

RegGov Fast Track Network

Regional Governance of Sustainable
Integrated Neighbourhood Development



"Regions, Cities, Neighbourhoods - strong Partners"

September 2009



Thematic Cluster 3:

The Integration of ROMA-communities and
other deprived and excluded groups into the
social, cultural and economic life of their cities

Seminar I | Nyíregyháza | 11 & 12 June 2009 | Seminar Report

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0. Preface

All European cities face problems with social polarisation and the concentration of social, environmental and economic problems in disadvantaged neighbourhoods. The new Member States of the EU are certainly facing even more severe special challenges when it comes to urban development and regeneration. With the opening of their borders and the fall of the former political systems, everything has changed there. Severe economic restructuring has meant a tremendous loss of employment opportunities, creating a burden on public resources and support. At the same time, there is an urgent need for investment in industrial areas and the housing stock, as well as technical and social infrastructure.

The fight for social coherence within our European society is therefore happening every day in local urban policy – at the level of our society where social exclusion, disadvantage and a lack of perspective in the life of many citizens becomes reality. In the current times of world-wide economic crisis these tendencies have been accelerated and reinforced and there is not yet clarity to which degree the negative impact of this crisis will hit cities – and especially their disadvantaged groups of citizens and their most deprived neighbourhoods.

A successful and sustainable regeneration of urban such disadvantaged urban areas has become more and more a “matter of partnership”. There are many reasons to form such partnerships in order to achieve an efficient use of invested resources and sustainable results:

- On the one hand, public resources for urban development and regeneration are getting more and more scarce – and there is an urgent need to activate additional resources in the light of major challenges and severe investment needs in many European cities.
- On the other hand, acting in partnership does not only mean to activate and integrate more capital, it also involves more know-how and experience into the operation – especially valuable when public political know-how is combined with entrepreneurial know-how from the private sector and local know-how from the local community – the residents and local stakeholders from an area to be regenerated.
- And finally, especially the involvement of local people in the design and implementation can help to create a stronger sense of ownership and responsibility amongst the later users of newly created improvements – motivating them also to take care of improvements and take an active role in later maintenance.



The fight for social inclusion is
happening on the level of our
citiesandneighbourhoods

Preface

Citizens - from consumers
to co-producers of new
urban realities

All over Europe there are numerous examples of Good Practice when it comes to the challenge of motivating and activating local communities and citizens to take an active role in the improvement of their housing and living conditions. New organisational models such as Neighbourhood Management, new financial tools such as Neighbourhood Budgets and many creative methods of participation have enlarged the capacity of co-operation between the public sector and the local communities a lot and have at least started a shift for local people from being mere “consumers of public policy and projects” to assistant “co-producers” of a new future for their neighbourhood.

During the development of the Baseline Study for the RegGov-Network it has become obvious that hidden behind the debates and activities of this general “Participation Issue” there are special groups of residents who are not at all reached by the usual participation and empowerment activities and who tend to be completely forgotten when the future of their city is planned and turned into reality.

4 Thematic Clusters are the
focus of the contents related
RegGov work and production

The RegGov-partners have decided to dedicate 1 of the 4 Thematic Clusters to this topic – to a targeted attempt to find new, innovative and successful ways to integrate the most excluded groups of our urban society not only into the planning and regeneration process for their homes and neighbourhoods, but also in the social, cultural and economic life of the surrounding cities and regions.

In order to focus this work and to maintain the chance to produce something meaningful, it has been decided to focus all exchange activities and joint production in this cluster on two specific target groups:

- The Roma-communities which are an important group in most of the EU's new member states – but also are a topic in local policy in some of the Western European countries.
- The many young people living in the deprived areas of our cities – in most cases without any positive role model, without any realistic perspective in life – and normally either too frustrated to get involved in approaches to improve something – or not even asked with regard to topics and aspects of urban life which go beyond the design of playgrounds, youth centres or other leisure time facilities.

It is the objective of this Thematic Cluster to exchange experiences and ideas between the participating partners, to look for already existing examples of Good Practice in European cities – and then to jointly produce instruments, tools and activities that can help to overcome the massive exclusion of these target groups from neighbourhood life and any chance and perspective in their cities and regions.

David R. Froessler | September 2009

I. Welcome and general information on integrated urban regeneration in Nyíregyháza

Tamás Giba | Vice Mayor | City of Nyíregyháza



Welcome everybody here in Nyíregyháza. I am glad to see that this first seminar of the URBACT Thematic Cluster that deals with the integration of Roma-communities can take place in Nyíregyháza. We have high hopes regarding this programme. We hope to get professional support and good ideas, support to the implementation of urban rehabilitation programmes we are working on here in Nyíregyháza.

We started a few years ago to implement urban rehabilitation initiatives. The first example was a large programme related to the “Huszár Varosh District”. At that time, integrated resources, integrated finance, funding for urban rehabilitation was not available. So, I would rather call it a spontaneous urban rehabilitation initiative. Our disciplined work was accompanied by some luck as well, because we were able to coordinate resources, money from different funding sources, which resulted in a major change in the “Huszár Varosh District”.

We succeeded in getting financial support for the energy efficiency rehabilitation of the old buildings. In addition we were able to acquire funding for road development in the area. The biggest element of the programme was financed from the Regional Operational Programme and this initiative supported the renewal and rehabilitation of the public spaces in the area. With the coordination of funds from different sources we were able to have a major impact in a special area of the town, where the different funding opportunities could be combined to create synergies.

As a result of this integrated approach, we succeeded in stopping the downward spiral of a residential district, where negative effects came to the surface and segregation had already started. We stopped this negative process and I might say that we started a new development of the area. We feel that there is an increase in value of the area and improvements in the image of the area. It was important that the public initiative was accompanied by a private initiative of the people who live in this area because they started to make investments and added these sources to the public investment.

I have a fond memory of the ceremonial finish of this big project, where one of the representatives of a small block of apartments invited us to see the block and even see his own apartment, how it was renewed. Since that time, there is a community public safety organisation operating in the area, day and night. It is a voluntary organisation and they try to protect what has been achieved in this area.

Pilot projects in times when
funding for integrated action
was not yet existing

Local residents developing
price and responsibility

Welcome

Integrated Action thanks to
the Regional Operational
Programme

Since then, positive changes were achieved in the funding system, in the framework of the Regional Operational Programme there is now an opportunity to use funds also for integrated urban development. Integrated really means integrated in the sense of a comprehensive approach. When there is an integrated urban development project, you can now get funding for different types of activities and not just physical regeneration.

In order to get funding from that Regional Operational Programme, we prepared the Integrated Urban Development Strategy with the involvement of the staff of the municipality and with support from local experts. In the preparation of this the Integrated Urban Development Strategy we found that there is a lot to accomplish in the future and so we tried to identify five areas to work on during the next five years.

The first element is aimed at the regeneration of the city centre, or rather a certain area of the city centre. Next week, the meeting of the decision-making committee will take place where the final decision will be taken. We are sure that it will be a positive decision. After that we can start a major intervention in the city centre with a total project value of 4 billion Forint, with 1.8 billion foreign support.

External experience, know-
how and expertise from the
partners is needed

The next intervention area is aimed at an area which is very similar to the "Huszár Varosh District" in the sense that the estate is built from prefabricated old houses. The third intervention area is aimed at the development of the "Huszár Estate". The good news is that there is funding for the rehabilitation of this area as part of the funding from the Regional Operational Programme can be used and must be used for this area. At the same time we have to be aware that the task ahead in the "Huszár Estate" is difficult and complicated. We hope to use the available funding in the most efficient and effective way possible, which requires a strong professional and technical background. We hope that from this URBACT-network we can get this kind of support, a lot of ideas and best practices, both, from the international expert who has major experiences in this area but also from the partner towns who also have a lot of experiences.

I think that I can say that we are lucky again, because there is a coincidental meeting of the two projects, our urban rehabilitation project and the URBACT-network, which can complement each other in a very positive way. I have high hopes and high expectations towards this network, also personally. I wish you a positive and good meeting for today. I have to apologise because I have to leave and go to another important meeting. But in the afternoon, I would like to join you again, I will meet you here at the start of the trip into the city and I will try to be your guide in this round trip.

Thank you very much for your attention!

2. Introduction: Thematic Cluster 3 in the framework of the URBACT-programme and the RegGov-network

David R. Froessler | RegGov Lead Expert

Thank you very much for this warm welcome, Mister Giba – and I am sure that we are all looking very much forward to this visit to your beautiful city and its regeneration project this afternoon.



2.1 Introduction

For this first Thematic Seminar of this cluster we have four cities assembled around the table:

- A large group from our host city with many members of the Local Support Group that has been created in the framework of the RegGov-network and is now working very actively and contributing to the development of a truly integrated regeneration approach and of the Integrated Local Action Plan.
- We also have participants from our second Hungarian partner, Köbánya, at the table. This district of Budapest is hosting our initial Cluster Seminar on the Involvement of the Private Sector in Integrated Neighbourhood Development, but has also sent a delegation to this Cluster Seminar that deals with the Roma-communities in our cities.
- The third participating delegation comes from our Romanian partner, the City of Satu Mare. This provides us with a different national policy background, but we are lucky that Satu Mare is located very near to Nyíregyháza, so that co-operation and joint meetings are always very easy to organise.
- And, finally, we have a guest city participating in this Thematic Cluster - the city of Dortmund in Germany. The background of this participation is that the City of Duisburg, Lead Partner in this URBACT-network, has offered to other cities from the region of North Rhine-Westphalia to participate in Cluster Seminars when their topics are of relevance for their current local policy. This additional participation receives financial support from the regional government in order to make the best possible use of the URBACT know-how and expertise for the cities in that region. For us, the members of the RegGov-network, this offers the opportunity of additional cities and know-how that can be integrated to our network and support its potential and positive impact.

Local Support Groups are
one core element of the
new URBACT-programme

North Rhine Westphalia
sponsoring the participation
of additional cities

Introduction

I think you have all received the programme, which was also translated into Hungarian language prior to this meeting. The main purpose of today's debate is that we present to each other our cities, our projects and our problems in order to move towards a common understanding of our topic for this Thematic Cluster. Later on, at three o'clock, you will have a chance to gain a personal impression from this seminar's host city. We will begin with a visit to the target area for the RegGov Local Action Plan, the Huszár Estate and then a visit to see the entire city will follow before we will all have dinner in Nyíregyháza.

Developing a common understanding - designing a solid Work Programme

The main task for tomorrow's debate will be to decide what we are precisely going to do during the next two years with this group, to create a Work Programme for this Thematic Cluster to make sure that we have a detailed agenda and in the end of this cluster's activities will have achieved products and outputs that can be used and applied in the member cities and will have a positive impact on policy making and delivery there.

2.2 The RegGov-network

I would now like to give a short initial presentation concerning our network and its focus for all the new participants around the table and will then give the work to our host city for their city presentations.



The RegGov-network is the framework we are working in and that is an international network which is financed by the URBACT-programme for a working period of three years. The first six months of those 3 years were dedicated to a Development Phase, which allowed us to complete the partnership, to develop a Baseline Study as a feasibility study for the later activities and to jointly develop with all participating cities and regions our Work Programme for the Main Phase which is now up and running.

Our main concern is to support cities in developing long term integrated plans to develop and regenerate their most deprived neighbourhoods. Experience has shown that in the past most countries and cities have done sectoral and short-term projects only and that these approaches did not lead to comprehensive and sustainable improvements for those neighbourhoods and estates. What we want to promote and support instead is to establish in all member cities a culture of long term integrated development planning.

There are two main innovative elements to support this objectives – both of them opportunities, but at the same time contractual obligations for the member cities of this network.

Introduction

The first innovative element is that each partner in the RegGov-network needs to establish a comprehensive local partnership to get all local and regional stakeholders involved in the development of the integrated planning process and to make everybody work together and contribute. These partnerships are called “Local Support Group” and it is our firm intention that they will operate a lot longer than the RegGov-network itself and that such partnerships, once developed as pilots in our member cities, will also be set up and used for other areas and tasks in these cities.

The second innovative element we want to support with this network’s activities and exchange is a clear improvement of what we call “vertical cooperation” in neighbourhood development. This means that we all have to learn and develop a new cooperation culture between neighbourhoods, their city, the surrounding region and the national level – an improved cooperation between all policy levels. This is of special importance as the regions in their new function as Managing Authorities are now responsible for the management of the European Structural Funds, a more and more important source of finance for integrated urban development.

