



## Country fiche: LUXEMBURG

### Position of civil society involved in the Roma Civil Monitor

#### SUBSTANTIVE POLICY AREAS

##### STRENGTHS/KEY ELEMENTS OF THE MS APPROACH

##### WEAKNESSES/GAPS/RECOMMENDATIONS

#### EDUCATION

- The 2017 secondary education reform aims to increase flexibility by redesigning the guidance and support processes and monitoring the measures for learners in difficulty, through learner guidance, educational and psychosocial support, as well as learners' and parents' participation.
- Childcare-service vouchers system and various forms of State support exist, but it is not known if Roma families are included in the system.
- Secondary schools may organise special activities and special classes for the pupils in difficulties.

- There is no information about the situation of Roma in the education system in Luxembourg (i.e. attendance, school segregation, special education, discrimination).
- Although free of charge, early childhood education for the three-year-olds is optional. It would be in the benefit of the children and their families if the compulsory education would start at the age of three, which would facilitate early childhood development, language learning, etc.

#### EMPLOYMENT

- Mainstream public employment services are available to Roma jobseekers.

- There is no information on actual access and effectiveness of public employment services among Roma.
- There is no information on actual use of anti-discrimination laws by Roma.

#### HEALTHCARE

- Luxembourg has a well-funded healthcare system. The basic coverage is available free of charge to all citizens and residents with legal administrative status. It is also offered both to cross-border workers and their family members.
- There is financial support for those who cannot afford to pay the contribution to the health insurance.

- Homeless people and undocumented immigrants who do not meet the formal conditions to be insured encounter difficulties in accessing healthcare.
- There is no information about actual use of healthcare services by Roma.

#### HOUSING

- There is no residential segregation of Roma who are second or third generation migrants and who arrived in Luxembourg during the Balkan wars.

- There are no specific measures or programmes for Roma or any information regarding the housing situation of Roma.
- Camping sites prohibit halting for Travellers.

#### HORIZONTAL MEASURES

##### STRENGTHS/KEY ELEMENTS OF THE MS APPROACH

##### WEAKNESSES/GAPS/RECOMMENDATIONS

#### ANTI-DISCRIMINATION

- Since 2012, no reports on human rights, discrimination or racism in Luxembourg specify anything about Roma, and there is no evidence of school or residential segregation.

- The equality body in Luxembourg, the Centre for Equal Treatment (CET) cannot receive complaints about discrimination, according to their status.
- Neither the CET nor the Ombudsperson can represent victims of discrimination in the courts. As a result, there is no procedure enabling all victims of discrimination to assert their rights easily.

#### FIGHTING ANTIGYPSYISM

- Concerning fighting racism, Luxembourg has the necessary institutional settings, and there is an interest in improving it.

- Antigypsyism is not officially recognised by the state.
- The tragic experience of Roma in the World War II is not at all mentioned in the history books, due to lack of



evidence. Luxembourg has officially recognised the Holocaust, but there is no official acknowledgment of the Genocide of the Roma. Research centres and museums could develop and include sections on the Roma Holocaust in World War II.

- There are no official statistics regarding the hate crime or speech against Roma.

**ADDRESSING SPECIFIC NEEDS OF MOST VULNERABLE GROUPS AMONG ROMA**

- The position of the National Roma Contact Point is part of the “Solidarity” division of the Ministry of the Family, the Integration and the Greater Region; this division is responsible, among others, for LGBT, psycho-therapeutic support and homelessness issues.
- If preschool from the age of three years were not only free of charge but also mandatory, it would facilitate the development, including language learning, of children from migrant/disadvantaged families.

**STRUCTURAL MEASURES**

**STRENGTHS/KEY ELEMENTS OF THE MS APPROACH**

**WEAKNESSES/GAPS/RECOMMENDATIONS**

**STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT AT THE CENTRAL LEVEL**

- As the number of Roma in the country is marginal and they do not face visible inequalities (or there is no information about them), Luxembourg does not have a Roma inclusion strategy, but an integrated set of policy measures (NRIS).
- In 2013, the Luxembourg Ministry of the Family, the Integration and the Greater Region has produced a *Concept Paper on the National Roma Integration Strategy – Final Report*, which represents a needs assessment of the Roma community in Luxembourg
- The NRIS 2012-2020 was submitted to the EC in 2012, without any input from any Roma organization or individuals living in Luxembourg.
- The NRIS does not contain targeted measures and programs for Roma, nor there are specific budgetary allocations. The NRIS overlaps with the national social integration policies.
- Since 2012, there are no publicly available monitoring or progress reports regarding implementation.
- The NRCP is not in charge of implementation, but in order to communicate the progress of implementation, NRCP has to be involved in monitoring and evaluation. NRCP should also be in charge of coordinating research/studies on the situation of Roma in Luxembourg, which can contribute to adjust the approach to the needs of its target group.

**CIVIL PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERMENT**

- There is no information available on the existence of Roma self-empowered initiatives in the fields of arts, culture, women and youth movement, etc.
- The integrated sets of policy measures do not include any reference to Roma empowerment and participation.
- An action that reduced all non-Luxembourgish nationals’ political participation was the referendum held on 7 June 2015 on the right of “foreigners” to vote in national elections. The results were negative.
- Currently, there is no Roma-focused, nor Roma-led NGO in Luxembourg.

**MAINSTREAMING OF ROMA INCLUSION AT THE LOCAL LEVEL**

- There are no local or regional actions or programs targeting directly Roma or any information that Roma are among their beneficiaries.
- There are no ethnically disaggregated data available and no self-declared Roma. Due to lack of data on Roma living in Luxembourg currently, is it unclear how many are Luxembourgish citizens, how many asylum seekers, or applicants for international protection.

**DATA COLLECTION**

- According to the Council of Europe, the number of Roma in Luxembourg is estimated to be about 300.
- No more detailed information about Roma in the country are available.

**EXAMPLE OF PROMISING PRACTICE**

A wide range of state aids have been put in place to encourage individual initiatives for the construction and improvement of housing for all who can claim it based of their income and family situation. The diversity of individual housing aids (bonuses, subsidies, etc.) ranges from acquisition and construction premiums, through the payment of interest and government guarantees to premiums for the improvement of housing and special development aids for individuals with one or more motor impairments.

In terms of education, school attendance is compulsory and free of charge in Luxembourg for four to sixteen-year-olds. There is a childcare service vouchers system in place. Textbooks and public transport are free for the students and, from 2020 all public transport will be free of charge in Luxembourg, for everyone. There are a variety of professional orientation services for the youth to identify their interests, abilities and skills, learn about vocational training and/or professional opportunities and receive support in their decision-making on future career.

#### • MOST IMPORTANT PRIORITIES TO BE ADDRESSED

- To get in contact with the Roma community to assess their current situation and to create tailored policies addressing their needs. Also, the authorities have to address the issue of acute lack of data/information regarding the situation of Roma in Luxembourg.
- To support the Roma community in setting up an organisation to promote their cultural heritage and history.
- To make pre-school education compulsory from age of 3 for all.