a New Roma Inclusion Strategy in Serbia Consistent with the Europe 2020 Strategy" was developed and made available to the public on the OHMR website for comments. Consultations on the Initial Foundations with all interested stakeholders are scheduled for February 2015. Following this, they are expected to be adopted by the Government of Serbia's Council for the Improvement of the Position of Roma and the Implementation of the Roma Decade.</p>
Office for Human and Minority Rights in cooperation with the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit is responsible for overall coordination efforts for the implementation of	Office for Human and Minority Rights SIPRU	<p>On 17 November 2014, the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit and the Office for Human and Minority Rights organised the third coordination meeting, at which the preparation of the Second Report on the Implementation of the Operational Conclusions of the Seminar was agreed.</p> <p>The European Integration Office (EIO), the Office for Human and Minority Rights (OHMR) and the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit (SIPRU) of the Government of the Republic of Serbia launched an initiative to introduce a mechanism for regular coordination meetings on projects aimed at improving the status of the Roma.</p> <p>The goal of the initiative is to facilitate regular sharing of information on activities planned and implemented,</p>

<p>these Operational Conclusions, as well for preparation of annual public reports on implementation process of the Strategy and its Action Plan.</p>		<p>so as to ensure that all relevant project beneficiaries, donors and project implementation teams contribute to more efficient and effective use of national budget and donor funds, thus providing significant support to the process of improving the status of the Roma in the Republic of Serbia.</p> <p>Currently, a universal conceptual tool is being developed under the initiative, which will enable an unambiguous overview of the on-going and planned activities which are implemented under the projects tackling the advancement of the status of the Roma population, disaggregated by areas relevant for active inclusion of the Roma population: housing, employment, education, social protection. The tool is being developed to facilitate the monitoring of project implementation processes, to advance the coordination of activities and to provide a relevant information database in terms of planning and programming of future interventions. Furthermore, the development of a database of projects tackling the advancement of the status of the Roma will be discussed within the ISDACON information system. The first meeting was held in June 2014, and the next one is planned for February 2015.</p>
<p>Solid foundations for sustainable improvement of the position of Roma have been established, especially in the education and health sectors. It is necessary now to focus on enhancing the effectiveness of the adopted measures and better link them with the available and future resources, including donor funds. It is of importance that strategic documents for programming of financial assistance of the Government and of the European Commission set measures for improvement of the status of Roma.</p>	<p>Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development Ministry of Health Office for Human and Minority Rights EIO (coordination)</p>	<p>Clear criteria for awarding scholarships to Roma secondary school students and selecting mentors have been set. A mentoring system has been established, including mentors' job description, status of mentors in secondary schools and changes in the key areas of schools' work quality pertaining to support to students and student achievements, ethos, teaching and learning, school cooperation with the local community, inclusive education. The formal contract award ceremony is planned for December 2014, and scholarships will be disbursed to 528 students from January 2015 retroactively for school year 2014/15. (The number of scholarship beneficiaries has been increased compared to the plan; students from flood-affected areas have been taken into consideration.)</p> <p>All formal, legal and administrative preconditions have been met for setting up a mentorship system and a system for granting scholarships for Roma secondary school students under the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia, with technical support of the Roma Education Fund of Budapest. Based on clear criteria for awarding scholarships, a call for application has been published, selection has been performed and 525 scholarships awarded to Roma secondary school students, with the disbursement scheduled to commence in January 2015, in parallel with the training and hiring of mentors for these students. The total number of scholarships over two school (project) years will be 1000.</p>
<p>The establishment of the "Council for the</p>	<p>Council for Improving the</p>	<p>The composition of the Council changed in 2014. More specifically, in July 2014, the Government of the Republic of Serbia nominated new Council membership, comprising representatives of the Ministry of</p>

<p>Improvement of the Position of Roma and the Implementation of the Roma Decade" on 20 May 2013 is a welcome development. The Council will periodically oversee the implementation of the Action Plan, allow for an exchange of good practices on Roma inclusion and evaluate the Action Plan effectiveness, with a view to build upon the lessons learned from its implementation.</p>	<p>Position of the Roma</p>	<p>Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Culture and Information, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Youth and Sport, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection, Ministry of Mining and Energy, Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure, Office for Human and Minority Rights, as well as representatives of the civil sector, i.e. Roma non-governmental organisation networks. The Council is chaired by Nenad Ivanišević, PhD, State Secretary in the Ministry of Labour, Employment Veteran and Social affairs.</p>
<p>Analytical data and figures will be collected and processed in a coordinated manner, through a "one-stop-shop" body, in order to consolidate figures, facilitate targeted surveys on the situation of Roma and provide all stakeholders, starting with ministries and governmental agencies, with consistent figures, in line with the Law on Protection of Personal Data.</p>	<p>Office for Human and Minority Rights (RAP and TARI)</p>	<p>Under the "European Support for Roma Inclusion" project, the Office for Human and Minority Rights will launch a system for the collection and processing of analytical data on the status of the Roma (hereinafter: system). In the first half of 2015, software and a website will be developed, thus enabling local governments to enter data through accounts and by means of a prepared questionnaire. In line with the questionnaire, local governments will collect data from local institutions (health care institutions, National Employment Service, centres for social work, education institutions). Compiled data will be available on the website. One segment of the system will be updated by entering data once per year, while in those local governments where mobile teams have been established the data will be updated on a monthly basis, in line with their operational plans. In the first year, only those local governments where local Roma coordinators have been appointed (53 local governments) will be covered. All local Roma coordinators will have electronic accounts and access to the electronic questionnaire.</p>

<p>The network of Roma coordinators will be further developed and strengthened, including by increasing their number in the municipalities where the context so requires. Roma coordinators will closely cooperate with other relevant state-funded mechanisms to improve the status of the Roma. In order to promote active inclusion of Roma, competent institutions will establish mechanisms for the integrated social services delivery model, which obliges the centers for social work and the National Employment Service to search more actively for solutions for their users who are fit for work, yet continually receive pecuniary social assistance.</p>	<p>Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs Office for Human and Minority Rights (TARI)</p>	<p>After the operational framework for mobile teams was defined by the Guidelines on Improving Inter-sectoral Cooperation and Information Sharing, adopted by the Project Steering Committee on 28 March 2014, local governments adopted assembly or council decisions on the establishment of mobile teams, whereby they became local government task forces. The adoption of these decisions ensured mobile teams' sustainability, given that they were formed by local government instruments. After the establishment of mobile teams, the first wave of training for mobile teams was delivered in the areas of operational planning, education, health, social protection, employment and discrimination. After the first training, with mentors' support, all mobile teams prepared their operational action plans for 2014. In the first two months of their operation, by 26 June 2014, the mobile teams achieved the first result – 509 Roma pupils were enrolled in pre-schools. In November and December 2014, the second wave of training was held, in the areas of business communication and strengthening teamwork. In collaboration with Praxis, a session dedicated to identity documents was organised as well. The results achieved by mobile teams are planned to be presented in March 2015, at an event to be attended by all mobile team members and representatives of line ministries and other relevant organisations. In the first quarter of 2015, software that will compile mobile teams' data will be developed, which will enable easier reporting by mobile teams to local and national institutions.</p>
<p>The media will be encouraged to play a more active role in promoting a more positive image of the Roma community. Media campaigns targeting national</p>	<p>Ministry of Culture and Information Office for Human and Minority Rights (TARI, RAP projects)</p>	<p>The priorities of the Media Sector are still the publication of a children's magazine in the Romani language (bilingually) which is distributed in schools by teaching assistants, the exercise of the right to information of the Roma national minority and the inclusion of the Roma in the Republic of Serbia by means of funds for public information purposes. When it comes to culture, the Sector for Contemporary Artistic Production and Creative Industries, pursuant to the Law on Culture, pursues the culture policy objectives through an annual competition. The strengthening of staff capacities (professional development), institutionalization and preservation of the language and cultural identity of the Roma are recognized as a priority within the competition targeting</p>

<p>institutions, municipal authorities and the general public will be launched in order to raise the awareness of the rights of the Roma population, as well as to inform the Roma on relevant administrative procedures for improving their situation</p>		<p>artistic production of national minorities. The competition targeting the co-financing of projects in the field of national minority artistic production for 2014 was open from December 21, 2013 through January 21, 2014 and was closed at the beginning of March 2014. The envisaged budget for Roma minority projects is twice as high (RSD 2,255,000.00) in comparison to previous years, and there is a noticeable increase of projects tackling the youth or those whose implementing parties are youth. In order to include the minorities into deciding on issues relevant to them, the Roma artist Dragan Ristic was a member of the expert committee for this competition area.</p> <p>The funds earmarked in the Republic of Serbia budget for the Decade of Roma Inclusion in 2014 totalled RSD 5,000,000.00 (five million dinars). They were distributed through a competition to 25 projects in the area of information to the public, while 13 projects were co-funded in the area of artistic production.</p> <p>The non-governmental organization <i>Praxis</i>, as a partner of the OSCE in the implementation of the TARI project, interviewed 1254 Roma during their visit to the 20 pilot municipalities, informed them on the relevant administrative procedures for improving their position and launched 621 administrative and judiciary procedures for access to identity documents, of which 193 have been resolved.</p>
<p>The European Commission, as well as other donors, as partners in this process, will continue to provide support, including policy advice and expertise as well as financial assistance, in a transparent manner, to the initiatives, measures and programmes aimed at further improving the status of the Roma in the Republic of Serbia and other Western Balkan countries.</p>	<p>Donor community</p>	

<p>The recently launched project under IPA 2012, as well other relevant projects such as the forthcoming project on housing solutions and support to municipalities under IPA 2013 following the June 2011 Roma seminar conclusions<sup>1</sup>, will be implemented according to the project's agreed timetables..</p>	<p>Office for Human and Minority Rights (TARI) Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development Ministry of Health Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs</p>	<p>Together with primary health care centres, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Serbia and UNICEF are implementing a project on building health care system capacities for support to early childhood development and support to parents, with enhanced focus on developmentally vulnerable groups such as Roma children and children with developmental difficulties and challenges.</p> <p>The implementation of the Ministry of Health and UNICEF programme is envisaged through two complementary projects supporting training for paediatricians, community nurses and health mediators, improving the work contents and procedures at the primary health care centre level and cooperation with higher health care system tiers, as well as with other sectors responsible for improving the status of the most vulnerable children. In the next 2.5 years, professionals from among paediatricians in pre-school outpatient facilities, development counselling centres, inter-sectoral committees and community nursing services – health care professionals involved in stimulating the development of children aged 0–6 – will have an opportunity to upgrade their knowledge and enhance the quality of their work, thereby contributing to improving the health and development of children at the earliest ages, with focus on children living in poverty, Roma children and children with developmental difficulties and challenges.</p> <p>The "European Support for Roma Inclusion" project, funded by the EU and implemented by the OSCE Mission, has successfully completed a range of activities to help municipalities prepare for applying for funds to be awarded under IPA 2013, with a view to improving the infrastructure in substandard Roma settlements. Four housing models applicable in Serbia have been elaborated and guidelines for their practical application have been published. A survey of housing conditions in substandard settlements has been carried out in the territories of 20 pilot municipalities and a list of priorities has been prepared, accompanied by an assessment of costs and documentation required for their improvement. The development of urban plans that will cover the selected substandard Roma settlements has been commenced in 10 municipalities and cities in Serbia, as well as the selection of projects for which the relevant technical and planning documentation will be prepared with a view to applying for funding (IPA 2013 etc.).</p> <p>With the aim of implementing GIS software in the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure, data are being collected on all substandard Roma settlements in the territory of the Republic of Serbia.</p>
---	--	--