The entire RegGov-network has ten member cities, half of them being from the so called Competitiveness Regions in the European Union, five cities from Germany, Sweden, Hungary, Greece and the Netherlands. These cities and regions work together with additional 5 partners from the so-called Cohesion Regions, adding partners from Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland and Italy. An important characteristic of this RegGovnetwork is the fact that it is not only assembling ten cities for an interregional co-operation, exchange and learning process, but also the ten regions, represented by their Managing Authorities as active partners and supporters of this network.

What we do on the level of all ten cities is first of all to support and guide each city in the development and then operation of a Local Support Group [LSG] – and you see a large part of the Local Support Group of our host city as participants of our seminar today and tomorrow.

With the help of these Local Support Groups – and from the international partners – each participating city will then be supported in the development of a long-term Integrated Action Plan for at least one target area that has been defined by each city in the framework of the Preparational Phase and has been described in detail in the RegGov-network’s Baseline Study.

As part of our network activities, we organise for all ten cities and all ten Managing Authorities three Thematic Seminars:

Improved “vertical cooperation” between neighbourhood, city and government

An Integrated Local Action Plan for each member city



Introduction

- The first thematic seminar already took place at the beginning of this year and there we worked on the topic how can we develop integrated local action plans – learning from experiences made in other countries and discussing the relevance and use of these experiences for our specific local situations.
- The second thematic seminar will take place towards the end of this year and will deal with the question how can we monitor progress and achievements of these integrated strategies, once we start with the implementation of our Integrated Local Action Plans.
- The last thematic seminar will take place next year and will deal with the general organisation of these processes – especially with the aim to support the development of efficient co-operation and efficient management of resources and finance.

Thematic Seminars to improve cooperation of cities and Managing Authorities

That is the first level where all ten cities and all ten Managing Authorities participate. But as a network that wants to use its limited resources in an efficient way and based on the observation, made during the development of our Baseline Study that there are some topics in which not everybody is interested, we decided not force everybody to fly around Europe to visit seminars which might not really be important and relevant for a city.

Therefore, we decided to work in Thematic Clusters instead: The partners of the ten cities and regions defined the four most important topics they wanted to deal with in the framework of this RegGov-network. These topics were then grouped in so called Thematic Clusters:

- The first Thematic Cluster is dealing with the question how cities in a region can learn from each other and cooperate on a regional level in the development and implementation of integrated urban development and regeneration. That cluster meets for the first time in two weeks time in Halandri [Greece].
- The second Thematic Cluster deals with the question how the private sector can be actively involved in integrated urban and neighbourhood development and what forms of support and co-operation can be organised in this context. We all know, that this is a very difficult task, especially in the current times of world-wide economic crisis. That cluster meets also in two weeks time in Köbánya [Hungary].
- The third Thematic Cluster is our cluster that deals with the integration of the most excluded groups which are difficult to integrate in our urban society. The work of this Thematic Cluster will refer to two groups: initially to the Roma-communities in the participating cities and, at a later stage, to the young people who very often grow

up in stigmatised and deprived areas where they do not get a good education and preparation for an independent life.

- The fourth Thematic Cluster deals with city-wide monitoring systems – to monitor in a regular and structured way the developments in the various parts of our city, allowing intervention at an early stage of negative development trends. That group met two weeks ago in Duisburg [Germany].

What we promised to the European Commission and to the URBACT Secretariat who finance and support all of our work, is that at the end of our network we will have ten Local Support Groups established and stabilised – ten comprehensive local partnerships which will continue to work in the ten member cities after the end of the programme. We also promised that we will at the end of this network-funding have 13 + X Integrated Local Action Plans ready in our member states, because some of our cities do more than one Local Action Plan.

Our main aim is to qualify and improve the quality of those Local Action Plans, also to strengthen their position in the competition for funding in their regions. We know that there is a high competition in each region for the resources provided by the European Structural Funds. We want that our ten cities to have the best plans in that competition. Thanks to the partners in this process and thanks to the support from the URBACT-Secretariat in Paris.

[Strengthen the member cities
and their plans in the
competition for funding](#)

3. City Presentation Nyíregyháza

Tóthné Ildikó Csatlós | Project Coordinator | Nyíregyháza

First of all, I would like to welcome all of you in Nyíregyháza. I am Tóthné Ildikó and I have been working in the social department of our local authorities for ten years. With the following presentation I would like to provide you with some basic information about our city and also present in more detail our urban planning initiatives and the social situation of our citizens in the more deprived urban areas that we need to address over the next years – and for which we hope for support from our RegGov-partners.

Nyíregyháza is located in the Eastern part of Hungary and it is the capital city of the Szabolcs-Szartmár-Bereg County. In Hungary there are all together 19 counties and the most Eastern one is the Szabolcs-Szartmár-Bereg County. Within this county, there are 11 sub-regions, so



Nyíregyháza



the role of Nyíregyháza is not only the role of a county centre, but also the role of a sub-regional centre. It is the centre of the Nyíregyháza sub-region. With the following slides and explanations I would like to highlight and explain to you the key-problems of the city, the problems that we are currently working on and that we need to overcome during the next years in order to achieve a balanced and sustainable development of our city.



As some of my slides have illustrated, Nyíregyháza is a beautiful city and there are museums, libraries and all kinds of attractive sites available in this town, some of which you will see it in the afternoon during our field visit. Nyíregyháza is not only a city with large housing estates, but also surrounded by residential areas with gardens and small houses and some very traditional estates of small houses in groups like little old village estates.



The total number of inhabitants is nearly 120,000 and if you look at the demographic figures, you can see that the proportion of the elderly people is almost one fifth of the total number of inhabitants. This proportion of the elderly people increased by 6% in the past 20 years in our city, while this figures was only 3% on the level of the county. As a result of this high proportion of elderly people, one of our tasks is to provide a range of services to this growing group, not only in the area of Nyíregyháza city, but also in the area of the settlements that belong to the micro region. Together with these settlements the municipality provides services and runs institutions.



The next major problem with regard to the social situation in our city as well as region, which is characteristic everywhere, is the relatively high rate of unemployment. According to the unemployment statistics of last month, the unemployment rate in the city is 7%. And there is a steady increase in this figure, which is mostly the result of the current economic crisis. The increase in this figure is also the result of the closure of some factories in the city, like Flextronics.

Loss of job opportunities
and risk of a new wave of
long-term unemployment

But, the unemployment rate is only one part of the problem and threat for our city. The other part is that the number of job opportunities is decreasing, which means that we are facing a growing tendency of longer-term unemployment. And as one of the consequences, in addition to the problems resulting from the lack of income, this growing group of long-term unemployed citizens will also face a lot of mental and health-related problems.

The next challenge with respect to our social policy and our task to create and maintain social cohesion in our city, is related to the Roma communities in the city. The proportion of the Roma people is 8% of the entire city's residents. Most of the members of these communities

live in two segregated areas in our town, the “Huszár Estate” and the “Keleti Estate”.

I would like to present to you the key characteristics of these two estates in comparison. In the Huszár Estate, 2,000 persons are living of which 95% declares themselves as Roma. The Keleti Estate has approximately 500 residents and this a 100% Roma-estate. If you look at the demographic figures, you can see the shocking number that almost 50% of these people are under 14 years. And although it is not mentioned here, the proportion of the elderly people is much lower than the city average.



RegGov – Network / Cluster 3	
Integration of Roma – population into the social, cultural and economic life of their cities	
Huszár Estate	Keleti Estate
➤ 2.000 person (95 % Roma)	➤ 500 person (100 % Roma)
➤ Number of 0-14-year-olds: 48 %	➤ Number of 0-14-year-olds: 40 %
➤ Not proper socialisation	➤ Not proper socialisation
➤ Social services are available in this area	➤ Services are not provided
➤ Primary school was closed	

The main objective of all our programmes and projects related to the Roma-communities is the social integration of these people, because what we see in both areas is that the level of integration is by far not appropriate. An important difference is, that in Huszár Estate social services, like a kindergarten, are available, but in the Keleti Estate, no social infrastructure is provided at all. That does not mean that no social services are provided in that area, but those service providers are not present locally in that area. Our experience shows that the local everyday-presence in these areas is very important. In the Huszár Estate, there was primary school, but it was closed at the end of 2007, because in Hungary it is not allowed anymore to run segregated schools – a topic that we will have to discuss later.

With my presentation, I am following the structure that was suggested by our Lead Expert. In that structure, it was specifically asked to provide information about the housing facilities in the area. In the Huszár Estate there are almost 300 flats while there are only 133 in the Keleti Estate. The situation in the Huszár Estate is a bit better, because there

Decentralised social services



“on site” are essential

Nyíregyháza

94% of the apartments have a bathroom or running water, whereas in the Keleti Estate only 1% of the flats has bathroom and 99% have no running water in the house.

RegGov – Network / Cluster 3

Integration of Roma – population into the social, cultural and economic life of their cities

Huszár Estate	Keleti Estate
- 299 flats 94 % with bathroom or with running water and sewage	- 133 flats 1 % with bathroom, 99 % without running water
	

In both areas, there is a lack of education and people who live there show severe lacks of skills and professional training, so that most of them do not have a regular income from work. At the same time, the level of criminal acts seems to increase as well as illegal work, provided from local people to local people.

The Keleti Estate has no long-term perspective and will be given up

On the background of these problem description, let us have a look at the aims of the City of Nyíregyháza. As the Vice Mayor has already mentioned, a new Integrated Urban Development Strategy has been approved by the municipality last year. And there is a different approach with regard to the two estates I described to you. The long term objective in the case of Keleti Estate is the termination or liquidation of the area, which means that the buildings will be demolished and the people will have to find other places to live. We think that is a feasible solution, especially as the estate itself is not a large one, the value and quality of the houses is very low and it is not possible to develop the necessary services in this small area that would be needed to a satisfying living condition.

The Huszár Estate has a potential for integrated development

The main objective with regard to the Huszár Estate, which we would like to maintain, is the integrated development of this area. There is a need to stop further segregation. The increase in numbers of flats with bad conditions needs to be stopped. There is a need to improve the range of services available in the area. We would like to help the local people to become motivated and actively participate in this regener-

ation process. We would like to help them to improve their housing and living conditions.

In order to design a successful approach, it was first of all necessary to analyse the previous experiences in the area – what we have done already and what we achieved with these activities. We also needed to analyse the needs in the area. We used different tools to do that. And of course it is important to look at the funding opportunities and the main characteristics of the human resources.

So let us first have a look at the previous experiences in detail. We are talking about the Huszár Estate here, where redecorations and redevelopments of housing facilities of several locations have taken place. The municipality runs most of the housing facilities in this area. One of the key problems we faced during this process was that Roma people were not involved in the process of redecorating and redeveloping the housing facilities and that the houses are not owned by them. Basically they are not interested in maintaining the quality. They started to deteriorate their flats.

A successful example is the step-by-step-project, which was introduced in the middle of the 1990s in the Kindergarten and later in the primary schools. The project has been supported by the Soros Foundation and was basically trying to provide targeted support for the social integration of children. Other initiatives worth mentioning are various training and employment projects. The most successful of these projects and initiatives were those where the training concentrated on skills which could afterwards be used to provide municipal communal services, so the city could employ people and use them for providing these services. In addition, there were different social and public projects as well.

Of course it is very important to look at the needs in the area, which had already been analysed by various studies and research projects. Our latest result is the sociological research, which was prepared last year together with a university. As part of that study, 2000 households in our city were selected as a sample for empiric research. But this research was carried out in a way that does also allow an analysis of special areas in the town and to compare different areas with regard to a range of indicators. So we can draw specific conclusions with regard to the Huszár Estate from this research as well.

I will provide you with some statistics resulting from this research. I also have to mention the different publications also because among us there are some colleagues who were part of the preparation of these publications. And of course, we had to analyse the long-term development plan and also the Integrated Urban Development Strategy.



Previous experiences met a
low degree of interest and
cooperation locally

Some training and support
activities in the past have led
to success

Nyíregyháza



Regarding the sociological research, the first chart shows some demographic figures. There you can see that the proportion of younger people in the Huszár Estate is significantly higher than in the overall city. The next chart shows the size of the households, the number of individuals in one household. Surprising in that chart is that we assumed that the average size of Roma households is very high. We thought that Roma families in average have five or six children but the research shows that this is not true. The majority of households only have three or four individuals including parents. But in most cases these are families with just one parent. The next chart shows the most important housing problems that occurred in the area [bad smell, darkness, no window, wetness].

