

**The abstract in an international language (English) of the doctoral thesis
with keywords and table of contents**

CHAPTER 1. ROMA INCLUSION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ROMANIA. PUBLIC POLICIES. NOTIONS, THEORIES AND MODELS.....	14
1.1. Public Policies. Definitions. Theories and Models.....	15
1.2. A Brief History of Public Policies for Roma in Romania and in European Union.....	31
1.3. Roma inclusion at the level of the Member States of the European Union.....	33
1.4. Roma inclusion in Romania.....	39
1.5. Structures, Mechanisms and Tools for Strategy Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation..	46
1.6. Similarities and Differences between Strategy 2015 and Strategy 2022	53
II. CHAPTER 2. EVALUATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MEASURES IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.....	65
2.1 Sociological Survey.....	68
2.1.1 Situation of Employment of Roma Experts in the Prefect's Institution.....	69
2.1.2 Situation of Local Roma Experts Employed in Territorial Administrative Units.....	70
2.1.3 Structures and Working Mechanisms.....	71
2.2. National Agency for Roma.....	75
2.2.1. Legal Framework of Establishment and Functioning. Mission and Tasks.....	76
2.2.2. Management of the National Agency for Roma.....	80
2.2.3. Activity and Allocated Resources.....	82
2.2.4. Achievements and Limits in Fulfilling the Mission.....	86
CHAPTER 3. ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MEASURES IN EDUCATION FOR ROMA INCLUSION.....	90
3.1. Education - Key Area in Roma Public Policies. Challenges and Priorities	91
3.2. Sociological Survey on the Analysis of Some Results of Implemented Measures for Roma Inclusion in Education.....	93
3.2.1. "School after School" Program (ȘDS).....	97
3.2.2. Second Chance Program.....	98
3.2.3. School Mediation Program.....	99
3.2.4. School Desegregation or Prevention of School Segregation on Ethnic Grounds. County School Inspectorates and School Units.....	100
CHAPTER 4. CONDITIONS AND PRECONDITIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND FUNCTIONING OF INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS.....	109
4.1. PHARE Program - Access to Education for Disadvantaged Groups.....	110
4.2. Experiment Project in Romania. Inclusive Schools Network in Cluj-Napoca.....	114
4.3. Unique Project and Experiment in France.....	121
CONCLUSIONS.....	133
Annex 1 - Monitoring and Evaluation Tool for Educational Measures.....	141
Annex 2 - Interview Grid (ROMEDIN Project).....	145
Bibliographical References	

Paper title: "Public Policies for Roma. A comprehensive and comparative analysis on contexts, processes, mechanisms and outcomes in Roma social inclusion in Romania"

Short introduction:

The choice of the research topic on public policies for Roma inclusion in the post-communist period was motivated by the author's personal interest and desire to research and analyze the causes of the failure of the Romanian state to achieve the assumed results in the process of Roma inclusion, a process that started more than three decades ago. At the same time, the motivation to carry out this study is related to the confidence in the usefulness of this approach, which provides interested and responsible parties with a description of the elements and factors that intervene in the process of public policies for the Roma, in their complete cycle, which influence, potentiating or blocking the achievement of performance in Roma inclusion. The study also provides conclusions on the contributions, role and potential of actors and institutions with responsibilities or interest in the field of Roma socio-economic inclusion in Romania.

The novelty of this scientific approach derives from the author's quality, being an active participant in the process of Roma inclusion, as an expert, former employee of a central public institution with explicit responsibilities in the process of Roma inclusion and improvement of the condition of Roma communities in Romania, observer and researcher, concerned to carry out a scientific analysis and evaluation that will produce useful conclusions about the performance of the process of Roma inclusion, especially for the institutions responsible for monitoring and evaluating the Strategy, but also for its revision, the conclusions having practical value. The novelty of the work is doubled by the critical process involving a rational analysis of the results and impact of the measures designed and implemented.