<sup>1</sup> See: [http://www.inkluzija.gov.rs/?page\\_id=6071](http://www.inkluzija.gov.rs/?page_id=6071)

<p>The European Commission will continue to closely monitor Serbia's efforts to improve the situation of the Roma throughout Serbia's EU accession process, including within chapter 23 on judiciary and fundamental rights.</p>	<p>European Commission, Grundtvig: EU Delegation</p>	
<p>Active Roma inclusion programmes, financed by the Republic of Serbia, will be more effectively linked to the funds earmarked for major infrastructure projects.</p>	<p>European Integration Office - coordination</p>	<p>Within its competencies and/or the process of programming overall development aid, the European Integration Office ensures the coordination and complementarity of various initiatives and projects within the given field. The sector working groups mechanism also foresees the possibility of organising thematic forums/meetings with the aim of planning interventions as efficiently as possible and coordinating different beneficiaries and funding sources. In this process, one of the criteria of technical and subsequent qualitative evaluation of project proposals is the sustainability of the proposed measures/interventions. In this regard, a goal in the future period is that all initiatives regarding housing and infrastructure should be complemented by the so-called “soft” measures. In addition, since June 2014, a process of regular consultations and coordination among projects and programmes aimed at Roma inclusion has been in place, thus contributing to higher consistency of their implementation and offering an important information basis for sustainable and effective planning of future actions.</p>

**Civil registration: access to personal documents**

<p>The state of play in the field of subsequent registration of births and the registration of temporary and/or permanent place of residence will continue to be monitored through annual reports issued by the Government, including the numbers of persons registered in birth registries through the</p>	<p>Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self Government, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs</p>	<p>The Ministry of Interior continues to monitor the situation in the field of the registration of temporary and/or permanent place of residence, in accordance with the Law on Permanent and Temporary Place of Residence of Citizens (Official Gazette of RS No 87/11), Rulebook on the Form for the Registration of Permanent Residence at the Address of an Institution or Centre for Social Work (Official Gazette of RS No 113/12) and the Rulebook on the Procedure for Registration and Termination of Permanent or Temporary Residence, Registration of Temporary Stay Abroad and Return from Abroad, Inactivation of Permanent or Temporary Residence, Forms and Modality of Keeping Records (Official Gazette of RS No 68/13). Also, in accordance with the Law on the Identity Card (Official Gazette of RS Nos 62/06, 36/11), this Ministry monitors the situation concerning the issuing of identity documents. In the aforementioned procedures, the MoI provides legal aid to applicants and resolves the applications according to the accelerated procedure.</p> <p>Data are being collected on the number of individuals who have exercised the right to registration through the procedure for subsequent registration of births before the competent authorities referred to in article 6, paragraphs</p>
---	--	--

<p>procedures prescribed under the Law on Registries, the Law on Amendments to the Law on Non-contentious Proceedings and the Law on Permanent and Temporary Place of Residence of Citizens. The completion of the process of registering the so-called 'legally invisible' persons is expected by end 2015.</p>		<p>2 and 4 of the Law on Registries and through non-contentious proceedings for ascertaining the time and place of birth before the competent courts. The data collected will be contained in the Annual Operation Report of the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government for 2014 and submitted to the Government for the preparation of its Annual Operation Report for 2014.</p> <p>Considering that this conclusion states that the registration of "legally invisible" persons is foreseen to be completed by the end of 2015, and having in mind the results achieved to date in the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding signed on 9 April 2012 between the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, Public Administration and Local Self-Government (whose competence in this matter was assumed by the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government), the Ombudsman and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees – Office in Serbia, and taking into account the fact that, in many cases, resolving the issue of birth registration requires addressing other unresolved civil status issues, such as registration of permanent residence or identity card, the need has been identified to continue cooperation and use the already well-established cooperation mechanism among all relevant entities (competent authorities, international organisations and associations involved in the protection and promotion of human and minority rights), in order to further improve the practices in competent authorities' work and implementation of legislation and ensure the provision of free legal aid to individuals who need to access some of the rights relating to civil status; hence, activities have been undertaken to extend the Memorandum of Understanding until 31 December 2016.</p>
<p>The state of play in the field of the citizenship registration will be monitored according to the Law on Citizenship of the Republic of Serbia. Registration of citizenship will be carried out in line with the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy for Improvement of the Status of Roma in Serbia until 01.01.2015, by introducing the measures to provide legal assistance to applicants and giving priority to solving procedures for</p>	<p>Ministry of Interior Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs<sup>2</sup></p>	<p>The Ministry of Interior continues to monitor the state of play in the field of citizenship registration in accordance with the provisions of the Law on Citizenship of the Republic of Serbia (Official Gazette of RS Nos 135/04, 90/07) and the Rulebook on the Modality for the Entry of Citizenship in the Birth Registry, Forms for Keeping Records of Decisions on the Acquisition and Termination of Citizenship and the Citizenship Certificate Form (Official Gazette of RS Nos 22/05, 84/05, 121/07).The citizenship of the Republic of Serbia is registered in the birth registry concurrently with the registration of birth, and the ministry competent for interior affairs decides, in accordance with article 38 of the abovementioned Law, on the applications for the acquisition and termination of citizenship of the Republic of Serbia. Legal aid is provided to applicants when submitting their applications and the submitted applications are resolved as a matter of priority.Also, in accordance with article 50 of the same Law, the ministry competent for interior affairs oversees record-keeping of citizens of the Republic of Serbia.</p>

<sup>2</sup> Reference is made to the previous conclusion



<p>determining the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia. The issue of registration of permanent and temporary residence and issuance of identity documents will be monitored, in line with the Action Plan above mentioned provisions, including registration of citizenship at birth.</p>		
<p>The Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Ministry of Justice and Public Administration, the Ombudsman and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees - Office in Serbia regarding the issue of birth registration in the birth registers of Roma will be fully implemented.</p>	<p>Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government</p>	<p>All measures and activities contained in the Action Plan 2014 were implemented, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Advanced training in the implementation of the provisions of the Law on Amendments to the Law on Non-contentious Proceedings governing the ascertainment of the time and place of birth was delivered for judges working in basic and higher courts under the jurisdiction of the Belgrade, Kragujevac, Novi Sad and Niš appellate courts.</li> </ul> <p>Training of judges working in courts under the jurisdiction of the Novi Sad Appellate Court was held on 7 April 2014 and was attended by 22 judges.</p> <p>Training of judges working in courts under the jurisdiction of the Kragujevac Appellate Court was held on 14 April 2014 and was attended by 19 judges.</p> <p>Training of judges working in courts under the jurisdiction of the Niš Appellate Court was held on 5 May 2014 and was attended by 19 judges.</p> <p>Training of judges working in courts under the jurisdiction of the Belgrade Appellate Court was held on 12 May 2014 and was attended by 11 judges.</p> <p>Representatives of the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government, the Ombudsman's office, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees – Office in Serbia and the association Praxis attended and actively participated in these training events.</p> <p>The thematic area of the training was significantly enhanced by the involvement of lecturers from the Belgrade Faculty of Law, as well as the publication of the Guide to the Application of the Law on Amendments to the Law on Non-contentious Proceedings – Ascertainment of the Time and Place of Birth, which was distributed to all training participants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Training was delivered to the staff of the authorities conducting the delegated affairs pertaining to registries (registrars and deputy registrars).</li> </ul> <p>In accordance with the set schedule, the training was delivered as follows: on 16 May 2014 in Belgrade (for the registrars keeping registries for the territory of the City of Belgrade – 25 participants in total); on 20 June 2014 in Novi Sad (for 45 local governments – 91 participants in total); on 19 September 2014 in Zlatibor (for 28 local governments – 79 participants in total); on 10 October 2014 in Kragujevac (for 35 local governments – 103 participants in total); and on 7 November 2014 in Niš (for 36 local governments – 97 participants in total).</p> <p>The training was focused on the legislation governing the registration of facts and data in</p>

registries, presentation of best practices of civil registration authorities, problems in their work and implementation of legislation, which contributed to ensuring a considerably higher level of consistency in the practice of the authorities conducting first-instance administrative proceedings for subsequent registration of births, as well as the procedures pertinent to the right to citizenship and children's family status (acknowledgment of paternity, personal name etc.).

- Training was delivered to the staff of centres for social work in the implementation of the laws and bylaws governing birth registration in administrative proceedings and non-contentious proceedings for ascertaining the time and place of birth, as well as registration of permanent residence.

According to the set schedule, training was held on 13 June 2014 in Novi Sad – 85 participants in total; on 26 September 2014 in Zlatibor – 53 participants in total; on 17 October 2014 in Kragujevac – 76 participants in total; and on 14 October 2014 in Niš – 88 participants in total. The last planned training will be held on 12 December 2014 in Belgrade, and the expected number of participants is about 50.

- A campaign aimed at advising the Roma ethnic minority about the modality of exercising their right to birth registration was carried out, and round-table discussions were organised in order to raise awareness of the activities implemented under the Memorandum of Understanding and the modality of exercising the right to birth registration, as well as other rights pertinent to civil status (citizenship, registration of permanent residence, identity card etc.).

Round-table discussions were held in Belgrade on 30 October 2014, in Kragujevac on 20 November 2014, in Subotica on 27 November 2014, and will be organised in Niš on 2 December 2014 and in Novi Sad on 16 December 2014.

The participants share the view that significant results have been achieved in solving the problems of unregistered individuals and that future activities should be focused on providing these individuals with free assistance in the procedures for birth registration or for the exercise of some other right pertinent to civil status (citizenship, registration of permanent residence, identity card etc.).

As part of this activity, visits to informal settlements have been organised in order to directly inform members of the Roma national minority about the modality of exercising their right to birth registration.

- Free legal aid was provided to members of the Roma national minority in the procedure for subsequent registration of births and the procedure for ascertaining the time and place of birth, as well as the procedures pertaining to citizenship, determination of personal name, registration of permanent residence, identity card etc.

During visits to informal settlements, 3,226 different applications were collected (2,034 applications for identity cards, 37 applications for re-entry into registries, 139 applications for subsequent registration, 19 applications for the determination of personal name, 13 applications for the ascertainment of the time and place of birth, 14 applications for the correction of errors in registries, 23 applications for the ascertainment of citizenship of the Republic of Serbia etc.).

In addition, in the reporting period, in proceedings before competent authorities, 10,370 birth certificates, marriage certificates and citizenship certificates were obtained and delivered to applicants, and 48 procedures for the registration of permanent residence at the address of the centre for social work were initiated.

