

# ROMA IN CROATIA AND THEIR POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

Rakičan, Slovenia, April 28, 2022

# Governance

- ▶ Parliament
- ▶ Government (Ministries, State Offices, Government Offices)
- ▶ Regional self-governments ( 20 Counties-županije) + The City of Zagreb
- ▶ Local self-governments (128 towns (gradovi) and 428 municipalities (općine))
- ▶ Deputy county prefects in 11 counties, and 55 deputy mayors towns / municipalities
- ▶ In 153 LSGs minorities entitled to representation, in 8 LSGS not represented even after additional elections in May 2021 (no candidacies)

# National Minorities – Framework

- ▶ Constitution (22 national minorities)
- ▶ Constitutional Act on Rights of National Minorities (2002, 2010):
- ▶ language and script, traditional names, insignia, flags, culture & tradition, education, religious matters, media, political participation, representation in state administration, judiciary, and local administration
- ▶ Other legislative acts related to elections (from local to central level), on regional and local administration, culture, language, employment (12 Roma (0.03 %) out of 47 501 employee at the state level, 5 out of 16 691 at the local level, Dec 31, 2021 )
- ▶ Government Program 2020–2024 + Operational Programs of National Minorities 2021–2024

# National Roma Policy Framework

- ▶ National Roma Program 2003–2012
- ▶ AP Roma Decade 2005–2012
- ▶ National Roma Integration Strategy 2013–2020
- ▶ Action plan for the Implementation of NRIS NSUR 2013–2015, 2017–2020
- ▶ Local Action Plans until 2020 (6 out of 10 counties)
- ▶ In addition to Roma participation also needs for coordination, integrated action...(the Evaluation of the AP NRIS implementation, 2015)

# Roma in Croatia

- ▶ Dubrovnik, 1362
- ▶ History of persecution and discrimination, culminating in WWII (Samudaripen)
- ▶ Heterogeneity (genetic study 2013), regional differences (language, religion, culture)
- ▶ Census 2021 3 888 529 (2011 4 284 889), results on minorities in June 2022
- ▶ Roma 2011 16 975, 2001 9 463
- ▶ Research (history, health studies, GOHRRNM base line data)

# Roma Participation – Executive and Representative Bodies

- ▶ National Parliament: 1 Roma (for Roma and 11 other NM) 7 other NM MPs / 151), 2020
- ▶ County (regional) / Municipal (local) executive: 2 Roma deputy mayors, May 2021
- ▶ County / municipal representative bodies: county assemblies – 1 Roma; municipal councils – 12 Roma in 11 councils, May 2021

# Roma Participation – Advisory Bodies

- ▶ National Council for National Minorities (Savjet za nacionalne manjine)
- ▶ Councils of national minorities (vijeća nacionalnih manjina) as advisory bodies (33 Roma councils, 3 Roma representatives), May 2021
- ▶ No coordination of Roma CNMs
- ▶ no data on Roma women and youth participation

# CNMs

- ▶ IPA funded GOHRRNM support to minorities on local level, 2017
- ▶ GAP Analysis of existing capacities and needs (Karajic et al), 54 % CNMs responded, including 19 Roma
- ▶ Respect of rights, roles of institutions, limiting factors, level of participation, advisory role, preparedness (material and professional) for work, forms and quality of cooperation, networking, local development)
- ▶ Monitoring of the implementation of the CARNM



# Roma CNMs

- ▶ Highest level of younger age groups (16 % under 30),
- ▶ Lowest level of education (47 % primary school or lower), computer and communication skills, poorest provision of offices and equipment
- ▶ Lowest level of information on minority rights as opposed to being most addressed of all CNMs for violation of rights
- ▶ Even lower capacities of individual representatives
- ▶ Conflicts within councils, importance of coordination (of councils etc)
- ▶ Negative media approach, poor media representation of CNMs

# Gender and Roma Civil Society

- ▶ Poor capacities and participation, though increasing
- ▶ Almost 200 registered NGOs, 30 active
- ▶ (Traditional) male leader(ship)s
- ▶ From 3 activists (1990) to 5 Roma women NGOs (2015), now less
- ▶ Kali Sara

# Roma Youth

- ▶ Roma as a (national) minority
- ▶ Poor participation and representation
- ▶ Some progress (education, limited activism..)
- ▶ Recent activities for empowerment (young Roma networks, GOHRRNM trainings...)
- ▶ Gender aspect of Roma youth

# 2021 – 2027

- ▶ National Roma Inclusion Program 2021–2027
- ▶ Action Plan for the Implementation 2021–2022, 2023–2025, 2026–2027
- ▶ Local action plans
- ▶ ESF + (social cohesion grants, pilot centres, surveys and research general and health, education, employment)

# THANK YOU !

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