

FACT SHEET

European Union Funding for Roma

According to the [EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies](#), between 2007 and 2013 the EU made available nearly € 26.5 billion to its member states to improve lives of vulnerable groups, including Roma communities.

- This € 26.5 billion between 2007 and 2013 derived from the European Structural Funds' various pots such as the [European Social Fund](#) (€ 9.6 billion) and the [European Regional Development Fund](#) (€ 16.8 billion).
- According to the [Report on the implementation of the EU framework](#), for the period 2014 to 2020 the European Social Fund will increase to € 16 billion, a significant increase on the 2007 to 2013 allocation. It is not yet public if the European Regional Development Fund will increase though it is not likely to fall below its current allocation of € 16.8 billion
- These funds are intended to promote social cohesion across different demographics. Any marginalized group, for example people with disabilities, the long-term unemployed or families at risk of poverty, can claim some of this money. Some of these groups include Roma. Therefore, it is hard to extract a single figure for funds dedicated explicitly to Roma inclusion.
- The distribution of these funds and the management of programs is the responsibility of EU member-states. They can be used to fund programs that target Roma specifically, or reach a wider demographic.
- According to the EU Framework between 2007 and 2013 €172 million from the European Social Fund have been explicitly allocated for actions aiming at integrating the Roma population; this is less than 2 percent of the total amount dedicated to social inclusion. This does not however represent the only EU funding for Roma. A larger percentage of funding is used to target other categories of marginalized groups; this can also reach Roma.
- Amounts alone do not guarantee results. It is a common fallacy that the amount of money spent is a reliable indicator of whether Roma have experienced any positive outcomes from the investment of these funds.
- Absorption of EU funds—the ability to spend them properly—has proved a challenge for some member states and organizations that implement EU funded projects including Roma and pro-Roma NGOs. In such cases the necessary infrastructure, skills and experience to manage large projects is not always in place. Further assistance through capacity building services can help.
- In many cases the use of EU funds in a combination of projects that target Roma

specifically as well as more general inclusion projects for both Roma and non-Roma, can help break the vicious cycle of discrimination, exclusion, unemployment and poverty. It can also help reduce the gap between Roma and non-Roma in education, employment, health care and housing.