- In order to improve the work of the competent authorities discharging delegated affairs of keeping civil registries, the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government prepared and circulated

		<p>to these authorities the Opinion on the Application of the Provisions of the Law on Registries and Implementing Bylaws Governing the Procedure for Subsequent Registration of Births and the Opinion on the Registrar's Actions Following the Expiry of the Time Limit for Personal Name Registration. Also, the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs prepared and circulated to all guardianship authorities the Instruction for the Actions of Guardianship Authorities and Social Care Institutions in the Procedure for the Registration of Permanent Residence at the Address of Centres for Social Work and Social Care Institutions and the Instruction for the Actions of Guardianship Authorities in the Application of Article 71a–71n of the Law on Amendments to the Law on Non-Contentious Proceedings, i.e. on the initiation of non-contentious proceedings for the ascertainment of the time and place of birth of unregistered persons who are not able to prove the time and place of their birth in the manner stipulated by the legislation governing the keeping of civil registries.</p> <p>In the reporting period, all competent authorities and other relevant entities worked jointly and coordinated their activities in addressing problems pertaining to birth registration, which resulted in improved access to rights for members of the Roma national minority in administrative and judicial proceedings for birth registration, as well as other civil status rights related to birth registration.</p> <p>This cooperation is focused on establishing good practices in the implementation of the adopted improved legislative framework for birth registration, which should ensure that authorised persons (parents) apply for the registration of the birth of each child and that the registration be performed within the legal time limit.</p> <p>Given that all legal prerequisites are in place (in administrative and judicial proceedings) for the exercise of the right to birth registration, and having in mind all the results achieved to date, future measures and activities aimed at resolving this issue will be focused primarily on further implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding and the use of the capacities of the established cooperation mechanism. Special focus will be on the provision of free legal aid to members of the Roma national minority in the procedures for exercising this right and on the identification of unregistered individuals in order to initiate the relevant procedures. Also, continuous efforts will be put into enhancing the capacities of competent authorities and monitoring the implementation of the laws governing this matter.</p>
<p>The associations of citizens active in the promotion of human and minority rights implementing activities aimed at informing the Roma about their rights in the area of personal status</p>	<p>Ministry of Interior Office for Human and Minority Rights<sup>3</sup></p>	<p>Representatives of the Ministry of Interior participate in all meetings with regard to informing the Roma about their rights in the area of civil status, about the results achieved to date and planned activities; they also participate in training for registrars and deputy registrars in the application of legislation governing the registration of facts and data in registries, as well as training for the staff of centres for social work in the application of the provisions on the registration of permanent residence at the address of the centre for social work (participation in several meetings and round-table discussions held in 2014).</p>

<sup>3</sup> Regarding CSO activities, please refer to conclusion 7 of **Inter-sectoral issues**

<p>of citizens and providing free legal aid to members of the Roma community in these proceedings will continue to be supported by the relevant bodies and ministries.</p>		
--	--	--

## Education

<p>Key measures have been adopted: 170 teaching assistants have been trained and hired. The Government will support the expansion of the teaching assistants' network and job descriptions of tasks will be further harmonised to ensure consistency and improve effectiveness. On the basis of an analytical survey to be carried out by the relevant governmental bodies, additional teaching assistants will be hired, based on the expressed needs. These positions will remain "systematised and included into the national qualification framework".</p>	<p>Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development SIPRU TARI project</p>	<p>The position of teaching assistants was classified by the decree of the Government published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia No 20/2011. The adoption of the Decree on Amendments to the Decree on Coefficients for the Calculation and Payment of Salaries for Persons Employed in Public Services foresaw a new position of <i>teaching</i> assistant. In addition to the preparation of the Rulebook on the Training Programme for Teaching Assistants, specifying their field of work with specific tasks, the development of teaching assistants' work quality indicators is also under way, including a detailed job description and the identification of criteria for introducing the position of teaching assistant in local government units. An initial survey into teaching assistants' practice so far has been carried out through focus groups, questionnaires and structured interviews with teaching assistants. Survey results will provide the basis for developing teaching assistants' work quality indicators.</p> <p>Teaching assistants have completed accredited training modules and, by the end of January at the latest, will be awarded certificates at the Life-Long Learning Centre of the University of Kragujevac.</p>
<p>Authorities at both national and local level will investigate the causes for dropout and introduce systematic support measures at the level of local governments as part of the social protection system, as well as in-school</p>	<p>Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development School administrations Local government units</p>	<p>On the basis of the available findings of surveys conducted by the UNICEF, education institutions and civil society organizations, there are activities conducted on the national level and on the level of school administrations relating to the analysis of causes for dropout, as well as prevention activities and school and extracurricular activities through a system of educational support for children from vulnerable groups, in line with the Law on the Foundations of the Education System and the Law on Primary School.</p> <p>The IPA 2013 project addressing social inclusion and poverty reduction of vulnerable groups has been developed and approved; through an inter-sectoral approach, it will identify the situation and causes of early school leaving, prepare a set of measures to be piloted by local-level institutions, and prepare the basis for system-wide solutions in the areas of education, health and social affairs.</p>

support systems.	SCTM	The SIPRU, in cooperation with UNICEF, conducted an assessment of support measures targeting poor children, which identifies sets of measures that can contribute to higher support for education of Roma children at the level of local government and schools. The measures are being piloted, with focus on children from Roma families.
The municipalities will ensure the cooperation among all existing mechanisms for the inclusion of Roma at the local level, including the local Inter-Sectoral Commissions, in order that all those mechanisms would work together towards improving the educational status of Roma, above all by providing support for their enrolment in schools and preventing dropout. The universal enrolment of Roma children in regular schools and the Preparatory Preschool Programme will be ensured by the Ministry of Education. The number of children who enrol and complete primary and secondary schools will be increased, which should also help to decrease the number of early school leavers. The civil society will monitor the implementation of these actions and warn of potential shortcomings in the system.	Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development Local government units	The implementation of the IPA 2012 project, Measure 5, has been launched – an activity which relates to the establishment of local mobile teams; mobile teams including teaching assistants have been established in 20 municipalities in the Republic of Serbia, which will strengthen prior activities of teaching assistants and their respective institutions relating to early development of children from vulnerable groups, regular and timely enrolment of Roma children in the preparatory preschool program, primary and secondary schools, easier access to local institutions and consistent application of laws and bylaws in the areas of education, health and social protection. New data from the MICS survey, conducted by UNICEF, were published in the second half of 2014; they will provide the basis for the revision of local action plans including a set of measures focused specifically on the status of vulnerable families in areas where negative trends and unsatisfactory results are still present.
Early education of children of age 3 to 5 will be further strengthened under a	Ministry of Education, Science and	Through cooperation of the Ministry of Education, the Institute for Education Quality and Evaluation, education institutions, UNICEF and the CSO sector, the extension of the <i>Kindergartens without Borders</i> project is being implemented and includes the following activities:

<p>support system targeting the child, rather than the institution, and developed through: support to early childhood development programmes and the introduction of integrative specialised and additional programmes in preschool education, enabling active inclusion of more Roma children and parents in early development programmes which will include at least 40% of Roma children (of which at least 40% girls); support to the work of inter-sectoral committees, in order to uphold inclusive education of children and increase the number of Roma children in the education system.</p>	<p>Technological Development Local government units</p>	<p>national level – amendments to by-laws relating to specific programs for children aged 3–5 (in particular children from vulnerable groups), analysis of inclusiveness of pre-school education for children aged 3–5, preparation of a program accreditation system based on the analysis of lessons learned from the preparation of programs in other countries; local level – verification whether the current 4-hour programs may become experimental and thus their effects be monitored, the development of new programs (thematic and in-family services), all of which should result in an increased coverage of children aged 3–5, involvement of parents and adaptation of premises.</p> <p>The implementation of the third phase of the “Joint Project” has been launched, with support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, and is implemented by UNICEF and the Red Cross. The implementation will continue through 2017, and the main objective is to advance the availability of pre-school education and the coverage of children from vulnerable groups with focus on Roma children.</p> <p>In the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, systematic support has been prepared for the establishment of an Inclusive Education Unit, development of job descriptions and sectoral cooperation at all education levels.</p> <p>Under the Tempus project entitled EQUI-ED – “Equal Access for All: Strengthening the Social Dimension for a Stronger European Higher Education Area”, free preparatory instruction has been provided for 50 students of secondary schools who are members of underrepresented groups (rural students, Roma students, students without parental care, students from single-parent families and students from families of lower socio-economic status). With the help from mentors, the students have enrolled faculties at the Universities of Belgrade, Novi Sad, Nis and Novi Pazar.</p>
<p>Segregated classes/schools will be prevented. An implementing legislation (by-law) on anti-discrimination measures in education institutions will be adopted before the end of 2013 and enforced.</p>	<p>Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development</p>	<p>The Draft Rulebook on Detecting Discrimination in Education has been forwarded to all Ministry departments for inputs; the text should be finalised by the end of calendar year 2014 and prepared for the Secretariat for Legislation in cooperation with the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government. These activities are being led by the Department for European Integration, Development and Research Programmes and Projects in Education and Science.</p>
<p>Learning outcomes for Roma students will be improved through a coherent support system for primary and secondary school students such as remedial teaching, mentoring and pedagogical assistants, catch-up classes,</p>	<p>Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development</p>	<p>Based on the developed education standards relating to finishing primary school, the end of the first cycle in primary school, general subjects in secondary education and those relating to the end of the first and third cycle in adult education, we have also enabled a continued system of support for vulnerable children relating to the development of programs with adaptable and amendable education standards in line with the individual needs and capacities of children, in order to enable optimal progress and monitoring of their achievements by means of appropriate methods.</p> <p>The mentorship system is being developed within the IPA 2012 project.</p> <p>The involvement of parents of vulnerable children in Parent Councils is provided for by law – the Law on the Foundations of the Education System and the Law on Primary School. Municipal parent councils are being</p>

<p>improvement of school ethos and active involvement of Roma parents. At least 60% of pupils from vulnerable groups, amongst which many are Roma (of which at least 40% girls) will have reached the average academic achievement of students of the educational institution they attend until 1 January 2015.</p>		<p>established in pilot municipalities at the initiative of the non-government sector, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development.</p>
<p>Drop-out prevention programmes will be further developed in particular by providing additional scholarship and mentorships throughout Serbia to pupils and students. Monitoring and evaluation aimed at enhancing efficiency and quality of the education system, including in the higher education, will be ensured. In the interest of more accurate school attendance statistics, the Ministry of Education Science and Technological Development, schools and teaching assistants will prepare and disseminate reports.</p>	<p>Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development  Office for Human and Minority Rights (TARI)</p>	<p>By means of affirmative actions, there were 322 students who enrolled desired vocational profiles in secondary schools this year. Scholarships have been provided for 350 secondary school students and 30 tertiary education students, as well as 20 student loans from the budget of the Republic of Serbia for members of the Roma national minority this school year. Scholarships amounted to RSD 5400 for secondary and RSD 8400 for tertiary education students. Until a mentorship system is set up, monitoring students' achievements is ensured through the work of school inclusive units, whose work is supervised by school administrations, pursuant to a special Memo of the Minister of Education and the Department for School Administrations. In the second round and under specific terms targeting vulnerable students, a total of 75 students were given an opportunity to reside in student dormitories, whereas about 20 secondary school students were provided residence in secondary student dormitories.</p> <p>The TARI project provides technical assistance to the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development to establish a national-level scholarship program, to promote the program among students in schools, to select 528 students who will be awarded scholarships from this school year, and to manage the program.</p> <p>Furthermore, a study will be conducted to assess the feasibility of providing mentorship support and/or peer support to children under the risk of dropping out of secondary school. Aiming to further strengthen the capacities of teaching assistants, the project has provided technical support to the Ministry to conduct training of assistants. – Teaching assistants have completed accredited training modules and, by the end of January at the latest, will be awarded certificates at the Life-Long Learning Centre of the University of Kragujevac.</p> <p>The TARI project provides technical assistance to the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development to establish a national-level scholarship program, to promote the program among students in schools, to select 525 students to receive the scholarships and to manage the program.</p> <p>Even though there were significant delays at the beginning of the programme, the problems have been overcome and the Ministry launched the programme of support for Roma secondary students in the autumn of 2014.</p>

