

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ROBUST NRIS M&E

DRAFT

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1. Methodological framework

The robust NRIS M&E should be comprehensive, multi-layered and participatory. It should not be limited to administrative accounting carried out by the institutions engaged in implementing the Roma integration policy but includes diverse forms of monitoring and evaluation based on various methods, applied at several (at least three) levels by different relevant stakeholders. For ensuring proper methodological framework for NRIS M&E we recommend:

1.1. The EU institutions and other international actors

1.1.1. European Commission to take into consideration diverse forms of M&E when preparing its annual reports about NRIS implementation for the Parliament and for the Council: for example shadow reporting, budget monitoring and other forms of civil society watch (carried out by national NGOs, NGO networks or umbrella organizations), expert assessment (carried out by independent experts with proved expertise in the field) and administrative monitoring. Contributions from all these forms should be taken into account on equal basis by European Commission and all of them should be used as sources for preparing the annual reports about NRIS implementation for the Parliament and for the Council.

We recommend the European Commission to set mechanism for annual gathering contributions based on forms of civil society watch and expert assessment. The European Roma Platform and annual meetings “EC – National contact point - NGOs” could be used for this purpose;

1.1.2. FRA to use forms of community monitoring at grass-root level as well as of civil society monitoring for fulfilling the tasks assigned by the EU Framework for NRIS;

1.1.3. European Commission to encourage and require member states to set national M&E framework that incorporates diverse forms implemented by different stakeholders such as: shadow reporting, budget monitoring and other forms of civil society watch (carried out by national NGOs, NGO networks or umbrella organizations), expert assessment (carried out by independent experts with proved expertise in the field) and administrative monitoring.

1.2. National Contact Points and other Member States institutions

1.2.1. Member states and NCPs to prepare special document with the framework for NRIS M&E. This document to be prepared after consultations with Roma organizations and leaders;

1.2.2. Member states and NCPs to set national M&E framework that incorporates diverse forms implemented by different stakeholders such as: shadow reporting, budget monitoring and other forms of civil society watch (carried out by national NGOs, NGO networks or umbrella organizations), expert assessment (carried out by independent experts with proved expertise in the field) and administrative monitoring;

1.2.3. The National Contact Points (NCP) to establish annual procedure for gathering contributions from civil society and expert M&E of the NRIS as well as for presenting them before the relevant national institutions on equal basis with the administrative monitoring reports;

1.2.4. Member states to set M&E framework at regional and local levels that incorporates forms of grass-root community monitoring for assessing the results of the initiatives and projects implemented in Roma community. We recommend grass-root community monitoring to be especially required for assessing the results of the national initiatives implemented at local level (for example, the so-called “state delegated activities”).

2. Administrative framework

We have insisted that NRIS have to be monitored and evaluated at different levels (European, national and local) and different methods should be used. We also insist that different stakeholders should contribute to this task according to their capacities and competences. For achieving this we recommend:

2.1. The EU institutions and other international actors

The Commission and the FRA together with the support of other international institutions to take an active role in the monitoring process through Providing tools for the monitoring process; Supporting the capacity of Member states in the evaluation process; Facilitating mechanisms of joint M&E between Member states and European institutions. To fulfil these tasks EC and FRA should strengthen their administrative capacity to work on Roma integration M&E and should also establish expert network and partnership framework though:

2.2.1. We recommend EC to appoint experts on Roma integration M&E in Roma Coordination Unite (DG JUST). We recommend also EC to appoint Roma integration experts in all relevant DGs (EMPL, REGIO, Education and culture, SANCO, AGRI). Appointing experts from Roma origin would be significant asset

Appointing Roma integration expert in DG SANCO is of special importance in order to increase the commitment to Roma health integration at EU and national levels.;

2.1.2. We recommend EC to set network of independent experts to work on NRIS M&E in all Member states. This network should function in a way similar to the network of social inclusion experts (maintained by DG EMPL), anti-discrimination experts (maintained by DG JUST), etc. EC should support it financially and methodologically and should ensure that its contributions is taken into account;