If you look at the basic household equipments like television, fridge, washing machine and cell phones, they are available in the area as well, while more high profile equipments like microwave oven, DVD, home cinema systems etc. do exist to a lower degree than in the average of the city. If you look at the sources of income in the area, you can also see significant differences. Most of the people in the city of course have full time jobs whereas this is not so characteristic in the Huszár Estate. The average income there comes from casual work or from illegal work and publicly subsidised work.

Most household live from
public transfer payments


One of the questions we asked is: Are you working now? The chart shows that in most cases in the Huszár Estate the answer was a 'no'. Another question was: Have you ever been employed? I think the chart is explaining – the proportion of people who could answer that question with a 'yes' is very low in the Huszár Estate. As the income in that area is low, we tried to analyse what other incomes people might have. So we looked at the social transfer payments and found out, that in the Huszár Estate the overwhelming majority of households receive family allowance and social allowance – and still a significant part of the people living there receive a pension, maternity allowance or unemployment benefits.

We asked them the question: Who do you rely on when you have a problem? And of course family is an important helping network for them, but also the social office [financial services] and the social services [real social services] is much higher than in the others parts of the city. The natural support systems are better functioning in the city than in the Huszár Estate.

In summary, we see as a conclusion of the sociological research we see in the Huszár Estate a low number of old people, bad housing conditions, bad health conditions, high unemployment rates and low levels of income.


It is a positive thing that in terms of human resources we can see that a high number of services are operational and available in the area – either organised locally or available in the area but organised from the city. The services available include home-based assistance and services related to child welfare. The Child Welfare Centre provides social work in the schools which Roma children are attending. Those are the schools to which Roma children were transferred when their school was closing in the Huszár Estate. There are also different clubs and training courses which equally help providing support to Roma families.

New services and support activities have been established in the area





RegGov – Network / Cluster 3

Integration of Roma – population into the social, cultural and economic life of their cities




Child Welfare Centre

- Social work in those schools, where roma children are studying – integration program
- Huszár –camp
- Different clubs and training
- Help roma families and their children





The other important service provider is Periphery Association that runs different types of programmes. With regard to Huszár Estate, they offer a child programme. They provide help for the integration of the children, tackling the integration problems, uncovering their hidden skills and teaching them in terms of attitude and behaviour:



RegGov – Network / Cluster 3


Integration of Roma – population into the social, cultural and economic life of their cities



„Periphery” Association

Acting fields/Their association has run

Social Information Office	(since 1995)
Street Work Service	(since 1998)
Regional Help-line Phone Service	(since 2003)
Child Programme	(since 1999)



Giving help for integration, "unpacking" hidden skills, showing new viewpoints, teaching new behaviour models for children and youth who have integration problems at school

Nyíregyháza



Qualified experts and a lot of commitment from the local authorities

After I have talked about problems so much, I would now like to list also some of our strengths and opportunities that we have can offer as positive examples or experiences to the other participants. First and foremost, there is a positive approach on the side of the local government and an intention to improve the living conditions of the residents of the Huszár Estate.

We have qualified experts, experienced people who know how to work with the residents. Another strength is the good partnership of the various organisations involved in helping the people in the area, for example the Roma Minority Municipality and other organisations which are members of our newly established Local Support Group. It is an important strength that we are not starting from zero; we have already developed several services and implemented various programmes and projects in the area as well as many training courses over the years. Our organisations are good in preparing project plans and funding applications, so that we are also taking part in various national projects.

Unfortunately, like everybody, we do have weaknesses and deficits as well. Different programmes and funding sources fund most of our interventions. The problem with this approach is that after the termination of the programme or the project there is no more funding available for that purpose. So the projects last only for a short period – we have to run a stop-and-go policy and have not yet been able to stabilise some essential elements of our strategy and make them structural and regular elements of local policy and service provision. I have mentioned that we have a lot of long-term plans prepared, but at the same time the projects are mostly short-term activities. Our objective with this URBACT-network is to create long-term and sustainable solutions to the problems.

The lack of leadership and community spirit is the most severe problem & obstacle

Another problem is the absence of a strong community spirit in the Huszár Estate. There is no charismatic leader in the area who is respected and listened to by the local community. Although a lot of services are already available in the area, there are still some services which would need to be established or offered there. One example for such a current deficit is the need for a district nurse service operated locally which could help families and children in the socialisation and social integration process.

The British examples are strong in this area, there such services show very good results when the service provider is based in the area. Another major weakness is that the residents of the area are not properly motivated to get involved in the improvement of their housing and living situation and to take over responsibility.

Our most important expectation towards the RegGov exchange activities is to learn how to successfully develop and implement long-term and sustainable development plans and how to motivate all residents to participate and take responsibility, and that does not only refer to the Roma community.

For our further debate and work, I think there is a strong need for clarifying the definition of the term of 'integration': Does it mean assimilation or does it rather mean inclusion? That leads to the other question: Do we have to change the Roma tradition, lifestyles and habits in order to integrate these communities into the social and economic life of our cities? If you ask me, we should try to maintain the positive elements of their tradition, lifestyles and habits and try an inclusive approach rather than an assimilative approach. Thank you very much for your attention.

From the Discussion

David R. Froessler

As we saw in the presentation, the school in this area that was an important facility for the local community and especially its children has been closed in 2007. At the same time, the sociological research shows that the proportion of children and young people in this area is very high. You have already indicated in your presentation, that this closure of the local school was not so much the result of a local discussion, but rather the consequence of a change in national legislation. I would be glad if you could explain this situation a bit more in detail to us – especially with regard to the question, how the local community reacted to this closure and how you assess the quality of schooling for these Roma children today.

Dóra Deme

This estate developed in a spontaneous way, it was not made planned or organised. Roma people at a certain stage started to move into this area. And as a reaction to this tendency, the local authorities step by step tried to provide all the necessary services that could support integration. The school that was run in this area was part of these activities. It was not only used by children from the Roma community, but over time the proportion of other pupils decreased drastically and only Roma children remained. The advantage of the school was that the teachers were highly qualified and trained in tackling the Roma problems. Their work was well supported by the different services that were available in the area. The problem was that the national Roma Minority Representative complained at the European Union that there is a segregated school in Nyíregyháza and if the school was not closed



Do we want integration?

Or assimilation?

Convert a wild settlement

into a quality housing and

living area

Nyíregyháza



down all schools in the city would have lost national support funding. When the school was closed, we tried to organise and accompany transfer and inclusion of the pupils into other schools as smooth as possible. Our approach was to provide additional support and services to those schools that accepted the children from this closed school. We also tried to provide help to the families who sent their children to school so that we could arrange a smooth transfer without major problems.

János Nyírcsák

Although we had highly qualified teachers working in the closed school, we could not avoid the fate of all segregated schools. The school was located in the middle of the estate in a criminalised area and the efficiency of teaching decreased in a dramatic way. I have hard facts to support that statement: The level and success of secondary education of pupils who got out of the segregated school was very bad compared to pupils of other primary schools.

The experience of the inclusion of these children into other schools has shown that they have several years of an educational backlog compared to these children of other schools. Our experience is, that every solution is better than to run a segregated school.

Arthur Balogh

As the Roma Minority Administration was closely involved in the closure of this separated school, I would like to stress that this closure was preceded by a very long debate. The official complaint that has been mentioned was not submitted by a Member of the European Parliament, but by the Minority Department of the National Ministry of Education. The Minority Department had four meetings regarding this issue because – according to the legislation concerning minorities – if the Minority Department does not support such a closure, then a school cannot be closed.

Our first intention was to partly close the school, meaning that children from classes one to four should be taken to other schools whereas children in classes five to eight should remain there because their inclusion in other schools at this stage is much more difficult. In the end, we were able to convince the parents and guarantees were given that the travel to and inclusion into other schools would be supported and ensured. After one year of experience with this integrated education we can now say that the inclusion of the children was relatively free from problems and the members of the Minority Department are regularly visiting the schools and maintain the contact to the schools.

The fight around the
neighbourhood-based
school was long and intense

Dóra Deme

Recently I participated in a meeting with Ildikó where the representatives of different towns were present and we had discussions about the Roma problems and how to solve them. My experience is that most towns in Hungary do not have an integrated approach. They all came presenting just one single project, but none of them had such an integrated approach as we have here in Nyíregyháza. We have a long-term concept, we have an integrated approach that includes the technical side, the social policy side and also organisational aspects with the creation of the partnership of different organisations who provide services for the Roma residents.



Mr. Béla Lakatos

The City of Kőbánya has already implemented an integrated regeneration project more or less successfully. 95% of the project are already completed. A block with approximately 150 flats was renewed and regenerated using an approach whereby all the residents stayed in the apartments while the maintenance and modernisation works were undertaken. The approach that we chose was to get some of the apartments empty to renew them, then offer them to the families and rotate the residents, so that step by step all flats can be renewed. The question I have with regard to the improved flats and facilities in your case is if you thought about providing financial services and support for these people or the flats themselves and if the people who live there are aware that after the renovation the rent will become higher? And in general, what is the average rent in that area compared to the rent level in the city centre,?

Hámoriné Irén Rudolf

In our case, a different approach to the regeneration of the area was chosen. In order to understand this project, it is important to understand the history of that area. The Huszár Estate used to be the biggest barracks of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, built in the 1890s. They had a lot of stables that were at a later stage converted into apartments. Such conversion of barracks and stables into apartments happened only in 1954. At a later stage, in 1974 and 1975, the local government decided to undertake a regeneration programme in the Huszár Estate in order to build bathrooms and to connect these apartments to the water and sewage system. At that time, the apartments had individual heating systems.

With regard to your question concerning the rent level: In Nyíregyháza there are rental districts with different average rent levels. There are major differences depending on the location of the apartment. In the city centre and also in some other districts, the average rent for apartments with bathroom is 312 forint per square meter. Outside the

[Innovative projects in Kőbánya to learn from](#)

[The long way rom barracks and stables to quality family homes](#)

Nyíregyháza

city centre, in some locations the average rent for apartments with bathroom is 160 forint per square meter and in the Huszár Estate, this goes even down to 75 forint per square meter – which of course many of the tenants cannot pay so that different support systems are in place to cover the monthly rent.

David Froessler

Two very different but equally difficult topics for further work

For the planning of our further work in Nyíregyháza we have to keep two aspects in mind:

- The first one is, how to renovate the Huszár Estate. Therefore, the Kőbánya model could be helpful.
- The other question refers to the Keleti Estate where we have to discuss, how a complete community can be relocated, because you plan to demolish the estate.

So we have two different tasks. With regard to the plans for the Keleti Estate, I would like to know if in case someone leaves an apartment in this area that is going to be destroyed, this person or family receives any financial support?

Hámoriné Irén Rudolf

If the residents moved in before 1993 and paid a fee, a one-time fee for moving in, they will get an amount of money for moving out. The amount is 12 times the monthly rental fee multiplied by 7. This is still a very low amount regarding the very low rent level in that estate that is the basis for this calculation.



4. Recent regeneration projects in Nyíregyháza

Peter Nagy | Expert Adviser | Nyíregyháza

I will briefly present you an interesting urban regeneration project that we have carried out here in Nyíregyháza. The Vice Major was very fond of this project. I think it is a good practice for us. The first one is the European Urban Territory Rehabilitation and the second one was carried out in the framework of the National Refurbishment Programme.



JÓSAVÁROS

Jósváros was the first panel neighborhood in Nyíregyháza – It was built between 1970-1980 by prefabricated technology (3300 dwellings)

Its inhabitants ca. 8000 .

The housing estate became obsolete technically in the latter years, deteriorated in terms of quality of life

Its capital features:

- migration
- ageing
- high unemployment rate,
- slum



Jósváros was the first panel neighborhood in Nyíregyháza. It was built between 1970 and 1980 with prefabricated construction elements to create a large housing estate with 3,300 flats for 8,000 residents.

In technical respect, the housing estate lost its value rather quickly and also in terms of quality of life it ended in a rather poor condition. The main challenges for the estate became a high proportion of migrant inhabitants, and ageing population and a high unemployment rate amongst its tenants. So, over the years the estate developed into a slum with the usual bad living conditions and image.

The main objective of our intervention was to undertake a full rehabilitation of the district, but we had not have enough money to make these plans come real.

Therefore, we began with a first step was by renovating and upgrading public space and green areas in the sub centre of Jósváros. And in parallel we began with the refurbishment of the panel-buildings in the area.