--	--	--

## Employment

<p>The Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Policy, as well as the public authorities at the central and local levels will actively promote and implement the policies and measures aimed at increasing employment of the Roma, with special emphasis on Roma women. Specific actions will include public calls for applications of self-employment and public works activities targeting the Roma population.</p>	<p>Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs</p>	<p>The National Employment Strategy for the Period 2011–2020<sup>4</sup> has identified the particularly vulnerable groups in the labour market, while the national employment action plans, adopted annually as basic instruments for operationalisation of the set strategic framework, provide a definition of the hard-to-employ population (persons experiencing difficulties in finding a job due to their health condition, insufficient or inadequate education, socio-demographic background, regional or occupational mismatch between labour supply and demand, or other objective circumstances), as well as active labour market measures aimed at improving their employability. Unemployed persons from the hard-to-employ category (which includes the Roma), are given <b>priority</b> for inclusion in active labour market measures, while at the same time, certain categories are also included in special employment programmes, in addition to those intended for the general population.</p> <p>The registration of unemployed persons with the National Employment Service, in particular the method of keeping records and the content of personal information, are regulated by the Law on Employment and Unemployment Insurance<sup>5</sup> and the Rulebook Stipulating the Content of Personal Data and the Method of Keeping Records in the Field of Employment<sup>6</sup>. One specific piece of information, among other personal data collected as per Article 5 of the said Rulebook, is the nationality or ethnicity. This information is collected through individuals' voluntary statements, i.e. they are <b>not obliged to declare their nationality</b> according to the legal provisions prohibiting discrimination in employment affairs.</p> <p>The National Employment Service registry of unemployed persons includes 22,377 Roma persons, among which 10,355 are women (46.28%). In the total number of registered Roma persons, 14,985 (66.97%) belong in the category of long-term unemployed persons.</p> <p>From the educational perspective, the most common group among the unemployed Roma are persons with no/low qualifications – 20,002 (89.39%), followed by persons with secondary education – 2,284 (10.21%), while the smallest share is that of the persons with college and university education – 91 (0.40%). In terms of age of the unemployed Roma, the largest proportion is that of persons between 30 and 50 years of age – 11,087 (49.55%), followed by youth up to 30 years of age – 7,460 (33.34%), while the smallest age group are persons above age 50 – 3,830 (17.11%).</p> <p>In the period January–October 2014, 1,281 Roma persons from the National Employment Service registry found a job (640 of them concluded employment contracts, while 641 were hired under non-employment contracts). Out of the total number of those who concluded employment contracts, 82.68% were employed for a definite period of time.</p> <p>The share of women in the overall Roma employment is 38.25%, youth up to 30 years of age account for</p>
---	---	--

<sup>4</sup> Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, No. 37/11

<sup>5</sup> Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, Nos. 36/09 and 88/10

<sup>6</sup> Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, No. 15/10



38.56%, while the persons above age 50 have a share of 12.33%. Also, the most commonly hired Roma persons are those with no/low qualifications – 69.56%, followed by persons with secondary education – 28.34%, while the proportion of employed Roma persons with college or university education is only 2.10%.

In terms of employers' field of economic activity, more than a half of employed persons of Roma ethnicity (53.08%) were hired by employers in the following economic sectors: administrative and support service activities, processing industry and agriculture, forestry and fishing.

With a view to ensuring adequate help and support in the process of job mediation, employment counsellors conduct individual interviews with unemployed persons, in which their employability is assessed and **individual employment plans** are concluded. These individual employment plans are essentially agreements between the two parties about the activities and measures that need to be undertaken towards increasing employability and eventual employment. In the reporting period, individual employment plans were concluded with 14,510 unemployed Roma persons, of which 6,494 (44.76%) were women.

In order to learn **active job seeking** techniques, 221 persons attended active job search training for qualified persons, of which 83 (37.56%) were women, whereas the motivational-activation training for persons with no/low qualifications were attended by 958 persons, among which 505 (52.71%) were women.

Training in **job clubs**, which entails a more comprehensive preparation for mastering the techniques of active job search, included 13 persons, of which 8 (61.54%) were women.

A total of 49 **job fairs** were organised in the reporting period, with 435 unemployed Roma persons (of which 202 – 46.44% were women) participating in them.

**Career development information and counselling** services were used by 60 Roma persons, among which 21 (35.00%) were women. In terms of age, 25.00% of beneficiaries of this service were youth up to 30 years of age and 28.30% were persons above age 50. From an educational point of view, the largest share of beneficiaries were unqualified Roma persons – 65.00%. Out of the total number of Roma persons covered by this service, 60.00% were long-term unemployed.

**Selection and classification** included 52 persons of Roma ethnicity, of which 22 were women (42.31%). In terms of age, the majority of beneficiaries of this service were young persons up to 30 years of age – 59.60%, while persons above 50 accounted for only 5.80%. From an educational perspective, the beneficiaries were mostly persons with a secondary education level (61.60%). Half of the total number of Roma persons covered by this service (50.00%) belong in the category of long-term unemployed persons.

**Self-efficiency training** (AJS-2) was attended by 5 Roma persons, 3 of whom were women (60.00%). The most Roma persons included in this measure were in the category of long-term unemployed persons (80.00%), with low qualification levels (up to three-year secondary vocational education).

**The programme of functional primary adult education** included 541 Roma persons, of which 280 (51.76%) were women. Out of the total number of included persons, 122 attended the first cycle of the programme, 198 persons attended the second, while 221 persons attended the third cycle. In terms of age, 218 persons were below 30 years of age, 276 were in the 30–50 age bracket and 47 persons were above 50

		<p>years of age.</p> <p>In the context of entrepreneurship development, <b>information and counselling services</b> were used by 277 Roma persons, of which 125 (45.13%) were women. Roma accounted for 1.80% of the total number of included persons. The two-day training entitled “<b>The Road to a Successful Entrepreneur</b>” was attended by 124 Roma, of which 46 (37.10%) were women. Roma accounted for 1.40% of the total number of trainees. The majority of them had no/low qualifications – 73 persons.</p> <p>Following the public call to unemployed Roma persons to apply for self-employment subsidies in 2014, funds were awarded to 51 persons, of which 18 (35.29%) were females. In terms of their age, 13 persons (25.49%) were youth up to 30 years of age, 21 persons (41.18%) belonged in the 30–49 age bracket, while 17 persons (33.33%) were above age 50. In terms of their educational profile, 24 persons had no/low qualifications, 24 had secondary education and 3 persons had college/university education. Out of the total number of persons who were granted self-employment subsidies, 11 persons started manufacturing businesses, 7 persons engaged in trade, 13 persons opened artisan shops and 20 persons became proprietors in the services sector.</p> <p><b>Self-employment subsidy for persons with disabilities</b> was also awarded to 3 Roma persons with disabilities (to start an advertising agency, a popcorn shop and a hair &amp; beauty salon).</p> <p><b>Public works for persons with disabilities</b> included 41 Roma with disabilities, of which 11 were women (26.83%).</p> <p><b>Training of persons with disabilities in response to labour market needs</b> included 2 unemployed Roma with disabilities. They attended a training programme for carpenters in Vranje and Bor.</p> <p>In cooperation with local governments, a total of 14 Roma persons were included in the implementation of active labour market programmes and measures, of which 11 persons (2 women) were engaged in public works and all of them had no/low qualifications. One person (incomplete primary school) was awarded a self-employment subsidy, one person (primary school) was recruited by an employer who used a job-creation subsidy and one person (4-year secondary education) was included in the training at the request of employer. For two Roma persons (1 woman), employers were granted subsidised contributions for compulsory social insurance of persons with disabilities. Both of these persons had prior work experience and, in terms of the educational level, one person had no/low qualifications, while the other had secondary education.</p>
Existing legislation concerning social entrepreneurship, in particular regarding cooperatives and social business initiatives that include Roma population, shall be revised and amended if necessary. The provision of adequate	Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs, Ministry of Economy	The Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs launched the procedure of developing a legislative framework to regulate the area of social entrepreneurship, in accordance with the positive practice of the EU Member States, as a business model intended as a mechanism of labour and social activation of hard-to-employ persons (including persons in need of social assistance) and as a response to the identified community needs (fulfilment of certain social interest or satisfaction of a certain need at the local level, though the production of goods or provision of services). Current developments include the establishment of a working group for developing the Draft Law on Social Entrepreneurship, as well as the consultation process with relevant institutions and social stakeholders.

<p>incentives, of a fiscal or administrative nature, shall be considered to actively support socially responsible business choices.</p>		
<p>Employment of Roma in local and national institutions will be stimulated, including by development of traineeship programmes, and the National Employment Service (NES) will further cooperate with civil society organisations, including at the local level, to address the issue of Roma employment. Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Policy and NES will ensure that examples of good cooperation practice are replicated in other municipalities and that awareness about employment opportunities for Roma is increased.</p>	<p>Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs, National Employment Service</p>	<p>The Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs has continuously supported project and programme activities aimed at improving the position of Roma (including in the labour market), especially women and youth, which have been initiated by UNIFEM, the World Bank, OSCE and others. The IPA 2012 Social Development, measure 1, also envisages the implementation of activities aimed at including at least 300 Roma registered with the NES into labour market training, as well as the training of persons employed in local communities (in which the need for more significant support to the Roma community is pronounced – the data will be taken from the findings of the IPA 2011 Twinning project) to integrate the needs of the Roma national minority in local development (and employment) plans.</p> <p>The Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs and the National Employment Service have participated in the process of developing and implementing activities aimed at advancing the position of Roma in the labour market, through the implementation of active labour market measures and joint participation in project/programme activities at the national and local levels. The cooperation with Roma civil society organisations, with a view to promoting participation in the labour market and inclusion of the members of the Roma national minority in active labour market measures, is especially significant; accordingly, the activities aimed at further strengthening of the existing cooperation will continue in the forthcoming period.</p> <p><i>Support to the social inclusion of the most vulnerable groups, including Roma, through more diversified community-based social services“ Lot 2 – Active inclusion initiatives for the Roma population – The National Employment Service is a grant beneficiary in the project proposal where the International Labour Organisation is the lead applicant, and the NGO Romanipen is a partner. The title of the project is <i>Labour Market Improvement through Roma Inclusion.</i></i></p>
<p>Affirmative actions as well as financial and non-financial incentives such as small grants and public private partnerships will be developed and institutionalised in order to support employment of Roma and facilitate the launching of sustainable Roma business activities.</p>	<p>Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs, TARI</p>	<p>The National Employment Action Plan for 2015 (<i>Official Gazette of RS, No. 101/14</i>) once again recognised the members of the Roma national minority as a category of unemployed persons who need to be supported in the process of labour and social activation, integration and reintegration in the labour market. The Action Plan has envisaged the implementation of active labour market programmes and measures aimed at stimulating Roma employment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For recruitment of unemployed persons from hard-to-employ categories, private sector employers will be entitled to a job-creation subsidy (one of the five categories of hard-to-employ persons for which this subsidy will be available are Roma persons);</li> <li>• The integration of financial social assistance beneficiaries in the labour market is a new active labour market measure in 2015 and it is essentially an employment subsidy scheme. The purpose of this measure is activation of unemployed persons who are recipients of financial social assistance, with the aim of their labour and social integration and decreased dependence on social welfare</li> </ul>

benefits. The target group are unemployed persons registered with the National Employed Service who are beneficiaries of financial social assistance (among whom there is a significant number of Roma).

