



Roma integration with EU funds in Hungary, with focus on the least developed micro-regions

Adam Kullmann, Hungary



Experiences after first years



- EU funds tend to **bypass** Roma issues
- worse than that: EU funds even **ruin** NGOs dealing with Roma issues



Reasons



- EU funds tend to **bypass** Roma issues
 - main reason: dominance of calls for proposals, **competitive allocation mechanisms** (evaluation by State Audit Office)
- worse than that: EU funds even **ruin** NGOs dealing with Roma issues
 - main reason: **late payment** by intermediate bodies (evaluation of pre-accession funds)
- both reasons are **procedural**, not Roma specific



Territorial approach





- Government identified **least developed micro-regions** (NUTS IV)
 - low income, high unemployment, poor infrastructure
 - peripheral, rural
 - 10% of national population, 30% of Roma population

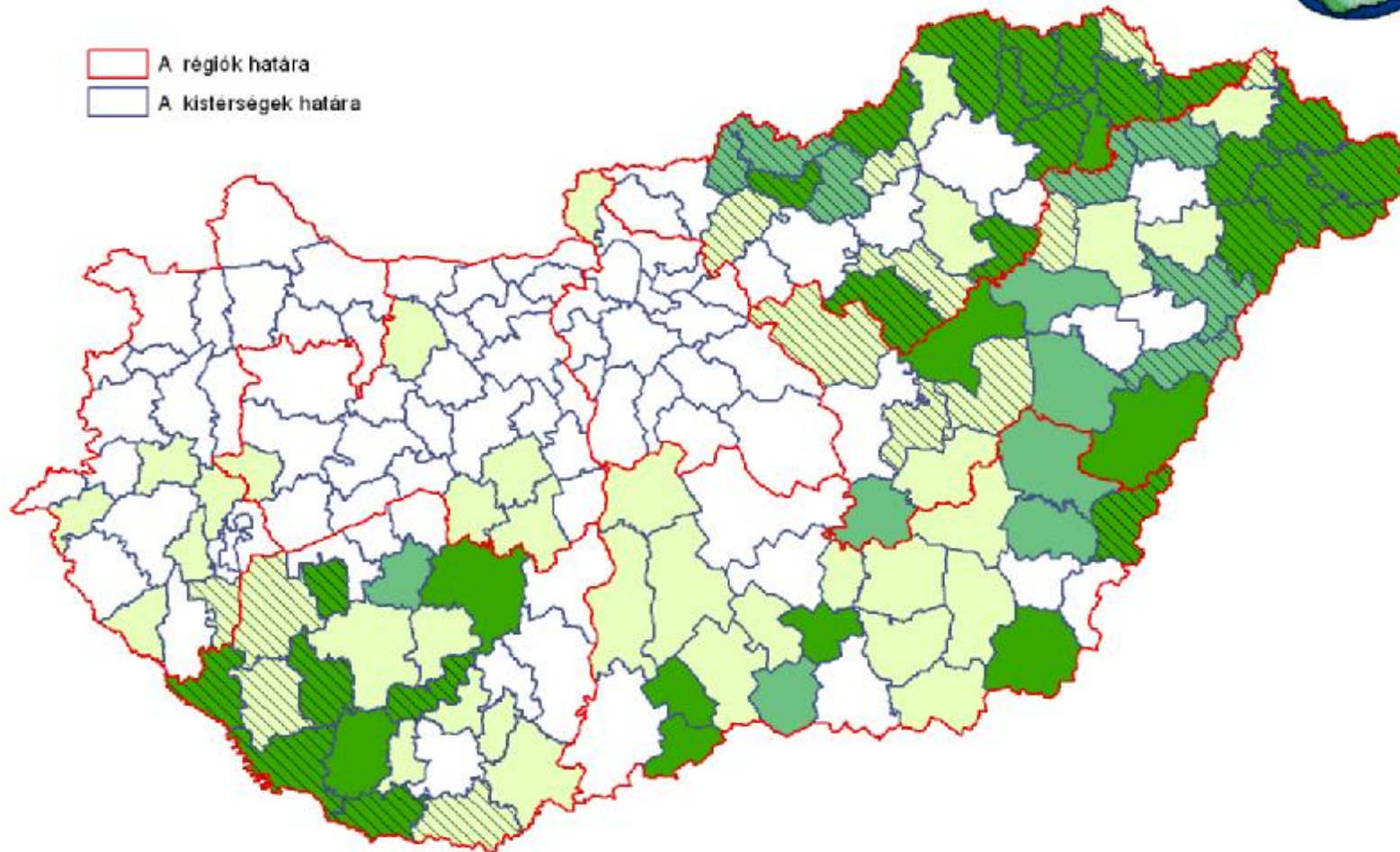


Least developed MRs – MRs with high Roma population

Hátrányos helyzetű és romák által magas arányban lakott kistérségek



-  A régiók határa
-  A kistérségek határa



-  Hátrányos helyzetű kistérségek
-  Leghátrányosabb helyzetű kistérségek
-  Leghátrányosabb helyzetű, felzárkóztatási komplex program lehetőségével bíró kistérségek
-  Romák által magas arányban lakott kistérségek