Lucrarea este de mare actualitate deoarece procesul de incluziune socio-economică a romilor este în desfășurare, încă departe de rezultatele asumate, Guvernul României fiind angajat în continuare în procesul de incluziune. Așadar, studiul întreprins aduce în spațiul public concluzii utile, atât pentru actorii cheie implicați în procesul de elaborare de politici publice pentru romi, pentru actorii responsabili cu implementarea de măsuri specifice și evaluarea rezultatelor obținute, respectiv pentru experții din instituțiile centrale, județene și locale, dar și pentru activiștii din sectorul nonguvernamental, interesați să ofere servicii, proiecte și programe adecvate nevoilor reale ale romilor, să cunoască factorii și elementele care condiționează și potențează obținerea performanțelor în procesul incluziunii sociale a romilor.

Methodology:

The scientific endeavor undertaken in this paper presents :

1. A description of the national and international context in which the first initiatives for the protection of Roma rights and the improvement of their situation and the first measures of the Romanian Government emerged, a national context that includes a presentation of the target group, as well as ways of data collection by public authorities.
2. An inventory of the main public policy documents and measures for Roma in Romania, the institutions and structures dedicated to Roma inclusion and an analysis of the contents and adequacy of the measures to the needs of the target group, i.e. the coherence and interrelation of sectoral documents and measures.
3. Studies and analysis on the implementation of measures, the state of achievement of objectives, results obtained and indicators assumed in two important areas, namely in Public Administration and Education. Reflections on institutional commitment, analysis of planned and allocated resources, behavior of officials and institutional practices.
4. Study on the organization and functioning of a central institution, the National Agency for Roma, with the task of coordinating public policies for Roma.
5. Study on the premises and necessary conditions for the establishment and functioning of a network

of inclusive schools at local level, from the comparative perspective of two pilot projects implemented in Romania and France. Resources allocated, commitment and involvement of central and local public authorities.

6. Inventory of factors that enhance performance and factors that determine failure.

Scientific theoretical and methodological support in the elaboration of the paper

Theoretical documentation provided varied perspectives and in-depth knowledge on theories in the field of public policy and management in public administration in general, regardless of subjects and field, and for specific documentation, the sources of documentation were broadened, reviewing topical national and international works, including studies, research, reports and national and international inclusion models. The theoretical documentation consisted of a literature review in the field of public policies in general and public policies targeting Roma and the consultation of specialized works that allowed the use of information through systematization and processing. The ideas from current works and the critical evaluation of the consulted materials contributed to the specific documentation on the situation of Roma communities in Romania, public policies for vulnerable groups - Roma, as well as to the choice of appropriate research methods and techniques. The techniques and tools for the present research were used, both in the theoretical documentation phase and in the research phase, using techniques based on observation, analysis and synthesis, comparative evaluation and critical analysis of existing data.

Thus, the following analyses were carried out:

1. The analysis of national and international documents aimed at Roma inclusion, period 2000 - 2022.
2. Analysis of the general legal framework in Romania and in the EU regarding public policies for Roma, organization and functioning of institutions and structures.
3. Critical analysis of public policies for Roma inclusion at national, regional and local level, post-communist period (reports, evaluations, studies).
4. Survey on the implementation of a sectoral measure in the field of education, at national level, data analysis of a sociological survey conducted with County School Inspectorates, 2018.
5. Survey on the implementation of a sectoral measure in the field of community development and public administration, data analysis of a sociological survey conducted with town halls, 2018.
6. Secondary analysis on the reports and statistics obtained from educational projects implemented in Romania at national and local level and an educational project implemented regionally in France.
7. Analysis of independent evaluations on the implementation of measures and results achieved in education.

The research tools were adapted to each stage, thus, in the theoretical documentation stage, fact sheets were used, and in the research stage, specific tools were developed for collecting information - questionnaire and interview guide, as well as tools for data processing and interpretation.