- Organisation of motivational training for Roma activation, inclusion of Roma in further education and training programmes, stimulation of entrepreneurship and employment of Roma (including through special public calls targeting the Roma).

Incidentally, unemployed persons from hard-to-employ categories (Roma being one of them) are given priority for inclusion in **all** active labour market measures; however, in addition to these, there are also special employment programmes specifically targeting some of those categories.

The programme to support Roma employment, under the result 6 of the project titled *We Are Here Together – European Support for Roma Inclusion*, envisages the provision of support to enterprises/initiatives through: equipment, durable goods, machines, devices, tools etc.; consultancy support for business growth and development and vocational training for newly employed Roma.

Following the mapping of current good practices in the employment of Roma and the selection of the best ones, the OSCE Selection Committee decided to support 17 enterprises/initiatives, which will result in the employment of 70 Roma persons. The procedure of preparing the required documents for conclusion of contracts with the selected initiatives is currently in progress, after which the procurement of new equipment and the training for newly employed persons will be initiated.

The programme of support for new employment of Roma within the TARI project is based on the mapping of good Roma employment practices. Following the public call for good practices, applications were submitted by 249 initiatives/enterprises, among which 175 fulfilled the basic requirements (that they are either owned by Roma, or that they employ Roma). Based on a questionnaire with more than 30 questions (about the total number of employees, the number of Roma employees, types of contracts, financial details, business information, the planned initiative and new employment), 68 initiatives/enterprises were selected and invited to participate in the training for business plan development. Out of that number, 48 initiatives/enterprises attended the training and 44 of those submitted complete business plans. During the summer of 2014, field visits were undertaken to 43 initiatives/enterprises (one enterprise dropped out) by social inclusion experts (Development Initiative Group – SeCons) and business consultants. Based on their reports, the business plan and the complete dossiers about the initiatives/enterprises, the OSCE Selection Committee decided to support 17 enterprises/initiatives (among which 7 female Roma entrepreneurs) by providing equipment, machines, devices, tools etc. for employment of 70 Roma persons. It is estimated that the costs per one newly created job will amount up to EUR 5,000 on average.

In the process of mapping good Roma employment practices, the TARI project has identified developed Roma entrepreneurship in various fields of economic activity and various regions, which have the potential for sustained employment of Roma women in newly created jobs. Experiences from the TARI project can be used for modelling competitions for (Roma) enterprises with good Roma employment practices (with special focus on the employment of Roma women).

<p>The civil society, especially the Roma associations, will contribute to raising the awareness of employment opportunities and with their help, the information network will be strengthened so as to provide information about employment opportunities to as many Roma as possible.</p>	<p>Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs, TARI Office for Cooperation with Civil Society</p>	<p><i>We Are Here Together – European Support for Roma Inclusion</i>, a project financed by the European Union and implemented by the OSCE Mission to Serbia, supports the implementation of the National Strategy for Improving the Position of Roma in Serbia in the following areas: housing, education, employment, access to rights, citizen participation and promotion of Roma inclusion through the establishment of mobile teams. The project activities are targeting 20 pilot municipalities in the territory of the Republic of Serbia and are implemented in cooperation with the Office for Human and Minority Rights, the line ministries (including the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs) and the competent institutions (including the National Employment Service).</p> <p>Within the project titled <i>Strengthening Social Cohesion in the Labour Market through Support to Disadvantaged and Vulnerable Groups</i>, financed from the EU pre-accession funds under the IPA 2008 Programming Cycle (implementation period 2 June 2014 – 16 January 2016) and implemented by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) in cooperation with other UN agencies and Serbian partners, one of the project components envisages the provision of financial and professional (mentoring) support for self-employment of the members of vulnerable groups through small grant schemes. According to the programme document, the activities to be implemented include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organisation of 7 training courses on the general principles of doing business and business plan development for members of the Roma national minority (for 100 selected persons);</li> <li>• Organisation of additional training in professional skills and marketing (for a maximum of 50 persons with the best results and business ideas);</li> <li>• Award of 50 self-employment subsidies to members of the Roma national minority (purchase of equipment worth up to EUR 3,400 per person).</li> </ul> <p>In the implementation of the above project/programme activities, especially in the segment related to the provision of information to and activation of Roma persons, the key role will be played by Roma civil society organisations; accordingly, the call for participation in the programme of support for Roma employment has been distributed through diverse civil society organisation networks, some of which consist solely of Roma organisations.</p> <p>The <i>Technical Assistance for Roma Inclusion</i> (TARI) project, financed by the European Union and implemented by the OSCE Mission to Serbia, supports the implementation of the National Strategy for Improving the Position of Roma in Serbia in the following areas: housing, education, employment, access to rights, citizen participation and promotion of Roma inclusion through the establishment of mobile teams. The project activities are targeting 20 pilot municipalities in the territory of the Republic of Serbia and are implemented in cooperation with the Office for Human and Minority Rights, the line ministries (including the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs) and the competent institutions (including the National Employment Service).</p> <p>The project comprises 7 components; the Component 6 is aimed at providing support to enterprises with the potential to provide opportunity for sustainable Roma employment, with a view to creating sustainable new jobs.</p>
---	---	--

		<p>The key role in the implementation of activities under Component 6, as well as in all other Project components, especially in the segment related to the provision of information to and activation of Roma persons, will be played by Roma civil society organisations; accordingly, the call for participation in the programme of support for Roma employment has been distributed through diverse civil society organisation networks, some of which consist solely of Roma organisations.</p>
--	--	---

## Social protection and health care

<p>The implementation of the legal provisions enabling registration of one's place of residence at the address of a centre for social work, as a way of fulfilling the residence requirement when applying for personal documents will be monitored by the Ministry for Labour, Employment and Social Policy and Ministry of Interior, with a view to fully ensuring applicants' registration. In the provision of social and healthcare services, particular efforts shall be spent by Ministries for Labor, Employment and Social Policy as well as Health to raise the awareness of local authorities on the matter, in order to grant full access to social and healthcare services, prevent discrimination, as well as to ensure consistent implementation of the relevant legislation.</p>	<p>Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs Ministry of Interior Ministry of Health</p>	<p>The possibility of registering permanent residence at the address of centres for social work is stipulated by the Law on Permanent and Temporary Place of Residence of Citizens (Official Gazette of RS No 87/11), the Rulebook on the Form for the Registration of Permanent Residence at the Address of an Institution or Centre for Social Work (Official Gazette of RS No 113/12) and the Rulebook on the Procedure for Registration and Termination of Permanent or Temporary Residence, Registration of Temporary Stay Abroad and Return from Abroad, Inactivation of Permanent or Temporary Residence, Forms and Modality of Keeping Records (Official Gazette of RS No 68/13). The Ministry of Interior is fully implementing the legal provisions enabling the registration of permanent residence at the address of centres for social work, applications are resolved in the accelerated procedure and applicants are provided legal aid in submitting applications.</p> <p>The Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs is actively involved in solving the problems of unregistered persons; the Roma account for the highest proportion of those whose birth has not been registered in the basic civil status records.</p> <p>The Ministry's activities are aimed at establishing good practice in the implementation of the improved legislative framework; accordingly, the Ministry has issued binding instructions to centres for social work with a view to ensuring consistent actions by guardianship authorities in the application of regulations, thus ensuring their full implementation. The Ministry has issued the following instructions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Instruction for the Actions of Guardianship Authorities and Social Care Institutions in the Procedure for the Registration of Permanent Residence at the Address of Centres for Social Work or Social Care Institutions,</b></li> <li>• <b>Instruction for the Application of Article 71a–71n of the Law on Amendments to the Law on Non-Contentious Proceedings, pertaining to actions of guardianship authorities in the procedure for the ascertainment of the time and place of birth,</b></li> <li>• <b>Instruction for the Actions of Guardianship Authorities in Cases of Determination of Personal Name.</b></li> </ul> <p>Centres for social work in the Republic of Serbia continuously act in compliance with the instructions</p>
--	---	--

		<p>issued to them; they initiate procedures before competent courts for the ascertainment of the time and place of birth; in administrative proceedings, they determine personal names for children whose parents fail to fulfil this duty within the legally stipulated time limit, as well as to adults whose names are not registered in the birth registry. In addition, centres for social work and social care institutions issue consents to the registration of permanent residence, after the competent organisational unit of the MoI establishes that the conditions for the registration of permanent residence at the address of the centre for social work or social care institution are fulfilled. All applications are processed in the accelerated procedure and applicants are provided with legal aid in submitting applications.</p>
<p>To date, 75 Roma health mediators have been hired in 59 municipalities. Over the next three years, additional funds will be committed to increase the number of health mediators, based on an analytical survey of the needs to be carried out by relevant governmental bodies, as well as to improve the access to these services by the beneficiary population. These positions will be "systematised" and included in the national qualification framework. Modules for formal education will be developed, as well as nomenclature of occupations, and employment of health mediators as health care assistants will be implemented.</p>	<p>Ministry of Health Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development</p>	<p>The Ministry of Health has formed a working group for the analysis and preparation of the legal framework for the inclusion of health mediators in the Serbian health care system. A total of 74 health mediators are currently engaged with funding from the Ministry.</p> <p>Pursuant to the Law on Health Care – society's attention to health at the state level – article 11, as part of efforts to promote health and improve health care of population groups at increased risk of disease, since 2008 the Ministry of Health has supported the project to introduce health mediators in the RS health care system.</p> <p>The role of health mediators is to keep records on the health status of the inhabitants of informal settlements, work on raising their awareness of the need to vaccinate children, as well as the importance of a healthy diet and hygiene habits. Health mediators should provide health care institutions with a better insight into the situation of these settlements and raise the inhabitants' awareness of the importance of seeking timely medical advice.</p> <p>Under the programme "Implementation of the Action Plan on Roma Health Care", the following results were achieved by 31 August 2014:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 37,502 first-time visits were paid to families;</li> <li>• 140,408 citizens were covered and recorded in first-time visits: 46,453 women, 43,201 men and 50,754 children.</li> <li>• 221,166 visits were paid to family members who were in need of assistance in obtaining identity documents, accessing health insurance, accessing the health care system (gynaecological examinations for women, choosing a physician, vaccinating children and choosing a paediatrician), in enrolling children in school, accessing various forms of assistance (one-off social assistance, Red Cross assistance, child allowance, scholarships etc.);</li> <li>• 170,278 visits were paid to families or family members for the purpose of health education through planned interviews, and 55,200 pieces of health education materials (flyers, brochures, vaccination schedules and demonstration items – tissues, condoms, toothpastes, toothbrushes etc.) were distributed;</li> <li>• health education work included work in small groups, lectures and posters and covered 31,808 adults, more specifically: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ lectures for 6,265 persons;</li> <li>○ workshops for 25,313 persons;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ posters for 230 persons;</li> <li>● the number of visits totalled 460,125 and includes visits to families, visits to family members in need of assistance and visits for the purpose of health education through planned interviews, lectures, workshops;</li> <li>● identity documents and health insurance cards were provided to 16,330 citizens;</li> <li>● 28,003 persons chose a physician;</li> <li>● 30,018 children were vaccinated;</li> <li>● 2,719 adults were vaccinated (tetanus shots);</li> <li>● 4,500 examinations of pregnant women and new mothers were performed;</li> <li>● 12,617 women underwent comprehensive health checks;</li> <li>● 11,177 women chose a gynaecologist;</li> <li>● 1,144 mammography examinations were performed;</li> <li>● 7,710 children underwent comprehensive health checks for enrollment and enrolled in school;</li> </ul> <p>In addition to health-related activities, health mediators and community nurses from primary health care centres recorded 1,150 Roma settlements in 60 towns in Serbia where a total of 37,502 families reside. The data were collected against WHO indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 63.55% settlements have asphalt roads, whereas 28.08% settlements have dirt roads,</li> <li>● source of potable water in the family: local well in 10.43% cases; an own well – 10.15%; local water supply system – 68.67%,</li> <li>● families who dispose of their waste in town landfills: 62.30 %,</li> <li>● households with in-house toilet: 57.60%,</li> <li>● characteristics of Roma family houses: solid material with windows 78.06%; solid material without glazed windows 2.18% (794 houses); mud/adobe with glazed windows 13.65% (4971 houses); mud/adobe without glazed windows 1.16% (8421 houses); boards/plywood with windows 2.86% (1040 houses) and boards/plywood without glazed windows 0.42% (146 houses).</li> </ul>
<p>Information from the Ministry of Health database on Roma, by improving the software and respecting the Law on the Protection of Personal Data, will be shared with the relevant sectors in order to facilitate a more comprehensive response to Roma inclusion by social services. Data from the database will be</p>	<p>Ministry of Health Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development</p>	<p>Component 2 of the TARI project – mobile units, will be tackling the issue of exchange of information among the involved sectors.</p> <p>The planned activities of the Ministry of Health will focus on improving the database and its alignment with the existing Law on the Protection of Personal Data and the recently passed Law on Health Care Documentation and Records in the Field of Health Care, to ensure its use and data collection in compliance with these laws.</p> <p>The activities concerning database improvement will partly be tackled through the joint project of the Ministry of Health, UNICEF and Telenor.</p> <p>The establishment of an Information Exchange System by implementing special software and setting up a website with the Office for Human and Minority Rights will be supported under the TARI project. The TARI</p>