Territorial approach



- **special programme** for least developed micro-regions
 - setting up programme directorate
 - allocation of an amount for each micro-region
 - regional OPs (ERDF) and human resources OPs (ESF and ERDF)
 - average population 30 thousand, average amount 10 meur
 - **no competition** between micro-regions
 - preparation of a plan with project ideas by each micro-region
 - initial approval of project ideas
 - detailed preparation of projects by project owners
 - approval of projects



Territorial approach



- **targeting Roma issues** in the special programme for least developed micro-regions
 - involving **local** Roma organisations
 - involving **external** experts on Roma integration
 - providing players with quantitative **data** and qualitative **analysis** on situation of Roma
 - organising **forums** on Roma integration
 - **preferring** projects targeting Roma issues in initial approval
 - **assistance** to detailed preparation – OSI: Making the most



Territorial approach



- **first results** of targeting Roma issues in the special programme for least developed micro-regions
 - 10% of projects directly targeting Roma issues
 - much more projects targeting broader group but having positive impact on Roma integration (e.g. schools, roads)
 - lack of Roma organisations hinder any development
 - rigid EU and national rules hinder complex development



Development policy based on equal opportunities



- recent amendment of **law** on equal opportunities
 - each local government has to prepare a **plan** to ensure equal opportunities, and **report** on its implementation in 2 years
 - experts on equal opportunities employed by ministry of social affairs **evaluate** the plans and the reports
 - positive evaluation is **pre-condition** for local governments to apply for EU or national grants



Way forward

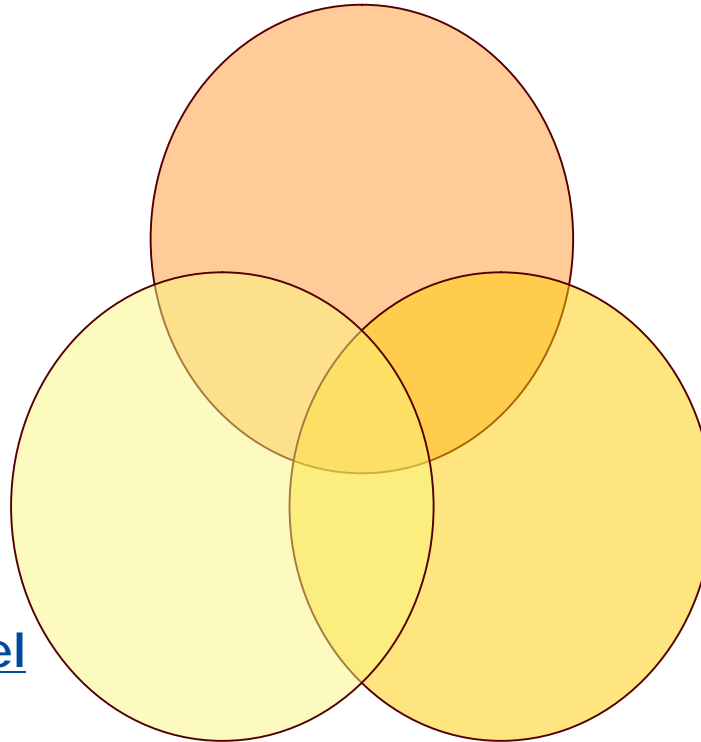


- **EU level**
 - coordination of ERDF and ESF
 - coordination of development and operation
 - community initiative for more innovative and risky projects (like Equal)
 - pushing Member States (e.g. poverty map)
- **Member State level**
 - coordination of structural funds and rural development
 - simple procedures, taking advantage of flexible approaches and recent changes
 - housing
 - wide range of possible selection procedures, incl. global grant
 - flat rate and lump sum
- **local level**
 - preparing projects



Way forward

EU level
- regulation
- priorities



Member State level
- programmes
- procedures

local level
- projects

