

Thank you Mdm Vice President

My name is Vladimir Horvath and I am Roma from Slovakia. Also I am an UN Minority Fellow. And I would address the need for a stable structural approach.

- Firstly, I would like to highlight and appreciate the good practice we have in Slovakia regarding inclusion of marginalized Roma. Namely I would like to mention helping professions such as Social Work, School assistants, Roma health mediators and Local civic prevention service. All these positions are effective and empowering especially when people from the community are employed.
- Unfortunately this practice, despite good results, is still to large extent not funded from the state budget. The practice heavily relies on projects for a limited time.
- I truly believe Slovakia could be a leading example for neighboring countries and beyond, as can be seen with data collection service - Atlas of Roma Communities that UNDP helped to initiate.
- In fact, the newly formed government included in its program to only implement activities that proved to be working and efficient. I do believe this means that Slovakia is ready to make these activities a stable part of governance.
- Based on above I recommend to the Slovak Government:
 - Increase **efforts** and update the **approach** in **desegregation** of the Education system;
 - Increase its efforts in including Roma (mainly women led) civil society in the decision making process **from the beginning** and support respective capacity building activities. And Finally:
 - Implement good practice such as Social workers, School assistants, Roma health mediators and Local civic prevention service into the **state budget** immediately after ending of their current funding period.
- Thank you.