used by Ministry of labour, employment and social welfare and Ministry of education, science and technical development.		project will not use the Ministry of Health's database containing personal data.
Members of the Roma community will be hired by centres for social work, in accordance with the needs and the required educational attainment levels. Over the next three years, additional funds will be committed for the recruitment of more social workers. Ministry in charge of social welfare will continue with the activities on raising awareness of Roma on their entitlements regarding registering in birth registers	Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs	<p>Since 2012, the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs has been <b>represented in the Technical Working Group, a task force under the Steering Committee established pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding signed on 9 April 2012 between the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government, the Ombudsman and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees – Office in Serbia</b>. In that regard, the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs has participated in all activities as a member of the Technical Working Group. In 2014, the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs, as the lead implementing agency, in cooperation with the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government, the Ministry of Interior, the Ombudsman and the NGO Praxis, with support from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees – Office in Serbia, organised 5 training events for the staff of all centres for social work in the Republic of Serbia, with the topic "Birth Registration and Registration of Permanent Residence"; the training was attended by 354 employees of centres for social work. Training was held according to the following timetable: on 13 June 2014 in Novi Sad – 85 participants in total; on 26 September 2014 in Zlatibor for centres for social work from the Zlatiborski, Moravički, Mačvanski and Kolubarski administrative districts – 53 participants in total; on 17 October 2014 in Kragujevac for the Podunavski, Braničevski, Šumadijski, Pomoravski, Raški and Rasinski administrative districts – 76 participants in total, on 14 October 2014 in Niš for the Zaječarski, Borski, Nišavski, Toplički, Pirotski, Jablanički and Pčinjski administrative districts – 88 participants in total, on 12 December 2014 in Belgrade for all departments of the Belgrade City Centre for Social Work – 52 participants in total. The training delivered was focused on the application of regulations and ensuring consistent practice among the staff of centres for social work in the implementation of the laws and bylaws governing birth registration in administrative proceedings and non-contentious proceedings for ascertaining the time and place of birth, as well as registration of permanent residence. In addition, in 2014, the Ministry participated in the delivery of 5 training events for registrars, held in Belgrade, Novi Sad, Zlatibor, Kragujevac and Niš.</p> <p>The Ministry participates in all events concerning the exercise of rights related to civil status by members of the Roma ethnic minority, and continuously monitors the application of regulations in this area.</p>
Local protocols for protection of Roma children living and/or working on the street will be developed and institutionalised and	Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs	

<p>sustainable financial support provided for urban community services such as drop-in centres, which facilitate protection and social inclusion.</p>		
<p>In the next two years, Ministry in charge of social welfare, in cooperation with all relevant stakeholders will continue with the implementation of activities to address domestic violence, implementing the measures against trafficking and begging (use of children), as well as actions for continuation of de-institutionalisation from residential institutions.</p>	<p>Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs</p>	

### Housing

<p>A large number of Roma persons live in very poor conditions, often with no running water or electricity. Legislation on forced evictions, in line with relevant international standards, will be adopted by end 2013 and frame the conditions to be respected in such cases. Manual and guidelines, with particular emphasis on the roles and obligations of local Self-Governments, will be developed and distributed to all relevant administrative</p>	<p>Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government</p>	<p>In the reporting period, the Ministry undertook actions to fulfil the set obligations in this matter. Several inter-sectoral meetings were held with the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure and official correspondence was exchanged; at the most recent meeting, held on 14 November 2014 with the State Secretary in the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure, the most appropriate solution for the said matter was identified.</p> <p>More specifically, it was agreed that the relevant provisions governing the procedures for action in the relocation of Roma settlements which could not be kept at the existing location should be specified in a separate chapter in the Draft Law on Housing. This Draft Law is planned to be adopted in the second quarter of 2015.</p> <p>The Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure will form a special working group and prepare the said Draft Law. At the meeting, it was proposed that the working group should include the representatives of: the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure, Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government, Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs, Office for Human and Minority Rights and representatives of other relevant public authorities and institutions, who will draft the chapter in line with international legal instruments and with the basic principles and guideline on development-based eviction and relocation. The Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government has nominated its representatives to the working group and notified the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure.</p>
--	--	---

<p>actors and the Government will monitor legislation implementation by all municipalities across the Republic of Serbia.</p>		<p>The fulfilment of the set obligation as described above is in line with the opinion of the Republic of Serbia Secretariat for Legislation No 011-00-571/2013 dated 12 August 2013, which states that, given the area, subject and issues at hand, this matter should be regulated by a law.</p> <p>The Draft Law on Housing is expected to be prepared by the next Seminar on Roma Social Inclusion, scheduled for 16 June 2015.</p>
<p>The Government will ensure an efficient and effective implementation of the National Social Housing Strategy, in compliance with the provisions of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.</p>	<p>Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure (MCTI)</p>	<p>The MCTI is implementing the activities of introducing the Geographic Information System on Substandard (Roma) Settlements (hereinafter: GISSS), under the implementation of the National Programme for the Republic of Serbia 2012, which is financed from pre-accession assistance, and which contributes significantly to the realization of the Objective 6: “Improved Conditions of Housing in Substandard Settlements” from the Action Plan for Implementing the National Social Housing Strategy. The TARI project has engaged the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities to collect data on all substandard Roma settlements in the Republic of Serbia, which will be loaded into the future Geographic Information System (GISSS) in the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure. The tender for GISSS development and Ministry staff training has been announced.</p> <p>With a view to providing the prerequisites for the implementation of the National Social Housing Strategy, the MCTI is implementing the Decree on Standards and Norms for Planning, Designing and Constructing and the Conditions for Using and Maintaining Social Housing Units, which regulates the appropriate spatial standards, the necessary infrastructure for building social housing units, as well as the rights and obligations of tenants in social housing units which remain public property, the contents and manner of concluding and extending lease contracts, the households which are eligible for housing allowance to pay the rent, the elements and manner of calculation of rent and other relevant matters regulating the relationship between the beneficiaries and providers of social housing services.</p> <p>To the same end, the MCTI has prepared a working draft of the Decree on Using the Funds for Social Housing, which lays down the norms and criteria for using the funds for social housing, the conditions under which non-profit housing organizations may apply for the funds, the mandatory contents and elements of programmes and projects according to which the funds are to be used, the manner of monitoring of and reporting on the process of awarding and using the funds, the obligations of actors in the procedure of awarding and using the funds and other matters relevant to the effective and efficient utilization of funds for social housing and transparent monitoring of the implementation of social housing programmes and projects in the Republic of Serbia.</p> <p>Individual activities foreseen by the National Social Housing Strategy, pertaining specifically to improving Roma housing conditions, are under implementation. The results of these activities are elaborated in the sections below.</p>
<p>The Government and municipal authorities will</p>	<p>Ministry of Construction,</p>	<p>Under the TARI project, the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organization carried out a detailed assessment of the situation of substandard Roma settlements in 20 pilot municipalities in Serbia. In addition, after the floods of</p>

<p>invest efforts in legally regulating the existing informal Roma settlements, or in providing sites for their relocation, as per the above mentioned legislation provisions. Where relocation is necessary, it will be conducted only after their residents have been given sufficient advance notice, with full respect of their human rights and in line with international standards. Binding manual/conclusion that defines competent authorities' procedures for the relocation of informal settlements will be issued by the Government and communicated to the local authorities.</p>	<p>Transport and Infrastructure Local government units</p>	<p>May 2014, an assessment of the situation of substandard settlements in the Municipality of Obrenovac was carried out as well. On the basis of this assessment, a list of priorities for improvement was prepared, with an estimate of intervention costs. Based on decisions adopted by eleven local governments, the process of the development of general and detailed regulation plans was launched; these plans should cover twelve substandard Roma settlements.</p>
<p>The local Strategies and Action Plans will be updated by municipal authorities to also include more accurate data on Roma residents in informal settlements, as well as to propose measures to regularize and consolidate living conditions within existing informal settlements.</p>	<p>Office for Human and Minority Rights Local government units</p>	<p>The fulfilment of this task will be facilitated significantly by the establishment of the Geographic Information System on Substandard (Roma) Settlements, as is explained in the segment relating to the implementation of the National Social Housing Strategy, which is in the mandate of the MCTI.</p>
<p>For the implementation of housing programmes, the Government will allocate funds for the construction of additional housing units,</p>	<p>Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure (MCTI)</p>	<p>The Republic Housing Agency (RHA) is successfully implementing the Social Housing Construction Programme, endorsed by the Government of Serbia conclusions, in six towns in the Republic of Serbia (Zrenjanin, Kikinda, Pančevo, Kraljevo, Niš and Čačak). The housing units should be awarded to beneficiaries soon; 49 have already been built in Zrenjanin, Kikinda, Pančevo and Kraljevo, while the remaining 86 units in Kikinda and Niš are under construction and are due to be completed in late April 2015,</p>