The rapid development
from a model estate to a
slum with bad reputation

Nyíregyháza

“Little Chicago” in the
middle of Nyíregyháza

The building you see on the photo is owned by the municipality and it has got the nickname „Little Chicago“. There are 192 flats in this part of the estate and many Roma people amongst the tenants. When we started the renovation my major asked me for some associations to help those people to understand the aim of renovation.

Objectives

General objectives: Its full rehabilitation, attractive and the XXI. the forming of environment being equal to a century's expectations..

First step: Renovation of greenery and public area of the subcentre of Jósaváros

Paralel process: Refurbishment of panel-buildings of subcentre



For this renovation we had to find the financial resources. For the renovation of the sub centre, we got 50 Mio. Forint from the Central Government, 33 Mio. Forint from the Local Government and 250 Mio. Forint from the Regional Operational Programme.

UNGVÁR stny 1.

192 bedsit flats inside the building owned by municipality

Between the tenants many Roma people

During the renovation we were struggling to raise the tenant's awareness

The tenants' selection we chose



In the meantime, 1261 flats had been refurbished in this area. The central government finances 410 Mio. Forint, the local government 363 Mio. Forint and 351 Mio. Forint came from the owners of the flats. 70% of these flats are privately owned, 30% belong to cooperatives and the municipality owns only one building.

A mixture of public and
private finance



Thank you for your attention!

5. The Human-Net Foundation

János Nyírcsák | Human-Net Foundation

Welcome everybody to a short presentation of the Human-Net Foundation. My name is János Nyírcsák and I am the head of the Foundation. I will try to make my presentation in ten minutes although this presentation normally takes two or three hours, so you will really get a short version.

An active and successful
foundation to support ex-
cluded individuals of all ages

The Foundation has got three major activities:

- One of these activities is the operation of the family care services.
- The second one is the implementation of projects for which we try to get financial support through different funding applications.
- And then there are special services which we provide in the special areas, surrounding the town, in suburban area with a small number of towns.

Intense use of Family Care Services by the unemployed

With regard to our family care services, we had between 3400 and 3500 clients last year. The majority of these clients have been long-term unemployed people and they came with different problems related to the everyday life of their families.

And of course we have a lot of projects running for which we receive funding from different sources and support schemes. These projects are strongly related to the basic services and basic activities.

For our work, we have many sponsors and funding partners. Of course, I have to mention here the funds of the European Union. While the family care services are financed mainly by structural national funding, our special services are financed from other funding sources where we have to submit applications and compete for the funding.

One of our main objectives is not only to make use of the comfortable convenient situation that is created by structural government funding. Instead, we strive to be able to provide additional services to our clients from other funding sources.

50% of the annual budget to be organised in competition

The annual budget of the foundation was 122 Mio. Forint last year, more or less 50% were coming from the structural funding from the local government, whereas the other 50% were coming from competitive applications.

The Foundation has 36 full-time employees. Most of them have a university or college degree. The majority of them are social workers, social politicians and teachers.

Now I will give you some brief information about our main projects which were funded from different sources. I will focus this part on those activities which are intended to help Roma residents.

One of these projects is the so called "Vógon" project which has been financed by the National Employment Foundation. The name "Vógon" comes from the symbolic meaning of wagon, which represents change and reformation and the wondering way of life of the Roma population. In the first year, we only involved clients from Nyíregyháza in the programme, while this year we extended the programme to other locations, mainly in the surroundings of Nyíregyháza.

The essential aim of the programme is to support the integration of mainly adult population into the labour market. We have individual meetings, group trainings and we also organise community programmes. Our intention is to reach a wide group of people in terms of age and involve them in these programmes.

We would like to reach 450 people in the settlements involved and we would like to provide employment in the first and secondary labour market to 135 people out of the those 450.

There is a strong interest in the programme. Settlements that have not been planned regionally have also joined the programme. And we have a surprising and positive experience with residents of settlements outside of Nyíregyháza. They are more positive and more active towards the programme. The programme is in a very advanced phase and it seems that the indicators will be reached without problems at the end of the programme.

The European Structural
Funds: Partners in Action

Another programme which is co-financed from the European Structural Funds has a different target group and objective: Here, we involve young people between 12 and 20 years and we try to support their labour market orientation and integration. An important element of this project, similar to the previous one, is that there are a number of community programmes that enhance the community feeling of this people. This programme is implemented in Nyíregyháza and in a neighbouring village.

For us, it is of special importance in the implementation of this programme that we develop the individual skills of the young people, that we strengthen their community relations and that at the same time we can provide them with some essential values. We want to reach at least 200 young people of which we want to involve 100 actively in the programmes.

Another programme in the Huszár Estate is the Bistor kásdet or "Sure Start"-programme. This is for children up to the age of 6 years. The objective is to have a community space for these children where their mental skills and their social development is supported at an early time of their life to support their integration. They get active help and support with their development. And we also involve the parents who come with the children. We took 15 families into the programme on a continuous basis. And we are also trying to involve the fathers and not only the mothers, which would help to improve and strengthen the family relationships.

Another programme that we implement with European co-financing is called "See the opportunity or use the possibility". The programme involves training and employment. The target was to reach more than 100 out of which 19 people were selected to take part in the training. We will make sure that these 17 people will get a qualification as nursing assistant. And we also committed ourselves to organise employment at the end of the training for eleven participants. This pro-

Nyíregyháza

gramme is not specifically targeted at Roma people, but in the group we have quite a number of Roma participants. We are in the middle of the programme and the training courses are operational now.

[Ambitious project plans to support Roma people](#)

There are three projects that I would like to mention as interesting additions even though they are not focusing on the integration of Roma people. These projects are focused on the integration of people who arrived from other countries in Hungary, but the approach is very similar to the one chosen in most Roma projects. These projects target mainly the people who arrived from the former Hungarian part of the Ukraine, and would like to start a new life in Hungary in Nyíregyháza. And also people who came from China, this is about 300 persons. Once we started the implementation of these projects, we experienced that there are a lot of similarities with projects that serve the integration of Roma people.

We have three submitted applications still waiting for decision which are concerning the integration of the Roma population. One of these is a project, aimed at pupils going to primary or secondary school. It is important to mention this project because the location for this centre will be the school that was closed in the Huszár Estate.

The next project is the "First step project", in which we will involve unemployed people who are not registered anywhere in the system. They are registered neither in the unemployed system nor in the social provision system.

The third project is aimed at the establishment of an employment pact in the Nyíregyháza sub region, which of course is strongly related to the help provided to unemployed people.

Thank you very much for your attention!



6. City Presentation Satu Mare

Nicoleta Lasan | Adviser | City of Satu Mare

I am Nicoleta Lasan from the Satu Mare, where I am working for the URBACT project at the city hall. I have come with my colleague Andrea Angel from the social welfare department of our city where she is head of the office for internationally financed projects. And we also invited Mr. Kovas. He is from the county administration where he works as the new counselor of the county administration for the Roma population.

First of all, I would like to provide you with some statistical data about Satu Mare's background for my presentation. Our city is located in the northwestern part of Romania. It has a total number of 113,000 inhabitants.

As far as we know, there are around 1,300 Roma people living in our city, but it is impossible to obtain exact figures because not all of them declare themselves as Roma. We also do not have any more specific data for this community related to the origin or culture of the various Roma citizens.

The only statistical information we have for the Roma community in our city is related to their language skills. According to these data, 76% of the Roma population in Satu Mare declare that they speak the Hungarian language. Only very few of them speak the Romanian or other languages. But even though the overwhelming majority of Roma people in our city do speak only Hungarian and we are located very close to the Hungarian border, these people do not move to Hungary because the part of Romania where Satu Mare is located, is much richer than the part of Hungary that is located near to our border.

We also dispose of data regarding the average age of Roma population in our city. This average age amongst the members of the Roma community in our city currently is 26 years. Persons who are younger than 16 years represent more than one third of our local Roma population. The fact, that the Roma community represents a very young community is also underlined by the fact that the members of this community who are older than 65 years only have a share of 4%. With regard to this last figure it needs to be mentioned that all statistics show that the life expectancy of Roma people is a lot shorter than that is the case for other cultures in Romania.

More than 60% of the Roma people are married without legal Romanian documents and just live together. That also gives us an impression regarding one element of their culture. There is a high number of children per family and a low number of divorces. But it needs to be mentioned that the number of children is declining, certainly also a



The majority of Roma speaks Hungarian but prefers to live in Satu Mare



consequence of the better education that Roma women receive in some communities.

Another figure in decline unfortunately is the one that reflects the participation of Roma children in the education system. Currently, only 15% to 20% of the Roma children in the relevant age group are participating in the primary school and around 30% in the general school. The comparison of these 2 figures also illustrates to which degree their participation in the educational system is in decline as it shows that there is less participation in the primary school, and this despite the projects we are implementing to support Roma people.

As one consequence of this very low participation in the educational system, there is a high number of illiterate people in the Roma community: around 30% of the adult generation are illiterate, in the age group of the elderly Roma people this value goes up to 45%. Most of the adult Roma citizens have of no profession and no qualified work at the labour market.

More than 96% of the Roma population in the relevant age group do not have a regular employment. Most of the Roma people in our city work as unqualified workers, others are occasional workers and around 20% of Roma population lives from gathering things from the garbage.

The world-wide economic crisis causing loss of jobs and employment opportunities

As one early consequence of the economic crisis, employment in community services like planting flowers or cleaning the streets decreased and many unqualified workers lost their jobs. With regard to the economic crisis and its consequences, Roma people usually are not victims of the closure of large companies, because those companies large companies with their strong emphasis on an efficient work culture do not employ Roma people very often because of their work mentality.

Experiences show that even if Roma people get a job, it is very hard for them to maintain it because they are often late and have a different work culture. In many cases they need to be trained for working with big companies and in an ideal case receive counselling or mentoring on the job. One idea reflected in some project proposals is to pick them up with a car in the morning and drive them home in the evening and provide an on-the-job-coaching in order to improve their chances to achieve long-term employment perspectives.

In the next part of my presentation I would like to provide you with some data and information regarding the health situation of the Roma people in our city. Roma people in Satu Mare in most cases do not have good hygienic and sanitary conditions in the estates and houses where they live. A survey amongst the Roma people that was undertaken by the county department for Roma showed that most of the

adults suffer from psychological diseases, mostly due to a lack of integration. Children suffer from malnutrition, health problems related to this bad nutrition and also high rates of TBC.

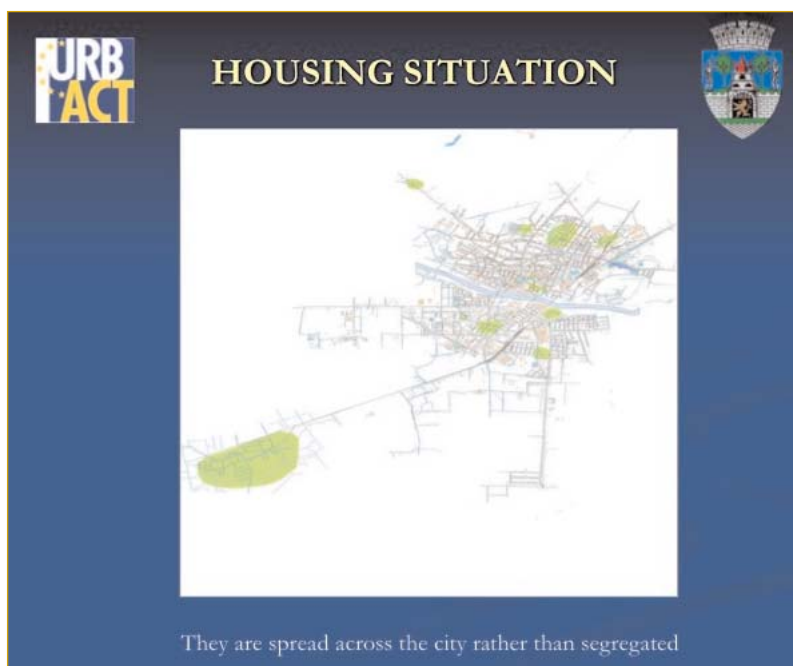
80% of the Roma people do not have a family doctor and 31% of them do not have any kind of health insurance because this is normally linked to employment which most of the Roma people do not have. Unemployed people in Romania do not have any health insurance, but they can use certain emergency services. Children up to the age of 18 have a free health insurance and if they continue their studies they benefit from this free insurance up to the age of 25 years. And, of course, there is a severe lack of sanitary mediators, people who could check health conditions in the city's Roma communities and provide them with support, advice and help.

