



CALL
on Equal Opportunity Funding Policy

We, the representatives of Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia and Spain

as the Members of the European Union and
as participating countries of the Decade of Roma Inclusion Program

reminding that,

nowadays about 10-12 million Roma people live in the EU Member States. Most of them live in extreme-poverty brought about by the fact that they have low school qualification, they are long-term unemployed and they live inhuman environment in Roma ghettos. The segregation, which manifest itself primarily in Roma people's separation and social exclusion based on their social and ethnical status, causes serious problems as well. The segregation hinders equal access to basic services as health care, social services, educational system or provides access to services with lower quality only,

draw the attention of all stakeholders (particularly the EU Institutions and the Governments of Member States) that,

**THE EQUAL ACCESS OF ROMA TO EU FUNDS IS ESSENTIAL FOR
STRENGTHENING SOCIAL INCLUSION!**

Accordingly, we propose implementation of minimum requirements in EU funds' allocation.

- Beside of targeted programs, in the allocation of EU funds (particularly European Social Fund and European Regional Development Fund) the equal opportunity criteria, as precondition could be considered horizontally, and verifiably.
 - The aspect of anti-segregation as well as non-support of projects increasing segregation could be respected in all projects financed by EU funds.
 - Priority for complex programs (focusing at the same time to educational, employment, housing and health problems as well), aiming desegregation could be ensured.
- The above mentioned issues could be on the agenda of existing platforms (e.g. EU ROMA, European Roma Platform, and European Roma Summit) and for the further development of Equal Opportunity Funding Policy a task force by member states and representatives of EU institutions could be created.