The area of investigation in this paper covered the spectrum of public policies for Roma and the situation of Roma in Romania in the context of regime change, a violent transition from the communist regime to a fragile democracy, a period that was marked by instability, conflicts, tensions and political, social and economic crises.

CHAPTER 1. ROMA INCLUSION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ROMANIA. PUBLIC POLICIES. NOTIONS, THEORIES AND MODELS

Keywords: state, society, government, governance, public policy, public authorities, democracy, human rights, inclusion

Summary

The first chapter of the paper presents the main theoretical elements related to public policies, namely definitions, models of elaboration and typologies of public policies, which contribute to the identification and understanding of the approach and perspectives followed in Romania, as well as the process of elaboration of public policies and the choice of models of public policy analysis.

The chapter also presents the national and European context in which the first public policy approaches for Roma were initiated and conceived and the first measures were elaborated and, subsequently, the first Strategy for Roma inclusion was elaborated and adopted, in the European Union and in Romania, in the context of pre-accession and Romania's accession to the European Union. At the same time, this chapter shows the determining role of the European institutions in this process. The section dedicated to the presentation of the situation of Roma in Romania shows the importance and the imperative and urgent need for actions to improve the situation of vulnerable and disadvantaged Roma communities by the state, namely the intervention of the governments that have assumed the governance. A brief history of public policies for the Roma minority in Romania and a comparative perspective of Roma inclusion in several Member States in the European Union shows, on the one hand, the unitary and centrally directed approach of the European institutions, on the other hand, it highlights the varied and different perspectives that Member States have chosen, as well as the evolution of public policies for Roma at the level of Member States and at the level of the European Union.

The chapter also presents a detailed analysis of the content of the first strategy for Roma inclusion and an overview of the evolution of public policies for Roma, the presentation of mechanisms, structures and institutions dedicated to Roma inclusion and concludes with a brief comparative analysis of the last two strategies, namely the 2015 Strategy and the 2022 Strategy.

CHAPTER 2. EVALUATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MEASURES IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Keywords: sectoral measures, mechanisms, instruments, instruments, structures, implementation, monitoring, evaluation

Summary

Chapter 2 of this paper illustrates how the sectoral measures in the field of public administration have been implemented at local, regional and central level, the results achieved and the degree of realization of the objectives formulated for the field of public administration, taking into account the fact that "Community development and public administration" is one of the ten action lines of the first Roma Strategy and has continued to remain important in subsequent Strategies - either as a sectoral area in Government Decision no. 522 of 2006 for the approval of the Government of Romania's Strategy for the Improvement of the Situation of Roma, or as an action direction within the "Social Infrastructure and Services" domain, together with the other two defined directions, namely (1) Child Protection and (2) Justice and Public Order in Government Decision no. 18 of 2015 for the approval of the Romanian Government Strategy for the inclusion of Romanian citizens belonging to the Roma minority for the period 2015-2020. Considering the longitudinal importance of this direction/field of action, found in all the Strategies since 2001, this chapter presents two studies, based on theoretical models of analysis,

which were conducted to analyze the implementation of measures aimed at increasing the capacity of local and central public administration for the implementation of the Roma Strategy. The first study, respectively the sociological survey conducted with the County Offices for Roma, was carried out at national level on the employment and functioning of Roma or Roma experts in local and county public institutions in order to increase the capacity of the institutions to implement the Strategy, set up local/county structures and develop local planning/county strategy documents and include Roma community issues on the agenda of local and county authorities. The second study was carried out to assess the administrative capacity, authority and coordination capacity of the National Agency for Roma, the Government's specialized body for Roma public policies, responsible for the implementation of public policy and the functioning of state institutions involved in the implementation of measures.