Most of the Roma people in Satu Mare live in social houses provided by the municipality. In cases where they own a house, there is usually a lack of documents proving their ownership as this usually is not registered anywhere. 87% of the houses which are occupied by members of the Roma communities only have one single room. More than 90% of these houses only have an outside toilet in the yard. In the majority of cases, these houses do not have any utilities like electricity, water supply, gas or a connection to the sewage system. The average occupancy of the houses is extremely high with 4.12 persons per room.

I would like to show and explain the following map that shows the areas within our city that suffer from social problems, and when we talk about social problems we talk about Roma communities.



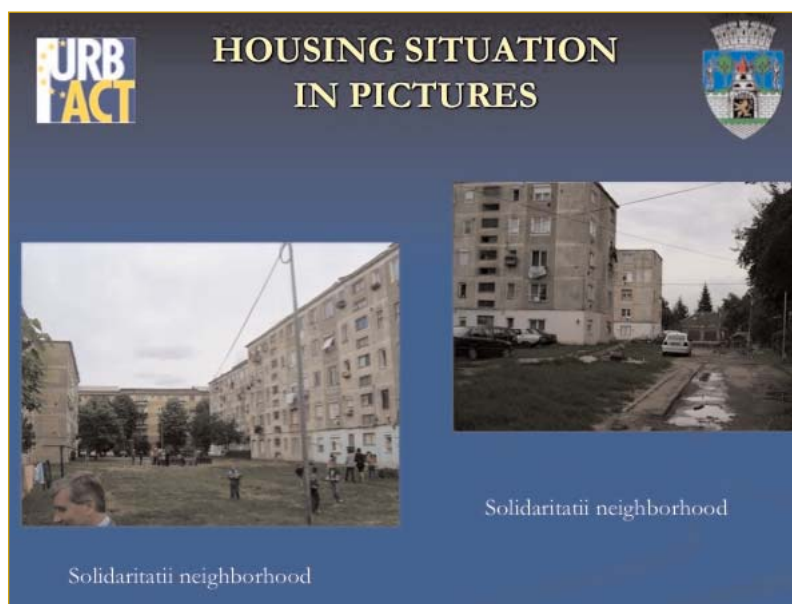
Most ROMA families are tenants of the municipality



Satu Mare



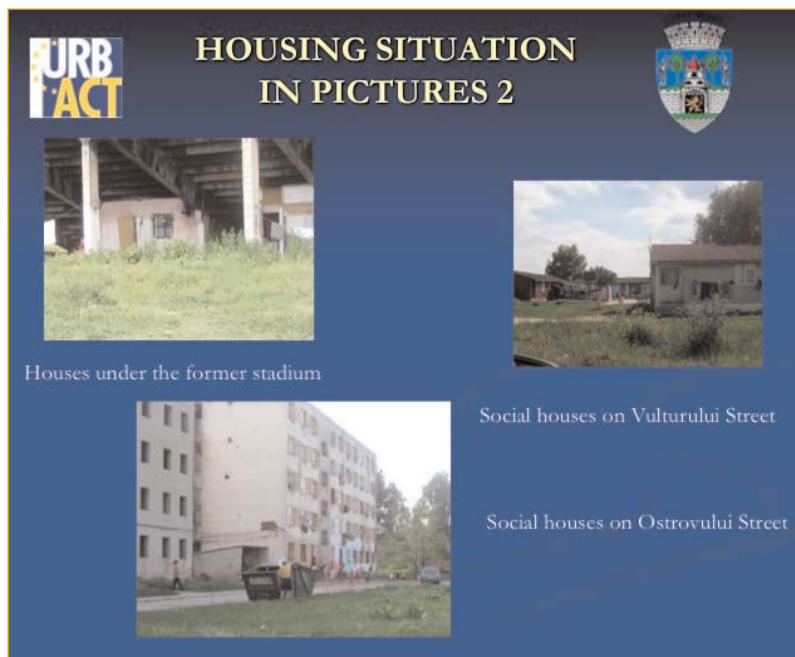
There is one Roma community in the city centre near the theatre, the others are mostly spread around the city. Some pictures of the most populated areas, like the Solidaritatii neighbourhood, give a first impression of the situation of the housing and its environment in these areas. This area is not exclusively occupied by Roma people, but it is an area where only very poor individuals and families live. Now we can see a picture of the renovation of a mini football field and the buildings with very bad facades, no balcony and streets in bad condition. On the next picture we can see illegally constructed houses under the former stadium, which are very small.



Extremely low rent levels
lead to a lack of resources
for maintenance

Near to this area is the Vulturului street that you can see on the next picture with social houses built by a foundation in 1996. The municipality has now become the owner of these houses but does not manage and maintain them properly. This lack of maintenance undertaken by the municipality as the owner of these houses is a consequence of a lack of income from these houses, created by the extremely low rent levels in these estates. The next picture shows two blocks on Ostrovului street. One of them has no windows and would need to be repaired and modernised for the Roma community. The other block is overcrowded and does not have any utilities like bathrooms, toilets etc.

I would also like to give you some information about policies, strategies and projects for the Roma communities in Satu Mare. First of all, there are support activities offered to the Roma people which have the objective to improve their participation in the education system and in the labour market. With regard to support activities for their participa-



tion in the education system we provide special scholarship for the Roma population or places which are reserved for Roma children to go to university. With regard to employment support and promotion, employers receive various types of support if they employ a Roma person.

We have also tried some integrated support programmes for community development and integration of the Roma people but unfortunately these schemes have not been very successful. We also tried to support the capitalisation of Rome values in different cultural events, so we did not deny that they are part of our city and did not exclude them from the city's cultural life. Roma people in Satu Mare also benefit from free professional training courses which we have organised with the Employment Agency. The problem with the implementation of these courses was that most Roma people do not have the necessary education to enable them for a successful participation in such trainings.

Our municipal department that provides identity cards to the population of Satu Mare has implemented campaigns to improve the acceptance of identity cards amongst the local Roma population. In order to achieve that aim, it is necessary to develop special campaigns and methods because Roma people in most cases do not come to the city hall, so we have to go and meet them in their own community. It is very important to improve the acceptance of ID cards in these communities, because without such a formal identification citizens cannot

Cultural and Community
Development Programmes
have not shown success

Satu Mare



An innovative & successful approach to integrate young people

Valuable and innovative support from the Twin Cities of Satu Mare

benefit from social services or use free medical services in an emergency. There have been courses for sanitary mediators and many information campaigns regarding health, education, discrimination and opportunities for Roma, but we cannot say that they have had a significant or visible impact.

There have also been projects for the improvement of the physical conditions like the construction of new houses or renovation works in the existing housing stock. We have two very well-known housing blocks very in Satu Mare – the Dallas and the Europa blocks – which have been renovated by a foundation with the aim to make one room apartments with bathroom and kitchen out of former two room apartments. Unfortunately, the residents have not taken care of these apartments very well after the renovation so that they have very soon been in a very bad condition.

One of our non-profit organisations, the “Stea” Association, has tried to integrate homeless young people in families by renting apartments for them and paying for the rent and related housing costs as long as the young people who could benefit from that report refrained drug and alcohol consumption. At the same time, efforts were made to try and integrate them into the labour market. This has been a very successful project, not only limited to Roma people. This project was financed by a German foundation from Wolfenbuettel, a twin city of Satu Mare.

Our Dutch twin city Zutphen financed a project to help elderly people and organise a home care services for them. The department for foreign affairs of the Netherlands also gave money to develop the human resources in the Satu Mare city hall.

With regard to future activities and chances to improve the situation of the Roma people in Satu Mare it needs to be taken into account, that there are no leaders in the Roma communities. Mr. Kovac tried to organise a meeting between the Roma representatives but it turned out to be extremely difficult to identify leaders and motivate them to attend this meeting. So, instead of using existing leadership structures, it was decided to ask people who have problems and were in contact with us if they were interested in participating in this meeting to represent their communities.

Currently, the national Romanian government as well as the local government of Satu Mare have a strategy for Roma, but most of the measures included in these strategies cannot be implemented efficiently because there is one NGO specific for Roma but no NGO specific for all. There is only one such NGO but I have not heard about any projects. Also there is only a very limited number of local experts on the issue who could be involved.

We are trying to change the living conditions of the Roma people in our city. I think it is also important to change at the same time their mentality and to strengthen their willingness to be included in the local society. I think that most of the time the Roma people are excluding themselves because they are convinced that they are discriminated. And probably they are discriminated, so it is necessary to change the mentality on both sides.



We also think that there is an urgent need to develop special help programmes for the Roma communities to prevent TBC. We do this in cooperation with the local councils and local NGOs and the Ministry of Health.

We also think that it is necessary to hire more community mediators with a specific background and special skills to work with the Roma people. They need to have a good understanding of their needs and problems so that they could help to integrate the Roma. And, of course we need more financial resources or strong partners for the construction of houses in the deprived communities of Satu Mare, not only for the Roma.

Community Mediators with
Roma background needed

With regard to the economic situation of Roma people in our city, it needs to be stressed that they are not only discriminated on the labour market with most of the employers being reluctant to employ them, they are equally discriminated by the general public and consumers: In case they set up their own small company or shop, most of the local people would not go there because the owners are Roma people.

Therefore, support schemes to strengthen their role in the creation of SME'S and micro-enterprises do not really offer realistic chances and opportunities. There is a limited range of activities and services that can be done by Roma people, but these are special types of services and activities in market niches, not mainstream services.

With regard to future projects for the Roma communities in Satu Mare, the continuation of the existing campaigns and projects regarding the integration into labour market and the education and health system needs to be mentioned. There is also a project that will deal with the renovation of the social houses on Ostrovului street.

After the discussions we had with regard to our participation in the URBACT-programme it was also decided to make a tender for a feasibility study for such a project and submit it as an application for funding from the Regional Operational Programme.



From the Discussion

David R. Froessler

For that kind of physical regeneration and modernisation projects I would like to suggest a general decision that we will avoid in future wherever possible to do the modernisation of flats for the Roma people without actively involving them and then afterwards complain that they do not like it and destroy it again.

I think many projects have shown very clearly that such projects are much more successful and sustainable if they give an active role to the later users of such flats – using such modernisation and construction activities to provide training to the local community and enable them to actively contribute to the improvement of their own housing conditions. This means in most cases that the improvements applied are taken care of in a much better way afterwards and maybe such initiatives can even lead to better employment opportunities for the people involved.

Nicoleta Lasan

We have this idea in mind but this time it is going to be renovated again for them and we will see whether the project will be successful this time or not. The idea of a more active participation is part of the plans for the multifunctional centre at the ground floor of the block where the Roma people could benefit from common activities and services and where they will learn how to keep their houses. For this purpose, a mediator or a social worker will always be there for them. Another multifunctional centre will be located in the Solidaritatii neighbourhood. It is a good idea to train Roma people in time to take over the work in these centres.

There are very few good experiences with the integration of Roma people in Satu Mare. There is a continuing exclusion of the members of the local Roma communities despite of the projects and support activities we have undertaken. What we would like to learn in the framework of this Thematic Cluster's work is how we could convince the Roma communities that integration is a good thing and leads benefits for them and an improvement of their living conditions. The first step will be to convince them to send their children to school, but how can this be achieved?

We would also like to know more about financial sources and support opportunities for projects related to the Roma communities and obtain a better knowledge of examples of good practice as we have seen in Nyíregyháza. And perhaps it would be a good opportunity for all of us to develop a common project with the RegGov partner cities to promote the integration of Roma people in our cities.

Self-help and training as
compulsory element of
future projects

David R. Froessler

I think that such an international project should also include direct meetings and exchange activities for the Roma communities in our cities. I think it would help to organise a special workshop with representatives of Roma communities from five different countries where they can discuss problems and expectations.

The organisation of such events and the active inclusion of this target group in European exchange activities could also help to improve their self-esteem and support their motivation to get more involved in projects in their home cities.

I am convinced that we have to change the practice of always doing everything for Roma and treat them like receivers of benefits only. I am convinced that we need to find forms to involve them directly in our work. We have to do projects with them and we have to take their cultural identity and their own preferences into account already when we plan and design such projects.

We know that these Roma communities are quite discriminated in their society by the other citizens. These citizens of the mainstream society are at the same time the ones who elect the politicians. Therefore, I think we can assume that most of the Roma people do not have a strong political lobby in their societies and that their problems are not very high on the political agenda in their cities.