<p>with support from municipal budgets and donor funds.</p>		<p>which is also the deadline for Programme completion.</p> <p>The project to be funded under the Framework Loan Contract between the Council of Europe Development Bank and the Republic of Serbia F/P 1720, envisages the construction of 1,700 social housing units in 12 towns in Serbia. After the floods of May 2014, it was proposed that these funds should be reallocated for post-flood recovery, but, given that funds were provided from other sources, Project implementation will proceed as originally envisaged. To that end, in the coming period, the needs will be reassessed in order to update the data from 2010, when the Project was formulated, and its implementation is expected to start in mid-2015. Housing support beneficiaries under this Project will be housing-deprived low- and middle-income households.</p> <p>The project of urban reconstruction of the housing quarter which underwent significant damage after the Kraljevo earthquake is currently in the stage of drafting the Framework Loan Agreement between the Republic of Serbia and the Council of Europe Development Bank, and preparatory activities are being implemented at the local level. Its implementation envisages the construction of 360 units for the relocation of families from units damaged in the 2010 earthquake, as well as social housing units, which will be ensured through the construction of new housing units in the same location and the demolition of the existing damaged structures. The project will include the relocation of the residents of this housing quarter who are currently living in overcrowded and completely inadequate housing units (most were privatized in the early 1990s) into two buildings of a former singles' hotel, mostly inhabited by the Roma population.</p>
<p>The 20 municipalities which will benefit from the IPA 2012 and 2013 support would have achieved the objectives set under the project by the agreed date, including in particular the development of local action plans.</p>	<p>Office for Human and Minority Rights (TARI)</p>	<p>The main goal of all the activities under the housing component of the TARI project in the 20 pilot municipalities is to provide assistance in the preparation of technical documentation for applying for funds under IPA 2013, which will be used for improving the housing conditions and the quality of life in Roma settlements.</p> <p>With this goal in mind, a detailed assessment of the status in all Roma settlements in the territory of these municipalities was conducted in 2014, with the help of the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organization, engaged to conduct detailed surveys and data collection. An important result of these analyses is an assessment of the costs of improving the settlements and prioritisation of those where interventions are necessary. Based on these data, in cooperation with local governments, local Roma organizations, representatives of the Roma population in settlements, one settlement was selected in each municipality for whose improvement all necessary technical documentation will be developed, depending on the specific local needs: detailed urban plans or general regulation plans, infrastructural network projects etc. With the technical documentation, the twenty pilot municipalities will be able to apply for funding under IPA 2013.</p> <p>The following activities have also been implemented thus far:</p> <p>2. A Memorandum on Cooperation has been signed between the OSCE Mission to Serbia and the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure with the aim of implementing project activities in the area of housing. Successful cooperation has been established with all relevant partner institutions in the implementation of activities at the national level: the Republic Geodetic Authority (RGA), the Republic</p>

Statistical Office (RSO) and the Republic Agency for Spatial Planning (RASP).

3. The Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities (SCTM) has been engaged to collect the data on substandard (Roma) settlements in the Republic of Serbia for the Geographic Information System (GISSS), which should include a database of relevant spatial data on these settlements; the SCTM will finalise the activities by February 2015. The tendering process to select a company that will develop the GISSS and load data into the system is under way.

The study titled “Existing Models for Improving the Housing of the Roma – Social and Accessible Housing Solutions for the Roma and Vulnerable Population in Serbia” has been developed; it showcases accessible housing models which have been applied thus far, including an analysis of all aspects, including: groups of beneficiaries, costs and prices, legal and organizational aspects, as well as the recommendations for possibilities for their further application and improvement. On the basis of this study and in consultations with representatives of local governments and the Roma community, Guidelines have been prepared, describing in detail four groups of models appropriate for the 20 pilot municipalities participating in the project.

Agreements have been signed with local housing agencies in 10 interested municipalities to develop detailed or general regulation plans (as needed) covering substandard Roma settlements, which will enable their further improvement (road, sewage, water supply infrastructure, connection to the power supply system etc.).

The following activities have also been implemented thus far:

Under activity 1 – Development of the Geographic Information System, to date: the Terms of Reference for GISSS have been prepared; the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities has been selected through a public call to collect the data on substandard settlements at the municipal level – this activity is under way and is expected to be completed successfully towards the end of February 2015; through the tender launched in November 2014, the Belgrade-based company Mapsoft was selected to develop the GIS application, load the collected data and train the staff in using the GIS.

Under activity 2 – Development of accessible housing models, two publications have been developed – one on the existing Roma housing models, identifying 18 different models, and the other on appropriate Roma housing models, recommending 13 housing models that are the most appropriate for improving Roma housing conditions; The final version of the publication "Housing Models for Substandard Roma Settlements: Guideline for Local Self-Governments, Civil Society Organisations and Roma Community" was presented at three regional workshops, in Novi Sad (28–29 October), Niš (5–6 November) and Arandjelovac (17–18 November 2014).

Under activity 3 – Development of urban plans, a total of 13 settlements in 11 municipalities were identified, for which the relevant urban plans will be prepared for spatial development and rehabilitation of settlements. So far, nine agreements have been signed, and preparations are under way to sign an agreement with one more municipality. To date, no agreements have been signed with two more municipalities that have opted for the development of the plans.

Under activity 4 – Improvement of settlements, detailed situation assessment and development of technical

		<p>documentation, in mid-2014 the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation (EHO) was selected as the implementing partner for a detailed assessment of the situation in substandard Roma settlements in the 20 pilot municipalities. In agreement with the relevant municipal representatives, the settlements requiring interventions as a matter of priority were selected. During the assessment, a total of 101 Roma settlements were recorded in 21 municipalities, and detailed assessments were carried out in 61 settlements. The assessment was completed in October 2014 and the results were presented at regional workshops in Novi Sad, Niš and Arandjelovac. On the basis of the analysis, and through additional consultations with municipalities, the final selection of priority projects will be made; a preliminary list of projects has been prepared in each municipality, based on the analysis performed by the EHO and the initial consultations with municipalities.</p> <p>The results to be achieved under this project, in particular the urban plans, as well as the urban planning and design documentation, will constitute the foundation for infrastructure development in settlements and improvement of the housing stock, which will be funded under IPA 2015. The institution responsible for the implementation of these activities will be the Republic Housing Agency.</p>
--	--	---

### Freedom of movement

<p>The Government of the Republic of Serbia will continue to actively seek and implement solutions to the issue of abuse of the visa-free regime faced by a certain number of EU Member States. The Roma population's awareness of the risks of abusing the visa-free regime needs will further be raised.</p>	<p>Ministry of Interior Commissariat for Refugees and Migration</p>	<p>The Ministry of Interior continually undertakes measures within its competence aimed at monitoring and prevention of the abuse of the visa-free regime and participates in awareness-raising activities about the risks of abusing the visa-free regime. MoI representatives are actively involved in the work of the Commission for Monitoring the Visa-free Regime.</p> <p>During the reporting period, as part of the Commission for Monitoring the Visa-free Regime with the European Union, the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration (CRM) continued to actively monitor and implement solutions for the problem of abuse of the visa-free regime, faced by a number of EU member states.</p> <p>By monitoring the trends of returnees through the records kept by the airport office, it was noted that, during this reporting period, the largest number of returnees came from Germany. During the reporting period, a total of 974 individuals were returned via Nikola Tesla Airport in Belgrade; of these, 795 were returned from Germany. The increased number of returnees resulted not only from the fact that individuals from Serbia accounted for the highest proportion of asylum seekers in Germany, but also from the fact that Serbia was declared a safe country of origin at the key Bundesrat session on 19 September 2014. This means that asylum applications by citizens of Serbia as a safe country of origin are, in principle, unfounded, although they may be granted on an individual basis, and that the procedure for the return of asylum seekers to their homeland is accelerated. Of the total number of individuals returned in this period, 814 were Roma. According to our database, readmission returnees coming from Germany mostly live in municipalities in the south of Serbia (Leskovac, Vranje, Bujanovac, Niš), followed by Belgrade metropolitan municipalities (Čukarica, Novi Beograd, Obrenovac, Palilula, Zvezdara) and municipalities in Vojvodina such as Zrenjanin and Kikinda. Therefore, the Commisariat for Refugees and Migration endeavoured to direct the awareness-raising activities</p>
--	---	--

		and support programmes primarily towards these areas, thereby enabling the reintegration of returnees, as well as preventing secondary migration.
Roma civil society organisations will be urged to continue their campaigns aimed at informing the Roma population about the readmission procedure.	Ministry of Interior Commissariat for Refugees and Migration (independently and in cooperation with local governments)	<p>The Ministry of Interior actively participates in campaigns, round-table discussions and forums aimed at informing the Roma population about the readmission procedure.</p> <p>The CRM provides funds for encouraging local governments to implement measures and activities aimed at resolving migrants' problems. In 2014, the Commissariat provided RSD 20,000,000.00 from the budget for funding local government projects. Out of this sum, RSD 15,000,000.00 will be used for the implementation of measures and activities aimed at reintegration of readmission returnees, RSD 3,000,000.00 for strengthening tolerance to asylum seekers in the Republic of Serbia, and RSD 2,000,000.00 for supporting local governments in addressing migrant problems.</p> <p>A total of RSD 15,000,000.00 was awarded to the municipalities of Novi Pazar, Kikinda and Zrenjanin, which have significant numbers of returnees in need of housing improvement by means of grants in construction materials. The value of each individual project is RSD 3,300,000.00, while local governments provide a 10% contribution, i.e. RSD 330,000.00. The fourth local government that received funds amounting to RSD 5,000,000.00 for the construction of prefabricated houses is Vršac. The City of Vršac contributes RSD 2,627,000.00 to the project by providing the location and infrastructure. This will meet the needs of the most vulnerable returnees who do not have their own dwellings or whose dwellings are inadequate.</p> <p>Regarding the funds for the implementation of project proposals based on local action plans, the implementation of the project "Support for the Implementation of Strategies for Internally Displaced Persons, Refugees and Returnees based on the Readmission Agreement" is under way; the project is funded from the IPA with a total of EUR 1.7 million. Under these projects, funding is provided for housing solutions and the economic empowerment of the above categories of persons as part of the support to local action plans. Among the 16 municipalities receiving funds for the implementation of these activities, the municipalities of Tutin, Novi Pazar, Zrenjanin, Vršac and Čukarica applied for funds to improve the living conditions of returnees under the Readmission Agreement. These projects are currently in the implementation phase.</p> <p>In the reporting period, the CRM launched three public calls for the award of budget funds, whereby the following organisations and Roma associations were awarded funds for projects on the reintegration of readmission returnees and Roma IDPs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. EHO – "Outreach to Returnees – Needs Identification and Legal Aid", project funded with RSD 210,000</li> <li>2. Roma Association of the Braničevski District – "My Idea is My Chance to Succeed", project funded with RSD 210,000</li> <li>3. Zvezda vodilja Roma Association – "Assistance to Roma Children, Returnees and IDPs in the Education System", project funded with RSD 210,000</li> <li>4. Bujanovac Organisation for Development and Democracy – "Information Support to Roma IDPs and Returnees", project funded with RSD 210,000</li> <li>5. Snaga porodice Association, Novi Sad – "Stop Migration", project funded with RSD 170,000</li> <li>6. Roma Association of the Braničevski District – "Survey on the Socio-economic Status of IDPs and Readmission Returnees in the Territory of the City of Požarevac", project funded with RSD 160,000</li> <li>7. DAR Association for Active Response – "Development of the Profile of Readmission Returnees", project</li> </ol>