The first study is based on the public policy development model, the analysis focusing on the last two essential stages of the public policy cycle, namely stage (3) Implementation of measures and stage (4) Monitoring and evaluation of public policies, following the first two stages of (1) Defining problems and putting them on the public policy agenda and (2) Finding solutions, decisions. The study on assessing the capacity of the coordinating institution of the Strategy, was conducted through the analysis of documents, activity reports, specific legislation for the establishment, organization and functioning, reports, studies and analyses that concerned the work of the institution. Some elements considered as defining in the specialized literature were chosen for analysis, namely the analysis of the mission and legal attributions, the size/dimension of the institution, the competences of the employees, the allocated resources, the activity carried out and the management of the institution.

CHAPTER 3. EVALUATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MEASURES IN EDUCATION FOR ROMA INCLUSION

Keywords: inclusive education, discrimination, discrimination, segregation, desegregation, educational programs and projects, funding

Summary

Education has a decisive role in the development of individuals, societies and civilizations, undoubtedly, so that the degree of development of societies, culture and civilization are interdependent with the degree of education of individuals and populations, education is considered an indispensable element for society by theoreticians and specialists in the field of education. Theories and models relating to education from an economic, cultural or social perspective emphasize the correlations between education and society, with school being the institution that plays not only a training role but also an educational one, starting with the assimilation of skills and the formation of attitudes that can be applied both in and out of school (Androne M; Bulzan C.) School education is a priority for civilized societies that respect the right of all individuals to education and reject acts of discrimination and exclusion. Modern and civilized societies conceive education through the ability to know and understand the needs of education, the development of educational policies that meet the proposed objectives and the allocation of human and material-financial resources. Taking into account the arguments presented, as well as the consistency of the educational measures in the Roma Strategies, chapter 3 of this paper presents the educational situation of Roma pupils and adults, challenges and priorities, as a result of the alarming rates of school dropout, illiteracy among Roma pupils and the harmful long-term aspects of school segregation, a phenomenon present in the Romanian educational system.

A sub-chapter is dedicated to a broader assessment of the implementation of measures in education for Roma inclusion and the results achieved, compared to the results estimated in the Roma Strategy Action Plan. Thus, a study is presented, an evaluation of four measures in the field of education (the

"School after School" program, the "Second Chance" program, the training program for school mediators and actions/mechanism for effective identification, monitoring and operational intervention for the elimination of situations of discrimination and educational segregation and results/indicators related to these measures. The study is based on a sociological survey, conducted by the author - through the County Offices for Roma who collected the requested data, by questionnaire, from the County School Inspectorates, at national level.

Another section attempts to make an inventory of the conditions and premises necessary for the development and functioning of inclusive schools, programs and projects that have been carried out in Romania with the aim of implementing inclusive education in Romanian schools. The last two subchapters present one pilot project in the field of education, one in Romania - Pilot project in Romania. Rețeaua școlile incluzive în Cluj-Napoca, finalized, and the other in France - Unique French experiment project, La mixité sociale dans les collèges / Social diversity in colleges, was started in January 2017 and is currently ongoing.

CHAPTER 4. CONDITIONS AND PRECONDITIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND FUNCTIONING OF INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS

Summary

The general idea of inclusive education was born as a reaction to certain approaches in traditional education that exclude different categories of pupils from mainstream schools for reasons of disability, learning difficulties and problems, language problems, family vulnerabilities and others. Specialists in the field believe that inclusion has its roots in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UN 1948), the declaration being a common aspiration towards which all peoples and nations should strive, specifically Article 1 recognizes that "all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights". The concept has been complemented and further developed by other international organizations: the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Bank and others.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) considers inclusive education to be based on the right of every child to a quality education that fulfills basic learning needs and enriches life. Inclusive education also aims to develop the full potential of each individual, with particular emphasis on vulnerable and marginalized groups.

The Salamanca Statement, adopted at the World Conference on "Access and Quality" organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Spanish Ministry of Education in 1994, states that schools should include all children in the educational process, regardless of their physical, intellectual, social, emotional, linguistic or other conditions. Inclusive education and inclusive schools have been concerns of some non-governmental organizations, as well as constant measures within the Inclusion Strategies for Roma children and pupils in Romania, with national programmes and local projects being carried out to implement specific activities leading to the achievement of assumed results and the attainment of established indicators. Thus, we mention the non-governmental projects run by the Education 2000+ Center, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Save the Children, the Roma Education Fund (REF) and others.