This situation might even get worse and more critical in current times of economic crisis where cities do have less and less money to spend on projects. I am afraid that if we would now come and make a proposal for a lot of money to be spent on a long-term integrated strategy to support the empowerment and integration Roma communities in the city, that might not be very well received.

But, I would be interested how you regard such opportunities and if you think we could get political support and the necessary decisions to actively invest resources for this topic?

Csaba Szász

My name is Csaba Szász and I am deputy mayor in Köbánya and an active participant in this URBACT programme since its beginning last year. To answer your question: I do think now it is politically risky. After the elections for the European Parliament, the situation will be a lot better.

If we want to find and organise financial resources for Roma projects, I am afraid that we have to find ways to declare the project as an initiative for the whole population or the deprived groups in our cities and not as an initiative for the Roma communities only.



The role of the media in
further stigmatisation of

Roma is crucial

Béla Kézi

First and foremost it is known that the local government does not have a lot of own money for this purpose. On the other hand, there are a lot of programmes from which you can get funding for special projects for Roma people. I agree that it would seem risky to increase the funds spent on Roma people because the public would not like this. There are stereotypes of course. I think the public atmosphere is not very positive nowadays in Hungary.

There are very strong negative feelings towards the Roma population. Many people see Roma people get a lot of money from the state in form of social transfer payments and then we come and suggest to use a lot of extra money for special programmes. The public thinks that the Roma people should do something for the money but that instead they just waste it.

Combined with the stereotypes and the negative image of the Roma communities that is spread by the media, there have been some tragic events in Hungary. For example, in a small village a car hit a Roma but did not injure him. The man who drove the car got out to see what had happened and was killed by the Roma. Media made a big publicity around this accident and that was one milestone in the negative atmosphere towards Roma.

The lack of a strong national
policy makes local
integration work difficult

The other problem is that there is no national policy for the integration of Roma. Nobody dares to speak about that topic in an honest and open way, which means that the extreme right is getting very strong as the European Parliament elections are showing now.

The right-wing party now started to discuss the topic, which is popular. I mean the way they discuss it is wrong, but it is clear that people wanted it to be put forward and speak about it. People see the Roma as a risk. They are afraid that if local government does not do anything, the problems will become more serious.

Nicoleta Lasan

In Satu Mare, the Roma people are not really a topic in media. So, the situation does not seem as bad as in Hungary. The media do not develop negative stereotypes about the Roma population.

We think that project proposals to support the integration of Roma will be accepted – at least if it would not take too much money from the local authorities' budget, because we do not have much money. It would be accepted if we really explain the necessity. I think everybody in Satu Mare would like the Roma to be integrated.

Jutta Wittig-Flick

We are at the beginning of the analysis and I cannot say if we will spend money on Roma projects besides the one we have in our programme from the European Union. We have to discuss this with our local politicians and our regional government and we have to see how many problems that might create. If the problems caused by Roma people will increase, I am sure that we will take money to solve these problems.

First of all, local politicians
need to be convinced

David R. Froessler

I think the situation in Germany is much easier because there the Roma question is not such an important topic. Most people never met any Roma and do not see them as getting too much public money. Roma in Germany appear in small groups. So if you do something it would not meet a heated environment or wide-spread prejudices or stereotypes. In such an environment it is certainly easier to do something and to organise the necessary funding.

Béla Kézi

On the other hand there, is a need for a national policy and an honest discussion regarding this topic. In the current situation and atmosphere, i.e. in the media, it is not possible to mention that something has been done for the Roma population. And it is only a small part of the problem we are talking about. We are in the big cities, but if you go out into the small villages around Nyíregyháza, the proportion of Roma people is much higher than here, even though the way they live in these villages might be much more integrated.





7. City Presentation Köbánya

Ágnes Mozsár | Chief Architect | Köbánya

The 10th district of Budapest is located on the Pest side of the capital in central Hungary. Its area amounts 3,2.54 sqkm, which makes it one of the largest in town. The Capital's geometrical centre is positioned in Köbánya.

The name 'Köbánya' [stone-pit] refers to quarrying dating back to the Middle Ages. The cavities and water emerging in the place of the excavated stone created the conditions of beer brewery, the exploit clay those of brick and tile manufacturing, the hills provided for grapes and vine-growing, while its pastures allowed lice-stock breeding. In the course of history, the district has become the most significant industrial area.

The district has suffered much setback after the collapse of Socialism in 1989-1990. Nowadays, the district is rebuilding itself into a living area for the middle classes. Due to its large size, there are several diverse areas within Köbánya, each with different architecture.

Significant structural changes
with new development opportunities

In general, the district has undergone [significant changes](#). The industrial activities previously characterising the area have been gradually pushed to the background, and their use has been considerably restructured. The places of the earlier industrial areas have been gradually converted in commercial, service, institutional and residential areas. A number of new residential houses and housing estate have been built in Köbánya, in the recent past. If the present favourable tendency of changes, that have taken place in the utilisation of areas, would continue, the population of the district would start to grow and the composition of the population may change in a favourable direction.

With the [gradual disappearance of the production plants](#) and operations disturbing the environment, the image of the settlement may change positively. If companies with commercial-service profile settle in, the jobs having ceased may be replaced.

In the course of the city's history a number of large factories have operated in Köbánya. Food production, pharmaceuticals and machine manufacturing have been significant in the district. There are still three large factories operating in the district at present:

- DREHER Sörgyárak Zrt.,
- Richter Gedeon NyRt. and
- EGIS Gyógyszergyár NyRt.

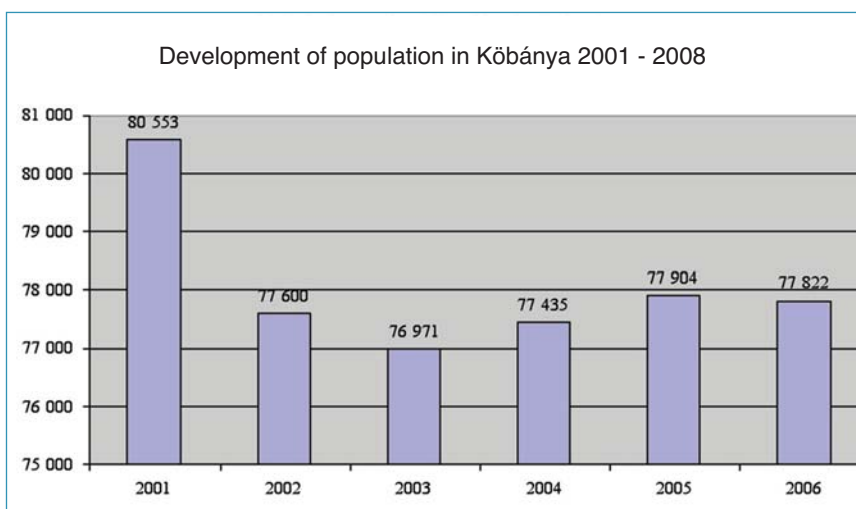
HUNGEXPO City Fair Hall plays a significant role on the domestic and international level. Out of the companies registered in Köbánya [2006], the highest number was active in the economic sector of real estate and economic services [4,779 companies], while commercial enterprises also represented a significant part [3,528 companies]. Companies with an industrial [941 companies], and construction [973 companies] profile are also present in a significant number.



Social Key Features

The population number of Budapest's 10th district decreased from 97 thousand to 77 thousand between 1990 and 2005. Since then, continuous growth can be observed.

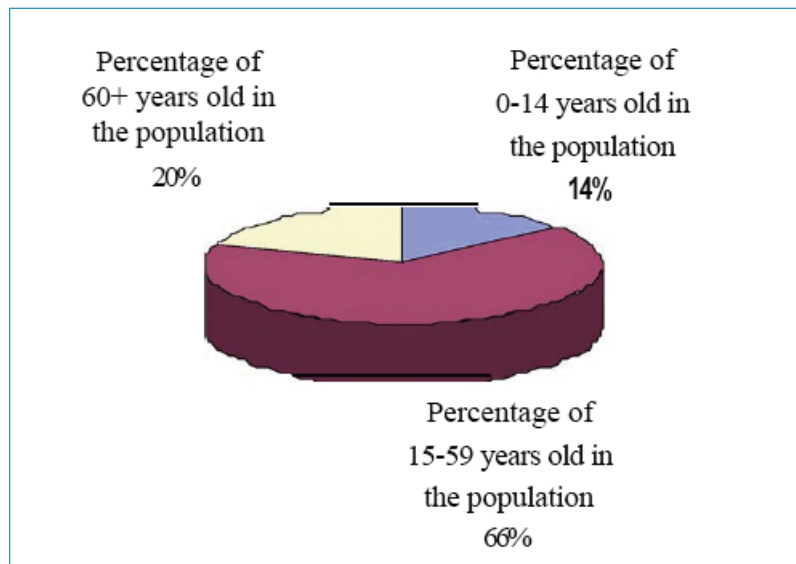
A decreased, but now stabilised local population



Within the resident population, the distribution of age groups shows that the proportion of people over 60 years is 6 % higher than that of young people in the age group of 0-14 years. Compared to the total resident population, the proportion of young people is very low [14 %]. The decrease of the resident population in the 10th district was mainly caused by the fact that – analysing the emigration indicators – the number of emigrants was higher than the number of people moving in. Looking at the distribution of age groups, the aging of the district is apparent. This

An ageing local population
as a future challenge

age structure of the population of the district shows the signs of demographic ageing, and in the upcoming years a higher number of the population [the currently 50 – 59 years old people] will retire. This will result in the fact that several thousands of people will appear in social care.



The [change in the number of job seekers](#) registered in the district between 2001 and 2006 moved parallel to the average of Budapest. With regards to the whole 10th district, the proportion of employed people within the population aged 15 - 64 years old is 60 %, and the rate of households living without employment is 34,6 %. The rate of people without regular income from work in the district is 36.1 % within the active age group.

The age composition within the resident population is spread in

- 14 % between the age of 0 and 14 years
- 66 % between the age of 15 and 59
- 20 % older than 60 years of age.

[A heterogenous local population with a high number of Roma people](#)

The [ethnic composition of the district](#) is quite heterogeneous. There is a significant Roma presence in the district and a number of small but visible immigrant communities, notably the Chinese community that is still growing. Close to 10 % of the population of Köbánya is of ROMA origin. A high number of ROMA population lives in tiny flats without comfort, several generations together. The rate of the ROMA population in the so-

cially disadvantaged neighbourhoods of the district [P1 and P2] is higher than the average of the district.

Due to the intensive public activity of the ethnic minorities, there are 9 minority administrations operating at present: Roma, Greek, German, Romanian, Polish, Croatian, Bulgarian, Ruthenian, Armenian.

The situation of those families whose members are on regular welfare deserves special attention. Their number is currently changing between 240–250 persons.

Many of the families struggle with arrears in payable fees, and the accumulation of debts towards several public utility fees – water, electricity, gas, rental – is not rare. In a number of cases, due to the high amount of accumulated debt toward rentals, social welfare cannot be granted to the residents.

Challenges and Strategies

Köbánya has commissioned an [Integrated Development Plan](#) for its entire city that is co-financed by European resources. On the basis of this overall plan, there is an urgent need now to develop Local Action Plans, which use the overall Development Plan as a framework – but achieve more detailed and concrete planning of objectives and activities for individual neighbourhoods. The target area of the RegGov-Project is meant to act as a pilot for this new level of integrated urban planning in Köbánya.

The [major challenges](#) the city is facing in the development of its neighbourhoods are

- a high degree of poverty and social exclusion in several areas;
- the high proportion of “poor house owners” who have acquired their houses from the local authorities at a very low price, but now aren’t even able to pay the running costs for their homes – especially heating and electricity;
- growing tendencies of absolute exclusion and poverty amongst the many members of the local ROMA community as an additional element of social and spatial segregation and polarisation in this city.