		<p>funded with RSD 210,000</p> <p>8. CERIB Centre for Development and Care for Citizens – "Information Point for the Provision of Legal and Other Forms of Aid", project funded with RSD 260,000</p> <p>9. Romano Alav Roma Women's Association – "Say No to Asylum", project funded with RSD 160,000</p> <p>Bujanovac Organisation for Development and Democracy – "Registered and Empowered", project funded with RSD 140,000</p>																																													
Continual cooperation will be ensured with the European Union in exchanging information and notifications about the number of persons entering and exiting the EU. Cooperation will also be intensified through the Committee for Monitoring the Visa-Free Regime with the European Union.	Ministry of Interior	The Ministry of Interior will continue its daily exchange of information in the field of readmission with the EU Member States' competent authorities.																																													
Trends regarding the number of asylum seekers, as well as the number of returnees under the Readmission Agreement with the EU Member States, will be continually monitored by the national authorities including by developing migration profiles and updating statistical data.	Ministry of Interior Commissariat for Refugees and Migration	<p>The Ministry of Interior continually monitors the trends regarding the number of requests under the Readmission Agreement, takes follow-up actions with respect to the reports received from foreign immigration authorities that contain statistical data on the number of asylum seekers in the EU Member States and participates in developing the migration profile.</p> <p>The Readmission Office at the "Nikola Tesla" Airport, under the competence of the CRM, received and registered a total of 1,373 persons, i.e. 484 families during the reporting period.</p> <p><b>NUMBER AND AGE STRUCTURE OF RETURNEES</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>April</th> <th>May</th> <th>June</th> <th>July</th> <th>August</th> <th>September</th> <th>October</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Number of persons</td> <td>225</td> <td>144</td> <td>64</td> <td>189</td> <td>77</td> <td>143</td> <td>131</td> <td>974</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number of families</td> <td>66</td> <td>52</td> <td>23</td> <td>62</td> <td>36</td> <td>57</td> <td>47</td> <td>343</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number of minors</td> <td>121</td> <td>68</td> <td>29</td> <td>87</td> <td>24</td> <td>84</td> <td>64</td> <td>477</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number of adults</td> <td>104</td> <td>76</td> <td>35</td> <td>103</td> <td>53</td> <td>59</td> <td>97</td> <td>527</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>STRUCTURE BY ETHNIC AFFILIATION (FOUR MOST FREQUENT)</b></p>		April	May	June	July	August	September	October	Total	Number of persons	225	144	64	189	77	143	131	974	Number of families	66	52	23	62	36	57	47	343	Number of minors	121	68	29	87	24	84	64	477	Number of adults	104	76	35	103	53	59	97	527
	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	Total																																							
Number of persons	225	144	64	189	77	143	131	974																																							
Number of families	66	52	23	62	36	57	47	343																																							
Number of minors	121	68	29	87	24	84	64	477																																							
Number of adults	104	76	35	103	53	59	97	527																																							

	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	Total
Roma	168	84	57	141	62	98	100	710
Serb	51	10	7	23	13	21	22	147
Bosniak	6	10	0	20	0	20	7	63
Albanian	0	7	0	6	1	3	0	17

**STRUCTURE BY COUNTRY OF TEMPORARY RESIDENCE (FOUR MOST FREQUENT)**

	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	Total
Germany	190	86	61	132	64	130	112	775
Sweden	27	19	1	19	9	2	7	84
Switzerland	7	26	1	24	1	9	1	69
Denmark	0	3	0	1	0	1	1	6

In line with previous trends, the largest number of returnees are the Roma, at 775 persons (out of a total of 974), comprising approximately 80% of the total number. Likewise, the number of returning minors and adults is almost equal, which indicates a significant number of children.

Most of the returnees come from Germany. Regarding municipalities of return, the most frequent are (in the stated order): Bujanovac, Leskovac, Palilula, Niš, Zemun, Novi Beograd, Požarevac, Smederevo, Vranje, Zrenjanin, Kikinda, Kruševac, Novi Pazar.

**TYPE OF CURRENT ACCOMMODATION**

	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	Total
Parents	94	56	21	86	47	78	49	431
Own housing	73	34	32	49	10	29	31	258
Relatives/friends	24	18	1	30	10	19	28	130
None	25	16	1	9	2	10	14	77
Rental	9	2	8	16	0	7	9	51
Other	0	18	1	0	8	0	0	27

The centres for urgent reception of readmission returnees, operated by the CRM, currently house 30 persons, 2 in Šabac and 28 in Bela Palanka. In the reporting period, the CRM earmarked RSD 2,800,000 for the accommodation and meals for the individuals in reception centres.

The Readmission Office informs returnees of their basic rights and obligations and of access to services at the local level. Returnees are referred to the commissioner for refugees and migration and centres for social work in the places they return to. The CRM also notifies these services of the returnees' arrival and gathers feedback on the returnees' social status, as well as the assessment of their conditions and needs. Thereby, the commissioners and social services at the local level analyse the returnees' needs and provide adequate assistance in accordance with the available capacities and resources. During the reporting period, centres for social work notified us that returnees reported to them after arriving at the municipality of origin, and a significant number of returnees became financial social assistance beneficiaries. A smaller number of returnees of whom we informed the

<p>The available resources of competent state bodies and local self-government units will be directed towards ensuring sustainable integration of all returnees and their families, through facilitated access to all services such as education, health and social welfare. At the same time, available pre-accession EU funds other donor funds, as well as the available budget funds, will be used to stimulate economic empowerment and housing of the most vulnerable returnees.</p>	<p>Commissariat for Refugees and Migration</p>	<p>social work centres and commissioners could not be found at their registered addresses.</p> <p>The role of the Migration Council has been recognized as key to the process of securing sustainable reintegration of readmission returnees in a large number of local governments, and local action plans are the primary instrument for defining the needs of returnees and planning adequate measures. The Commissariat for Refugees and Migration continued to provide technical support to local governments in developing local action plans<sup>7</sup> (LAPs) in order to cover readmission returnees and thus provide assistance and appropriate resources for this migrant category as well. A total of 78 LAPs were revised by the end of 2014; they now encompass readmission returnees as well. These are mainly local governments with the largest numbers of readmission returnees. Local governments thus demonstrate their interest in ensuring more efficient reintegration of returnees and also create opportunities to apply for the available national budget and donor funds for improving the living conditions of readmission returnees.</p> <p>During the reporting period, the CRM also drafted a proposal for measures for the further implementation of the Strategy of Reintegration of the Returnees based on the Readmission Agreement. The deliberation on and adoption of measures by the Council for Returnees Reintegration is under way. Therefore, the Action Plan for the following period should envisage measures that will contribute to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. more successful reintegration of returnees,</li> <li>2. the prevention of secondary migration, i.e. repeat departures to EU countries to seek asylum,</li> <li>3. a reduction in the number of new persons departing for EU countries to seek residence without adequate legal basis.</li> </ol> <p>The Commissariat for Refugees and Migration of the Republic of Serbia, with the assistance from the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument (TAIEX) of the Directorate-General for Enlargement, organised a two-day Expert Mission on Indicators for Reintegration of Returnees on 27–28 October 2014.</p> <p>The principal aim of the Expert Mission was to identify and develop a set of indicators to be used for monitoring the measures taken at the national level with a view to the implementation of the Strategy of Reintegration of the Returnees based on the Readmission Agreement. The report on negotiation chapters 23 and 24 prepared by EC experts after the visit to Serbia in February 2014 indicated the need to identify and develop a set of relevant indicators that will measure the efficiency of the measures taken in the area of reintegration of readmission returnees. The development of a set of indicators is also required in order to collect data on what specifically has been done to sustain the visa-free arrangement and prevent repeat departures of readmission returnees for EU Member States. The expert mission gathered relevant civil servants, members of the Team for the Implementation of the Strategy of Reintegration of the Returnees based on the Readmission Agreement.</p> <p>Based on the inputs from the workshop, the involved expert mission members will develop a set of</p>
--	--	---

<sup>7</sup> Local action plans for addressing the issues of refugees, internally displaced persons and returnees under the Readmission Agreement are local governments' strategic and action documents that identify the needs of these groups and foresee measures and activities, as well as allocations of local government funds for the improvement of their status.

indicators for reintegration of readmission returnees, which will be presented and further elaborated with the Team members during the next TAIEX expert mission, planned for December 2014.

As part of its competencies, the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration works on improving the living conditions and advancing the socio-economic status of IDPs, with special attention given to members of the Roma national minority, recognized as an extremely vulnerable category within the internally displaced population. To this end, the activities and measures implemented by the CRM aimed at improving the social and economic status of Roma IDPs are defined through the equal opportunity principle based on equal rights.

The CRM also provides primary reception and care for refugees and IDPs in collective centres. At this moment, 22 collective centres (14 in Serbia, 8 in Kosovo and Metohija) house 1059 IDPs. Assessments indicate that, out of the total number of IDPs in collective centres, 20% are Roma (approximately 211 persons). In line with this ratio, about RSD 26,482,400 from the Republic of Serbia budget was earmarked for the accommodation of Roma persons during the reporting period.

In line with the available funds, the CRM implements programmes aimed at improving the living conditions and providing housing for IDPs not placed in collective centres. According to estimates, the Roma represent approximately 10% of the IDP population, whereas – owing to the fact that they frequently meet multiple vulnerability criteria – they represent 20% of the beneficiaries of the assistance programmes implemented by the CRM.

During the period April–November 2014, the CRM launched three public calls for the improvement of living conditions of IDPs funded from the national budget:

1. Assistance in construction material – RSD 83,382,500 (funds awarded to 26 local governments)
2. Income-generating activities – RSD 41,270,000 (funds awarded to 24 local governments)
3. Purchase of rural households with homesteads – RSD 43,985,000 (funds awarded to 11 local governments)
4. Assistance in construction material – RSD 44,488,750 (funds awarded to 15 local governments)
5. Assistance in construction material – RSD 83,487,500 (funds awarded to 24 local governments)
6. Income-generating activities – RSD 46,977,200 (funds awarded to 20 local governments)

It is estimated that Roma account for 10% of the IDP population; however, owing to the level of their vulnerability, they account for an even higher proportion of assistance beneficiaries; thus, up to 20% of these funds are earmarked for the needs of Roma IDPs.

The CRM earmarked funds for the closure of informal collective centres (housing large numbers of Roma IDPs); thus, the City of Belgrade received RSD 10,000,000 and implementation is under way.

Also, in the reporting period, the CRM, in cooperation with the NGO Help as the implementing partner, held talks with the Municipality of Sjenica about the provision of prefabricated houses for the Roma currently residing in an informal settlement, while the Municipality of Sjenica would provide the location and infrastructure. The funds for project implementation will be provided under IPA.

<p>Returnees will be informed in detail about their options upon return. A coordinated approach will be ensured by providing them with psychosocial and healthcare support, as well as access to accommodation.</p>	<p>Commissariat for Refugees and Migration</p>	<p>In addition to urgent reception and recording of returnees, the Readmission Office at the Nikola Tesla Airport informs returnees of their basic rights and of access to services at the local level. Returnees are referred to the commissioner for refugees and migration and centres for social work in the places they return to. The CRM also notifies these services of the returnees' arrival and gathers feedback on the returnees' social status, as well as the assessment of their living conditions and needs. Thereby, the commissioners and social services at the local level analyse the returnees' needs and provide adequate assistance in accordance with the available capacities and resources.</p> <p>In the reporting period, an additional 1500 copies of the information brochure for returnees were printed in the Romani, Serbian, Albanian, English and German languages; they are distributed at the Nikola Tesla Airport and are also available in all commissioners' offices. In addition, 1000 posters and 5000 flyers are under preparation.</p>
---	--	---