Conclusions

During the elaboration of this paper, as a result of the documentation, research and study activities, several thematic conclusions have been formulated for each chapter, so that at the end of this approach and at the end of this paper, some essential conclusions can be presented, structured in the logic of the stages of the process of substantiation and approval of a public policy and, at the same time, correlated with the working hypotheses formulated at the beginning of the paper. The process of realization of any public policy follows a pattern, as we mentioned in the section

devoted to theoretical models of public policy, and this design model is consecrated in the literature as the public policy cycle and involves several stages. In this analysis we have used the four-stage model, illustrated in the figure Public Policy Cycle. Thus, we begin by presenting the findings for the first stage in the process of developing and approving public policies for Roma, namely:

Defining problems and putting them on the public and institutional agenda

As presented in the first chapter of this paper, the theories of public policy programming and design, as well as models of public policy analysis, emphasize the importance of information and real statistical data on the target group, and the correct identification and analysis of their needs and problems. Our research has shown that the process of collecting real and relevant data by state institutions, at the central, but especially at the local level, and the management of databases is carried out with difficulty. Census results from the post-communist period have been contested for not reflecting the real number of Roma, thus European institutions, non-governmental organizations and research institutes have put forward various figures and information on the Roma population in Romania.

Data collection processes are often vitiated by public institutions with clear responsibilities and tasks in the implementation of measures for the Roma population, which declare that they do not collect statistical data and information by ethnicity, citing policies of confidentiality and protection of personal data, or that they do not collect data at all, citing lack of qualified staff for the collection and processing of statistical data and/or lack of logistical facilities (programs for the collection and processing of statistical data), and poor quality data and lack of reliable sources of information constitute a major challenge in public policy making. Lack of information and poor quality data on the situation of Roma lead to misinterpretation of the needs and problems of Roma communities.

The precarious and problematic condition of the Roma requires further intervention, but despite the fact that this situation cumulatively fulfills the three conditions, the problems being (1) significant, (2) of high intensity and (3) of sustainability over time, the situation of the Roma has hardly entered the institutional agenda and has remained a priority, since the process of determining the public/institutional agenda is specific and depends on the action and influence of a number of actors, the most influential of which are the media and decision-makers, such as political parties, political leaders, European institutions, European Union priorities and interests that facilitate between the two agendas, the public and the institutional. The public agenda regarding the situation and problems of the Roma has been inflamed by the media, all reports and analyses on the image of the Roma in the media show that the main promoter and instrument of negative stereotyping of the Roma minority has been the print media, the majority of publications portrayed Roma ethnic groups in an overwhelming proportion as actors of actions with a strongly negative significance. The major political parties and politicians who held public authority, with the power and responsibility to make laws and policies, were not Roma allies, displaying attitudes of ignorance or hostility that were reflected in the political parties' governing programs - Roma did not count as voters. Political will has been slow to emerge.

Getting on the institutional agenda is done through mechanisms of public consultation, lobbying and advocacy. Public consultation is a process that contributes to knowledge of the problems and needs of Roma communities, but also to finding solutions, especially appropriate solutions for the population groups to which they are addressed. The success of a public policy is directly related to the involvement of specialists, representatives of the target group, experts, authorities with competences and responsibilities in the targeted areas of activity, potential funders and donors. There is therefore a wide range of actors who have the potential to support and influence solutions and decisions, and it is recommended that sufficient and appropriate time and space be allocated to this consultation phase. In practice, the importance of consultation has been minimized and formalized, tending to be reduced in order not to waste time and resources on consultation meetings and meetings.