[An Integrated Development Plan as framework for future action of the district](#)



The RegGov Target Area

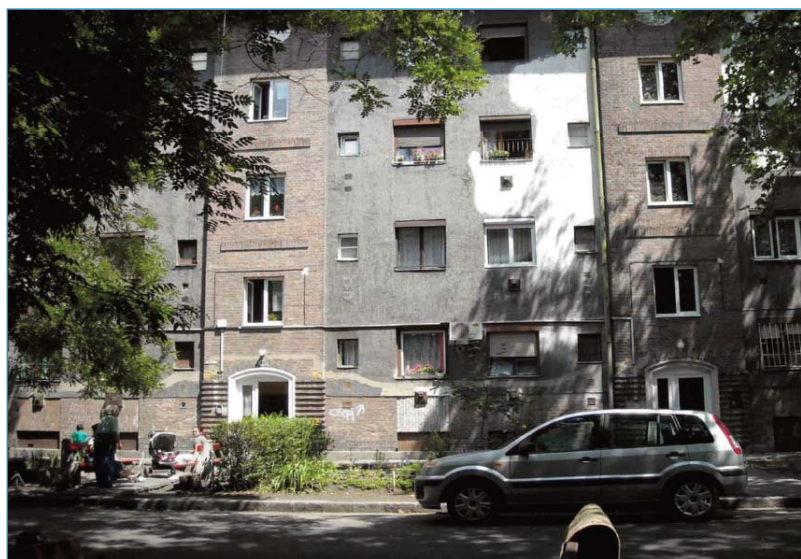
With regard to the target area of the RegGov-project and the target group of this seminar, the history of this housing area needs to be explained initially: In order to relieve the catastrophic housing situation following the first world war, the government then built 17 emergency housing estates, of which the Pongrácz estate was one. These housing estates were characterised by low-rent small flats that have been made up of an assembly of three-storey blocks of flats, public buildings [school, public bath, doctor's surgery, kindergarten, cinema], designed by renowned architects of the era.

A housing stock that has
been appropriate at its time
of construction only

At the time, such estates met the relevant requirements for a housing estate. The Pongrácz-estate was then surrounded by a fence and the entry into the area was only possible through a limited number of gates. The big gate at the Pongrácz-Street still gives an impression of that situation. The fence was dismantled after the second world war.

The flat included a small entry space, two small rooms, a toilet and a kitchen [including a „bath room“] – so, at the time of construction this was regarded as sufficient or even good housing quality.

Nowadays, these flats in many cases of Roma families are overcrowded, as several generations use to live in such flats, and the small flats also do not have the expected modern equipment.



Not only the housing situation of the Roma communities in the area is very deprived, also their health condition is strikingly worse than that in average Western European countries. The life expectancy at birth is very low in this group, mainly due to a high amount of infant mortality, cardio-vascular diseases and violent deaths.



Severe social deprivation
amongst the Roma people

The social situation within the Roma communities is equally bad and disadvantaged: The chances for members of the Roma communities to find regular employment are very rare, mainly due to their lack of education, skills and qualification. This has been different in the 1970s, when the employment percentage of the Roma people was the same as for the rest of the society. Only amongst women the situation was different, as they usually stayed at home to raise the children.

Since then, the employment situation and the exclusion from the labour market has become severely worse for the Roma, with currently 780 Roma people being registered as unemployed in Köbánya. The KÖKERT Kft, a company of the city council, therefore runs an employment scheme.

With regard to future potentials, it can be reported that the percentage of those Roma children who have completed primary schools has been increasing over the last years – and also the percentage of those with a diploma has grown thanks to scholarship programmes.



Köbánya



Cultural values and traditions disappear

But still it needs to be emphasised that in the generally overcrowded flats **undisturbed studying for children is not possible** which contributes to their disadvantaged situation at school. More than half of the households have nobody with a regular income so that they depend on public transfer payments. As a consequence, many families are in arrears with the payment of their bills for water, electricity and gas provision as well as for the monthly rent.

With regard to **cultural resources and development**, it is observed that many elements of Roma tradition are disappearing in recent years in Köbánya. Learning music is not typical anymore, even in the families of Roma musicians who used to live in great numbers in the district.

All attempts to improve the living situation and the integration of Roma communities need to be aware, first of all, that the Roma population in Köbánya is not a homogenous group, but rather an **extremely fragmented, heterogeneous society**. But, in general, they all share a very high degree of poverty, social exclusion and discrimination that goes back to the times before the fall of the socialist political system. The **most important elements of their current social exclusion and deprivation** are:

- The members of Roma communities are marginalised on the employment market en masse, their job hunt is hindered by discrimination.
- The young members of Roma communities looking for their first job are in the worst situation.



- The large-scale and permanent unemployment of the Roma communities causes not only the decrease of income but also leads to the loss of feeling of security and the transformation of human relations.

Partners for the district of Köbánya to support Roma communities are institutions that provide services for the elderly, family support service, child care, education support and nurse services. There are also civic organisations like the Red Cross, the Havasi Gyopár Foundation or the Emberbarát Foundation who actively contribute to such efforts.

With regard to the housing situation, the District of Köbánya runs a **Social Urban Rehabilitation Programme** that focuses on the most run down buildings and flats. In such estates, the following activities are carried out:

- Installing utilities [providing mod cons], decreasing the number of flats by increasing their sizes [typically forming 2-room flats].
- Decrease the high number of families in arrears through an active family support programme [office located on-site].
- Support law and order through a crime prevention programme.
- Turning courtyards into playing grounds.
- Inclusion of an employment programme in the physical measures.

As a **conclusion** it might be said that the ever increasing “multi-cultural” feature of the Köbánya society remains a value despite minor tensions occurring rather infrequently. In contrast with tendencies observed in other European metropolises, here the settlers of Asian origin manifest a definitive integration drive while maintaining their traditions.

The resulting bilingual feature may prove to be very valuable in the future with regard to the fast developing world region of the East.



The Social Urban
Rehabilitation Programme

Köbánya's multi-cultural
population as a chance for
future development

8. City Presentation Dortmund

Uta Wittig-Flick | City of Dortmund

My name is Jutta Wittig-Flick. I work for the local of Dortmund in the Planning Department. My work is to develop one local area, the Nordstadt, an inner-city district of our city that I will present to you in more detail in the course of my presentation. The Roma people who came to Dortmund after World War II are well integrated in the meantime and nowadays nobody knows anymore that they have a Roma background.

Newly arriving Roma create problems in the neighbourhood

But our current difficulty – at the same time my motivation to join this Thematic Cluster – is a new group of Roma people that came to our city about one and a half year ago. They currently are a group that creates problems for us. I will tell you something about the location of the Nordstadt in the City of Dortmund, provide you with some statistical information about this area and its recent development as well as the current situation in this neighbourhood. In addition, I will present to you an overview over the activities we have undertaken in this area over the last seven years and the next steps we want to undertake.

The City of Dortmund is located in the middle-west of Germany, located in the Federal State of North Rhine Westphalia. Dortmund is part of the metropolitan region Ruhr with the highest amount of inhabitants in Germany.



Nearly 600,000 inhabitants live in Dortmund. We have a density of 2,094 inhabitants per square meter. Around 13% of the population are migrants. Persons with a migration background, which means they have roots or a history in a different country, but now a German passport, form 28% of Dortmund's population. The unemployment rate is 14%.

North of the city centre, you can find the Nordstadt, a district that is located very centrally at the outside of the city ring. The Nordstadt is home to approximately 42,000 inhabitants. The area has a surface of approximately 15 square kilometres and hosts up to 3,500 companies. The Nordstadt has 30,000 flats for its residents and an unemployment rate of 27%.

62% of the residents in this area of Dortmund have a migration background and 33% of the local residents are depending on social benefits and transfer payments.

The map shows you the 39 neighbourhoods of the city. The worst situation of all social spaces is observed in the Nordstadt. We established the monitoring system of the social spaces that is the basis and source of this map in 2007 in order to have a standardised system to monitor the development in the various parts of our city – also offering the chance to intervene at an early stage when problems start to develop in a particular area.

Due to the cumulation of problems and disadvantage in the Nordstadt we developed a Local Action Plan. The implementation of the projects and measures included in this integrated plan we received around 28 Mio. € co-financing from the of the European Structural Funds until 2008. In fact, the Nordstadt got financial support from each single regeneration programme that has been offered during the last 35 years. Nevertheless, the problems in the area are not yet solved, so that we feel an ongoing need to try and find resources again for a continuation of our efforts. New projects will probably start in the second half of 2009.

The integrated Local Action Plan that I have mentioned has been financed in the framework of the Community Initiative URBAN II. For this URBAN II-programme, we defined three central fields of activities:

- The first one was "Improvement of urban quality". In this field we re-designed streets and supported the upgrading of buildings and their adaptation to new uses.
- The second focus was placed on the development of the local economy. Here, we supported small local companies and various marketing and support activities for the development of the area's local economy.

[URBAN II co-financing an
Integrated Local Action Plan](#)

- The third focus was called “Development of neighbourhood meeting places” with measures like neighbourhood management in various parts of the Nordstadt.

The effects of this programme have been positive, so that for instance the decline in population in the area could be stopped. Additionally, the differences between the Nordstadt and the rest of the city in terms of unemployment did not grow anymore.

We also developed and implemented an intensive image campaign, which changed the negative image of the area and its residents in the city. Thanks to this image campaign and the improvement in the outside image of the area, the local residents could develop an improved self-esteem and satisfaction with regard to their living situation in the Nordstadt.

On the other hand, the projects and initiatives that we implemented here were not sufficient to solve all problems and we are facing a continuing need to develop further long-term projects for this area. This was the reason for us to develop the recent action plan “Social City Dortmund”, based on an integrated participation process with about 2.000 people being consulted and involved. The output of this process was the identification of 54 promising project ideas and 11 self-financed projects.

Combining local, regional,
national and European funding
for one programme

The implementation of these projects will be done again with joint finance from the city, the regional ministry and the national ministry and will again receive co-financing from the European Structural Funds, based on funding opportunities provided in the framework of our Regional Operational Programme. These future projects are again part of an Integrated Action Plan that is divided into three lines of action. It contains 23 main projects with a high amount of individual activities on the operational level. The regulations of the Regional Operational Programme force us to place the main focus on the topic of “New Urban Life and Image”. This would not have been our own choice, but in order to obtain this European co-financing we need to respect that recommendation.

The second focus in the composition of project – as during the URBAN II programme – placed on support for the local economy and for the employment situation.

The third focus of the integrated programme deals with social and ethnic integration. One of the projects in this thematic axis is targeted at alcohol and drug addicted people in public spaces and can also include projects to deal with the new Roma problematic. We are not talking about a lot of money here, but at least we have some money to make a start.

I would now like to explain a bit the situation with regard to our new Romanian and Bulgarian inhabitants. We cannot say exactly how many of them have a Roma background because we do not register that. Since World War II, it is not allowed anymore in Germany to register somebody's race. So, the people we are talking about definitely have a Romanian or Bulgarian background, but we cannot say how many out of them actually belong to a Roma community.

In the overall City of Dortmund, we have 990 Bulgarians and 704 Romanians registered, but in reality we have a lot of people who do not register themselves and therefore are not counted in such statistics. Therefore we do not know exactly how people of that origin live in our city, but we assume that the real figure is twice the official statistical value. The government thinks that those immigrants from Eastern Europe do not create a problem for our society, just the Bulgarians and Romanians who arrived in the Nordstadt started to become a problem for the area and its residents.

When we deal with the Nordstadt – a pretty large district – we always divide it into three distinct neighbourhoods – each of them characterised by a high degree of social problems: Hafen, Nordmarkt and Borsigplatz. The Nordmarkt area is the part of the Nordstadt with the highest problems. As you can see from the photos, it is here where men are standing every morning along the main streets, waiting to be picked up by somebody for illegal jobs. In the morning, there are 50 to 100 people standing there and waiting. The women mostly work as prostitutes. Most of them do this legally, because following German legislation that means they are running their own business which is something the law allows, while they would not have the right to get into any employment.

[Newly arrived Roma people
creating a feeling of fear in
the neighbourhood](#)



Dortmund

That is quite a discriminating situation. In the Nordstadt, there is one defined area for prostitution, one street where it is legal while in all other streets it is illegal.



[Creating a safe environment
for prostitution in a defined
part of the area](#)

As prostitution has always been an important issue here and we had to accept we would not be able to stop it, we chose an approach a few years ago to try and organise it and also improve the working and safety conditions for women who are working as prostitutes in the Nordstadt. In one area, we provided them with boxes, where the cars can drive around the street and choose a prostitute and then drive into such a box. The prostitutes are safer here because the client cannot leave this closed area without being seen and the prostitute can open the door of the box at any time when she gets afraid or feels at risk. Most women working there are Romanians and Bulgarians with a Roma background. Our aim is to concentrate prostitution in this area, so that there is no illegal prostitution in the other streets and the places become more liveable.

Many German prostitutes left the place because the price for Roma prostitutes is very cheap. At the same time, it needs to be said that the health situation of these prostitutes is very poor. Whether they are forced to prostitute themselves by their husbands is not clear. The problem is that we cannot communicate with them because they only speak Romani. It is very difficult for us to find a translator for that language.