2.1.3. We recommend FRA to establish partnership with European and national Roma NGOs for fulfilling the tasks assigned to FRA by the EU Framework for NRIS. FRA could appoint Roma NGOs to contribute for certain tasks or delegate them

2.2. National Contact Points and other Member States institutions

It is crucial for Member States to make progress in the establishment of M&E systems and clarify how these will be carried out taking into account their own realities always within the framework of the wider policy process related to social inclusion and social protection, education, employment and economic development. NRIS need adequate systems of inter ministerial horizontal cooperation in order to facilitate coherent Roma policies covering key areas of social inclusion. This necessarily must involve different departments and ministries at the national level, but also at the regional and local level according to the respective competencies.

NCPs need to monitor this process and are to be more than just an appointed person or department that require at least three conditions for the effective development of its task: adequate political capacity for leading the process of the implementation of the strategies; institutional capacity in order to enforce horizontal coordination with other departments at the national level as well as vertical coordination with the regional and local level; adequate financial and human resources. To strengthen NCPs' capacities, human resources and mandate, in order for them to put into practice the adequate institutional mechanisms for NRIS M&E we recommend:

2.2.1. Member states to establish Roma integration units in the key institutions related to health, education, employment, social inclusion and living conditions as well as to assign expert/s on M&E in these units. Appointing experts from Roma origin would be significant asset.

We particularly stress the importance of establishing Roma integration unit in the Health care ministries in order to raise the political attention to Roma health integration;

2.2.2. NCPs to assign expert/s whose main responsibilities to be NRIS M&E. Appointing expert/s from Roma origin would be significant asset;

2.2.3. NCPs to establish partnership with national Roma NGOs for implementing the tasks of NRIS M&E. NCPs could appoint Roma NGOs to contribute for certain tasks or delegate them;

2.2.4. NCPs to establish and maintain network of municipal and regional experts to work on Roma integration M&E at regional and local levels. This network should be supported financially and methodologically by the NCPs;

2.2.5. NCPs to assign community-based organizations for organizing community monitoring at grass-root level.

3. Financial framework

Ensuring the necessary financial resources is of crucial importance for establishing robust mechanism for NRIS M&E. Combining funds from programs run directly by EC; ESF, ERDF, EARADP programs at national level; state budgets and other means could back up the variety of M&E forms and the participation of all relevant stakeholders.

For establishing the proper financial framework we recommend:

3.1. The EU institutions and other international actors

3.1.1. To use programs run directly by EC for supporting shadow reporting and other forms of civil society watch. PROGRESS, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship, the Second Programme of Community action in the field of Health 2008-2013, the Europe for Citizens Programme 2007-2013 and others could be proper instruments for ensuring civil society NRIS M&E.

We recommend special priority “Civil society contribution for NRIS M&E” to be set in one or more of these programs;

3.1.2. To request Member states ensuring funds for community monitoring at grass-root level and for civil society M&E in the operational programs and Rural Areas Development programs for the next planning period.

3.1.3. To request Member states ensuring funds for strengthening the capacity of the NCPs to carry out M&E in the ESF funded operational programs;

3.1.4. To provide funds for and to organize independent expert NRIS M&E (see 2.1.2)

3.2. National Contact Points and other Member States institutions

3.2.1. Member states to set financial mechanisms for supporting civil society watch and community monitoring on the social inclusion policy, initiatives and projects: funds from the state budget should be used for this purpose. European funds could be also used if necessary.

3.2.2. NCPs to set financial mechanisms for supporting civil society watch and community monitoring on Roma integration and NRIS implementation: funds from ESF, ERDF and EARADP programs run at national level as well as from the state budget could be used for these mechanisms.

We recommend “M&E of the NRIS implementation” to be included as sub-activity to the possible investment priority “Integration of marginalised communities (such as Roma)” or in another investment priority in the new operational programs. We recommend also calls for proposals for civil society contributions and community monitoring contributions to NRIS M&E to be announced regularly;

3.2.3. NCPs to set financial mechanisms for the network of municipal and regional experts to work on Roma integration M&E at regional and local levels;