Analysts believe that the Strategy for the Improvement of the Situation of Roma, as adopted in 2001, was the direct consequence of a constant dialog between the two structures, i.e. between the public-governmental sphere and the civic circle of the Roma movement, after which the role of Roma in the

consultations became weaker and weaker. As a result, the Country Reports prepared by the European Commission since 2002, during Romania's pre-accession phase to the European Union, criticized the fact that the implementation of the Roma Strategy was overly politicized and pointed out the need to involve Roma in the process of monitoring and reviewing the Strategy.

The Roma issue entered the institutional agenda and enjoyed governmental action due to the lobbying and advocacy activities of the European institutions, but also due to the forms of organization and discourse of some Roma representatives, who built an internal power base.

Finding solutions and decision-making

The model for the development and implementation of public policies for the Roma minority in Romania is a political, incremental model, because the decision-making process regarding Roma public policies in Romania is characterized by limited rationality due to multiple constraints, budgetary, legislative, procedural and electoral. The design of Roma public policies in Romania has involved several actors in decision making, with the same or different interests. Public decision-makers did not want to lose political support for the decisions that were intended to be taken, under external pressure, nor did they want to lose the support of certain important groups in the political arena.

In the process of adopting decisions and solutions in order to solve the problem, the technique of slipping between the lines was followed, with relatively small proposals and amendments, minimizing the number and role of responsible institutions and people "bothered" by these new measures, but supporting the improvement of the problematic circumstance and the technique of small steps in order not to upset important and majority groups of the population, to whom politicians are electorally accountable, sacrificing the relevance of solutions and the impact of decisions in a shorter time, i.e. achieving improvements in the situation of Roma in a shorter time horizon. The information needed to find solutions and make decisions was not complete, and the solutions chosen were not necessarily the best ones, but those that met with consensus among political representatives who sought not to upset more important segments of the political community, the majority segments of the population. The chosen solutions, not being the best, in the sense of appropriateness and relevance, including ethnicity, were often criticized by Roma and pro-Roma non-governmental organizations involved, often formally, in the process, pointing out that decision-making in the public sector must involve public participation and public administration must be concerned and take steps to build coalitions to solve problems, regardless of their scope and nature.

Decision-making was based on day-to-day experience and to a lesser extent on consultation, systematic documentation and analysis of the best solution and the most appropriate measures, thus the analytical value and relevance value is more limited. The civil society report on monitoring the quality of the National Strategic Framework for Roma Equality, Inclusion and Participation shows that the proposals of Roma civil society representatives were not taken into account in the drafting of the strategy as a result of the consultation process, their proposals not being included in the final document, while studies prepared by various national public entities or certain international studies were preferred. The most important disadvantage of the incremental model, pointed out in the literature, is that it cannot be used to make certain important social reform decisions.

The theory of incrementalism admits an increased level of equilibrium in society, which requires the reality of increased debate and seriousness at the level of political groups and the population, while the Romanian political class and the post-communist Romanian society have not had the increased maturity and culture of negotiation, which constitute important obstacles to Roma inclusion.

Public policy implementation

The real commitment of local and central public administration institutions in the implementation of measures, effective practices and professional behavior of experts prove to be significant barriers in the implementation of public policies. Therefore, the heads of public institutions and politically appointed officials should exercise control over civil servants, not only for the adoption of one course of action or another, but also for the implementation of adopted public policies. The leaders of public institutions

must also be concerned with the qualification and training of human resources and experts so that they can manage the collection and management of information and databases, the implementation and reporting of activities and results.

In practice, a significant proportion of the heads of public institutions and politically appointed officials are unaware of and only formally involved in the implementation of the measures for which they are responsible, and public institutions, especially at local level, face a serious shortage of qualified human resources for complex activities and quality service delivery.