The Roma people in that area of Dortmund live under very bad conditions with around 30 people in one flat. The government cannot do anything because the houses are private. And the people pay an extremely exaggerated price for a place on one mattress, not for the flat, that costs around 200 Euro per month.



Challenges

- solution for illegal prostitution
- solution for illegal work
- solution for produced anxiety spaces/ places for inhabitants
- crime prevention/ decrease
- solution for precarious living situations
- support for involved children



So, there are two main problems: most inhabitants of the area are afraid of those Roma people, especially the local children and women, because the men are standing around in the street all day. The other problem is that somehow we have to solve the problem with their bad housing conditions.

A combination of problems
without a chance to
communicate directly

From the Discussion:

Béla Kézi

Probably the local authorities can offer a house with better housing conditions and cheaper fees for the Roma people. They can also give out beds, so that this would make the situation better for the Roma.

David R. Froessler

Maybe in practical terms is not a good idea to put all people in one house and concentrate the problems regarding the Roma people in the city. Even if you put it into a controlled area, I do not think that there is such a simple solution to the problem.

Jutta Wittig-Flick

Our challenges are the solution of the illegal prostitution in the streets, to find a solution for the illegal work, a solution for the production of spaces of fear and no-go areas for the inhabitants and to develop activities for reduction and prevention of criminal activities. At the same time we want to find a solution for the poor and sometimes dangerous living situation of these people, especially providing support to the children in this group.

Dortmund

An interdisciplinary Working Group to solve problems

We have established an interdisciplinary working group that meets every two weeks. The members of that group have defined aims for the Nordstadt. The main aim is to make the Nordstadt an attractive living area, especially for children and young people. The sub aims are the mentioned challenges: no precarious living situations, no more illegal prostitution and spaces of fear for the local community.

Regarding the quantitative dimension of the problem, 2% of the Nordstadt population are Romanian and Bulgarian and we think that half of them have a Roma background. There are more women than men but men produce much more fear and problems in the neighbourhood. They do illegal work and we cannot come into contact with them because of the different dialects in the Romani language that make it difficult to find interpreters who can support us.

All of these newly arriving Roma live in extremely poor housing conditions. We would like to integrate them into the urban society even we do not know whether they intend to stay for a longer time or even permanently in Dortmund. Some of the Roma even live in their cars and we never know if they will stay in the area or go to another city.

We are doing a workshop next week where we will share information about our research and information in the Nordstadt. Different working groups with different experts [planners, social workers, teachers etc.] will talk about the problems. We are searching for a solution to this problem, which is creative and involves contributions from all possible partners.

Problems caused by national legislation cannot be solved on the local level

One of the structural problems that we cannot solve on the local level is the national legislation that does not allow Roma to get into a regular employment with one of the employers in the city or the region, but only allows them to have income from self-employment. In two years that legislation will change and probably the situation will get better then.

The challenge is to develop a good understanding of the problems and needs of the Roma people and to establish contact and communication with them, something that does not seem easy. We do not know enough about Roma and have no experts who could support us. That is why I am hoping to get some information from the work in this Thematic Cluster.

Conclusions & Work Programme

9. Conclusions and Work Programme

David R. Froessler | RegGov Lead Expert

9.1 Interests and Requests from the Member Cities

For the final session of this first seminar of Thematic Cluster 3, the partners have formed small city-teams and have discussed what questions they would like to deal with in the framework of this Thematic Cluster's future work and exchange activities and which results and products they would like to see at the end of this joint work.

This session resulted in the following briefing for the further work of Thematic Cluster 3:

Lead Questions for further work and exchange activities:

- How to change the mentality on both sides?
- How to mobilise the local Roma communities and give them trust and motivation?
- How to use the knowledge and talent of Roma people?
- How to communicate solutions to the mainstream society and organise support and acceptance?
- How to convince politicians that this task is an important issue?
- How to create a local strategy providing sustainable solutions?
- How to develop and manage sustainable projects?
- How to overcome the low levels of education?
- How to identify additional and diversified financing sources for Roma projects?

Products and outputs to be achieved at the end of the joint work and exchange activities:

- A detailed methodology to prepare an action plan responding the problems of the Roma community
- An International Catalogue of Examples of Good Practice
- A thematic brochure as a physical output of this cluster
- Common projects with the other partners
- A sustainable partnership and a continuation of this partnership



An Agenda for Inter-Regional Co-Production

Precisely defined products and outputs to be developed for international use

Conclusions & Work Programme



Ending incoherent stop-and-go activities

Creating a solid strategic framework for targeted integrated action in partnership

9.2 Key Characteristics of a new Approach to the Integration of Roma Communities

The new approach towards an integration of Roma communities in the framework of Integrated Neighbourhood Regeneration Strategies is based on the observations and discussions of the partners involved in this Thematic Cluster and will overcome the following deficits and shortfalls of existing activities:

- It will end the practice of stop-and-go integration, depending on the availability and the life-cycle of funding opportunities
- It will end the practice of isolated activities of local key players and organisations without any co-ordination and strategic orientation
- It will end the practice to „serve“ improvements and support to members of the Roma communities and keep them in the position of dependent receivers of welfare gifts
- It will end the practice of sectoral and mono-dimensional approaches which ignore the complex reality of life in deprived areas and amongst the target group and sees them through the filter of specific funding regulations or organisational responsibilities.

Instead, the new approach that will be developed in the framework of this Thematic Cluster will have a form of Integrated Local Integration Strategies for Roma Communities and will be characterised by the following key features:

- It will provide a strategic framework for action that covers a period of 5 to 10 years to create continuity for the integration process and the use of available resources.
- It will be jointly developed and decided by all relevant organisations and stakeholders so that all of them have a chance to develop a sense of ownership for the strategy, recognise the added value for their own work and will be active supporters and promoters for the implementation of the strategy
- Each of the Local Integration Strategies will consist of a combination of a city-wide strategy with neighbourhood-based sub-strategies for the relevant deprived neighbourhoods
- Each of the Local Integration Strategies will contain a strong element of empowerment and start with tools to organise the local Roma communities, create structures of support and leadership in the local community and make them active co-designers and co-producers of strategy as well as projects.
- Each of the Local Integration Strategies will define Quality Standards for Service and Strategy Delivery which will be signed by all partners

Conclusions & Work Programme

- Each of the Local Integration Strategies will contain a procedure and indicators for a yearly monitoring of progress and defined milestones to be achieved in each year of implementation.
- Each of the Local Integration Strategies will contain a financial strategic planning to identify all possible resources and make maximum use of them
- Each of the Local Integration Strategies will be implemented in regular exchange with the foreign RegGov-partners and will wherever be supported by interregional projects and exchange activities for which additional resources will jointly be acquired by the participating partners.



9.3 Work Plan

October & November 2009 | Lead Expert

Development of a Guidance Report for the Local Partners with the following elements:

- Detailed analysis of the current practice with its strong elements, but also with its limitations and deficits [State of the Art]
- Detailed design and explanation of a new generation of Local Integration Strategies as strategic framework for local action
 - A collection of examples of Good Practice for each of the integrated fields of activities
 - An overview over possible sources for funding in Europe



December 2009 & January 2010 | City Level

Local Groundwork for the preparation of a new local strategic approach to integration:

- Check of the strategic framework provided by the Lead Expert
 - Creation of a Local Support Group for the development and implementation of a Local Integration Strategy
 - Adaptation of the strategic framework to the local needs and opportunities
 - Joint definition of bottlenecks and elements for which input and support from the partners is needed

Conclusions & Work Programme



February 2010 | Lead Expert

Cross-check and completion work

- Check and comparison of structured feedback from member cities with an analysis of chosen strategic approach and identified bottlenecks
- Organisation of additional examples of Good Practice to overcome identified lacks of experience and know-how
 - Preparation and organisation of Cluster Meeting No. 2



March 2010 | Network Level

Seminar No. 2 of Thematic Cluster 4

- Discussion and exchange concerning experiences with local groundwork in phase I
- Discussion of remaining problems and obstacles
 - Strategic decisions and potential corrections to strategic framework
 - Detailed implementation planning
- Planning for additional European projects and funding to strengthen the Thematic Cluster and its capacity



April - December 2010 | City Level

Local Development Work

- Development of integrated Local Integration Strategies with coaching from partner cities and Lead Experts
- Organisation of all necessary decisions for implementation
- Experimental implementation of first steps and elements of Local Integration Strategies

Conclusions & Work Programme



February 2011 | Network Level

Seminar No. 3 of Thematic Cluster 4

- Exchange of experiences with development and implementation of Local Integration Strategies
 - Discussion of remaining obstacles and joint search for possible solutions
- Joint definition of key elements and messages of a European Manual for Successful Local Integration of Roma Communities



March - May 2011 | Lead Expert

Capitalisation

- Development of a European Manual for Successful Local Integration of Roma Communities in dialogue and remote co-operation with all member cities and local partners



Annex

Seminar Programme

List of Participants

Imprint



Seminar Programme

Thursday, 11 June 2009

9.30h Registration and coffee

10.00h Welcome and introduction to the programme

[David R. Froessler](#) | Lead Expert

10.15h Introduction of all participants with a short description of their work, their link to the Roma-Topic and their expectations towards the work of this Thematic Cluster and its outcomes

10.45h City Presentation Nyíregyháza

11.30h Short presentation of partner organisations from Nyíregyháza

12.30h Lunch Buffet

13.30h City Presentation Satu Mare

14.00h City Presentation Kőbánya

15.00h Site Visit: The Huszár Estate

16.30h Sight Seeing: Nyíregyháza City by bus

18.45h Dinner: „Svájci Lak” Sóstó

22.00h Return to Hotel

Seminar Programme

Friday, 12 June 2009

9.00h City Presentation Dortmund

9.30h Analysis of the City Presentations

- What is the situation of Roma-communities in the participating cities?
- What are the main elements of deprivation?
- What are the most important obstacles towards integration?
- What kind of strategies and projects are already implemented?
- Which additional strategies are needed?
- Which additional projects are needed??

10.30h Coffee Break

11.00h Work Planning for Cluster 3

- Which examples of good practice do we need to organise as inputs?
- What are the production objectives for Cluster 3?
- Which contribution can each member city make to the work of Cluster 3?
- Detailed Work Plan until the next meeting of Cluster 3

13.00h Lunch Buffet

14.00h End of Seminar 1 and Departure of Participants

List of Participants

List of Participants

- Andrea Angel | Office for Internationally financed projects | Satu Mare
- Arthur Balogh | Chairmen of Gipsy Minority Self Government | Nyíregyháza
- Rudolfg Bánáti | Councillor | Köbánya
- Rozalia Bondrea | County Bureau for Roma | Satu Mare
- Dóra Deme | Head of Social Department | Nyíregyháza
- Gergely Fábián | Phd. Institute of Debrecen
- Éva Fodor | Project Manager of "Periphery" Association | Nyíregyháza
- Tamás Giba | Vice Mayor | Nyíregyháza
- Dénes Gyóri | Vice Mayor | Köbánya
- Kovas George | County Administration | Satu Mare
- Dr. Lajos Hüse | Director of Child Welfare Centre | Nyíregyháza
- Tóthné Ildikó Csatiós | Project Coordinator | Nyíregyháza
- Béla Kézi | Managing Director of MEGACOM | Budapest
- Béla Lakatos | Head of district-level Roma Council | Köbánya
- Nicoleta Lasan | Adviser | Satu Mare
- Róbert Leiwolf | Köbánya
- Molnár Julia Marksteinné | Councillor | Köbánya
- Ágnes Mozsár | Chief Architect | Köbánya
- Péter Nagy | Expert Advisor | Nyíregyháza
- János Nyírcsák | General Manager of Human-Net Foundation | Nyíregyháza
- Hámoriné Irén Rudolf | General Manager of Property and Facility Management | Nyíregyháza
- Csaba Szász | Deputy Mayor | Köbánya
- Uta Wittig-Flick | Planning Department | City of Dortmund

Moderation:

- David R. Froessler | urbano | Urban Research & Consultancy



RegGov Fast Track Network

Regional Governance of Sustainable
Integrated Neighbourhood Development

Thematic Cluster 3

The Integration of ROMA-communities and
other deprived and excluded groups into the
social, cultural and economic life of their cities

Seminar I | Nyíregyháza | 11 & 12 June 2009

Seminar Report

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