



## **Press Release**

### **Strengthening the Social Inclusion of Roma: 3rd Meeting of the KEDE Committee and Presentation of Progress in Implementing the National Roma Inclusion Strategy 2021–2030**

On Tuesday, July 15, 2025, the 3rd meeting of the Committee for Roma Social Inclusion of the Central Union of Municipalities of Greece (KEDE) was successfully held, with the broad participation of members, the President, and municipalities. The Secretary General of KEDE, Mr. Dimitrios Kafantaris, also attended the session.

The meeting was further attended by:

- Mr. Prodromos Pyrros, Secretary General for Social Solidarity and Poverty Alleviation, Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family,
- Ms. Fotini Vlachaki, Acting Head of the Department for Documentation, Evaluation, Support and Specialization on Roma Social Inclusion,
- Ms. Mary Zampeli, Officer of Unit B “Coordination and Monitoring of Horizontal ESF+ Interventions”, Special Service for the Coordination of ESF+ Actions (EYSEKT), General Directorate of Strategy, Planning and Implementation of the NSRF, General Secretariat for the NSRF, Ministry of National Economy and Finance,
- Ms. Christina Chalilopoulou, Coordinator of the Roma Forum.

During the meeting, the latest data and developments on the implementation of the **National Roma Inclusion Strategy 2021–2030 (NRIS Roma)** were presented and discussed.

#### **Specifically presented:**

- **1st Progress Report of the NRIS Roma (2022–2024, up to the 1st semester of 2025):** including an assessment of target achievement, identification of problems, and consultation processes with operational bodies to improve implementation.



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- **Roma Population and Settlement Mapping (2024):** carried out with the participation of 142 municipalities, providing a detailed record of living conditions, access to infrastructure, and demographic characteristics.
- **Submission of Integrated Local Action Plans (LAPs) by municipalities:** 85 municipalities have developed LAPs, 33 submitted complementary information to link with the 2021–2027 Regional Programs, and 30 were deemed mature for immediate implementation of ESF+ and ERDF actions.
- **Planned Roma social inclusion actions** in the 13 Regional NSRF 2021–2027 Programs, co-financed by ESF+ and ERDF, based on the municipalities' Local Action Plans. These fall under ESF+ Specific Objective ESO4.10 (socio-economic integration of Roma) and ERDF Specific Objectives 4.3 and 4.5 (inclusion of marginalized groups, housing, health, community care).
- **UNICEF Greece pilot WASH program** in cooperation with the Secretariat General for Social Solidarity and Poverty Alleviation, focusing on clean water, hygiene, and prevention interventions in municipalities with Roma settlements.
- **New projects under the NSRF 2021–2027:**
  - Technical Assistance and Beneficiary Support (Local Authorities / capacity building) – “Technical Assistance and Beneficiary Support” OP 2021–2027 / ESF+ Administrative Capacity Strengthening: establishment of an Expert Group to support municipalities in effectively implementing the NRIS Roma 2021–2030 and Local Action Plans.
  - Roma Social Mediators' Register / Development of professional profile, training, and certification of Roma Social Mediators (PAEKS 2021–2027).
  - “Development of interventions supporting Roma infants (2–4 years), children (4–12 years), and parents through experiential workshops and children's camps” (ESF+, Regional Programs 2021–2027).

### **Social participation and institutional barriers**



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Particular emphasis was placed on issues of statelessness, lack of documentation, and the need for active participation of Roma in local communities.

### **International and awareness-raising actions**

- Reference was made to the experience of the Greek delegation at the European **ROMACT workshop** of the Council of Europe.
- Awareness and information initiatives were highlighted regarding HPV vaccination coverage in Roma communities.

### **Conclusions**

The meeting emphasized the need to strengthen local government with appropriate tools and to foster collaboration with Roma communities, which are essential prerequisites for the successful implementation of the inclusion strategy. All participants committed to continuous and regular cooperation, aiming to develop sustainable solutions that promote equal social inclusion and harmonious coexistence between Roma and non-Roma at the local level.

The KEDE Committee for Roma Social Inclusion is one of the operational bodies of the NRIS Roma 2021–2030 and works closely with the Secretariat General for Social Solidarity and Poverty Alleviation of the Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family. The Secretariat serves as the EU National Roma Contact Point and implements the European program “**Development of the National Roma Platform for Consultation and Dialogue**” (RomaPlatformEL – CERV-2022-NRCP, GA NO: 101095343). This project supports the implementation of the NRIS Roma 2021–2030 and strengthens dialogue and cooperation within the operational bodies of the strategy.



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