The appointment of a responsible institution with a good coordination capacity for the implementation of public policy for Roma is one of the keys to success, as it is well known in the specialized literature that the coordination and management capacity of the institution is of vital importance for ensuring performance. As we have shown in this paper, the National Agency for Roma has become much undersized in relation to its intended responsibilities, suffering a drastic reduction in staff, insufficient resources for coordination, a limitation of competences and a marginalization of importance, considered a showcase institution, a front, in relation to the European Union policy. It does not have a clear and coherent mandate, nor does it have sufficient legal prerogatives to hold accountable the institutions responsible for the weak or non-implementation of the measures set out in the Strategy, institutions that do not comply with the legal provisions of the Strategy, as we show in the findings of the sociological surveys in the fields of education and public administration, not having dedicated staff for Roma inclusion, namely local Roma experts, Roma experts in the County Roma Offices, and institutions that do not respond to requests for monitoring and evaluation on the implementation of public policies for Roma. The 2022 Strategy defines the roles and responsibilities of the NRA, at the central, county and local levels, as the agency responsible for both the development and implementation of the Strategy and its monitoring.

Adequately planned resources, i.e. the necessary and sufficient resources, as well as their timely allocation, are mandatory conditions for achieving the proposed results, both for the functioning and management of the agency responsible for coordinating public policies for Roma and for the implementation of the measures set out in the Strategy. These conditions were neglected, the budget section of all Roma Strategies had vague and ambiguous provisions, with no concrete amounts allocated from the state budget or from the budgets of the responsible institutions/ministries. Adequate funding of public policies, in general, is a prerequisite for the success of a public policy, and this is a unanimously accepted conclusion by specialists and practitioners worldwide. The study Strategies YES, Financing NO. Mechanisms for financing public policies for Roma in Romania, is a trenchant conclusion that the main causes were the lack of the necessary funding, which is why the strategy did not achieve its objectives. The study shows that the budget forecast necessary for the implementation of the 2015 Strategy (adopted at the time of the study) is not included in the active budget lines of the responsible ministries (in areas such as education, employment, housing, health and infrastructure) and without the guarantee of adequate funding, the strategy is a "dead letter".

Monitoring and evaluation of public policy

The structures and mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation proposed in the Roma Strategies have not changed fundamentally, only slight variations, and are foreseen at central, local and county level. In each Strategy, the role and responsibilities of the NRAs are by far the most numerous and complex, supporting the CDMI/CIMES/CIIMES, the Ministerial Commissions for Roma, the Thematic Working Groups at the central level, but also the BJR/County Councils/ Local Authorities, with the responsibility for the elaboration of working tools at local/county/central level (procedures, analyses, studies, monitoring and evaluation methods, strategic planning methods) and monitoring reports on the implementation of the Strategy, based on the reports submitted by the central and county structures. The volume of work, as well as the vast expertise needed to cover the sectoral areas addressed by the Strategy measures are overwhelming for an agency with only 25 employees, which has experienced a numerical and not only numerical involution, going from 50 employees to 25, working exclusively at

the central level, after having irresponsibly lost the regional structures in 2018.

In the process of monitoring and evaluation of the Strategy, the structures and mechanisms created are not in themselves problems, the real problems are the lack of commitment and low interest of the institutions responsible for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Strategy, often maintained by the attitude of the heads of these institutions, characterized by formal involvement, superficiality in terms of knowledge of the situation of Roma, ignorance, inconsistency and lack of firmness of decisions.

Lack of clarity in terms of results, unmeasurable indicators and lack of estimates of expenditure are other impediments in the complex task of analyzing and assessing the degree to which the measures have been implemented and the objectives set out in the Strategy have been achieved.

Another problem, which obstructs the monitoring and evaluation process, refers to the collection and processing of data, respectively the lack of a data collection system and the defective database management, but also the logistical aspects regarding equipment, programs/software and personnel. Qualified, imperative resources necessary to ensure a consolidated system/mechanism of monitoring and evaluation.

The revision of the strategy is necessary and possible, in all the documents being provided for review modalities, thus, in the strategy 2022 it is mentioned that the strategy in the middle of the implementation period will be subjected to at least a review, but the strategy and action plan can be revised at any time, Following the monitoring processes.