



Council of European Union Recommendation of 12 March 2021 on « Roma equality, inclusion, and participation »

The French Strategy 2020 – 2030

A strong commitment and ambitious objectives to fight antigypsyism and act in favor of the inclusion of Travellers and people considered as Roma, in accordance with the laws of the French Republic.

In France, where ethnic targeting of public policies is not permitted, the definition of Roma populations given by the European Union covers two types of population: Travellers, considered French citizens with a nomadic or semi-nomadic lifestyle (between 350,000 and 500,000 people); and **people from Central and Eastern Europe living in camps and slums** (around 13,000 people today).

In response to the European recommendation asking each Member State to adopt a ten-year strategy, the French authorities sent the 2020 - 2030 national strategy in January 2022. It is structured around **3 ambitious objectives** :

1 Combating anti-Roma racism or « antigypsyism »

The populations targeted by the European Commission are diverse, but they all have one thing in common: the racism and discrimination to which they are subjected. This anti-Roma racism or « antigypsyism » has a history and specific forms. **The recognition and the fight against this racism is at the heart of the European recommendation.** The French strategy takes up this priority and makes it its first objective.

2 Improving the living conditions and inclusion of Travellers

Many French Travellers aspire to a nomadic or semi-nomadic life. Therefore, the second objective of the national strategy is **to enable them to make the most of this way of life.** In particular, through the development of reception areas and family plots, the recognition of the caravan as a form of accommodation, and strengthening the dialogue between public authorities and Travellers.

3 Accelerate the reduction of slums where nationals intra-European live in a precarious situation

The EU Recommendation explicitly recognizes the mobility of European Roma citizens who settle (or temporarily stay) in any of the EU's Member States other than their country of origin and who find themselves in a vulnerable situation. Therefore, the 3rd objective of the strategy aims to **accelerate the humane and pragmatic policy initiated in 2018** to reduce the number of slums where these populations live.

¹ According to the recommendation, « the term 'Roma' is used as an umbrella term to refer to a number of different groups of Romani origin such as Roma, Sinti, Kale, Gypsies, Romanichels and Boyash/Rudari. It also encompasses groups such as Ashkali, Egyptians, Eastern groups (including Dom, Lom, Rom, and Abdal), as well as traveller populations, including ethnic Travellers, Yenish or those designated under the administrative term 'Gens du voyage', and people who identify themselves as Gypsies, Tsiganes or Tziganes, without denying the specific characteristics of those groups. »

[https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021H0319\(01\)&from=PT](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021H0319(01)&from=PT)

Progress in the decade 2010 - 2020

Regarding Travellers

- **Repeal of the specific administrative status** for Travellers
- Better **consideration of rental family sites**
- **Re-establishment of the National Consultative Commission for Travellers**
- Recognition by the President of the Republic of **the responsibility of the French State in the internment of nomads between 1940 and 1946**

Concerning EU nationals in a precarious situation

- **Transformation of the public action with a change of method** and an objective of slums clearance
- **Doubling of the budget dedicated** to slums clearance with support towards integration (**€8 million**)
- In 2019-2020, 2,500 people rehoused thanks to these actions, 3,000 children accompanied to school

Key measures of the 2020 - 2030 strategy

Fighting «anti-gypsyism »

- ✓ **Recognise and name anti-Roma racism** (organization of a European event in 2022)
- ✓ **Train administrative staff**
- ✓ Raise awareness among **schools**
- ✓ Set up a **watch on speeches and discrimination** against Travellers and Roma populations or those considered as such

European citizens in slums

- ✓ In each territory concerned, put in place **a roadmap with an objective of complete clearance by 2030**
- ✓ **Strengthen the digital platform** for the actors of the clearance
- ✓ **Secure the living conditions** of people living in slums (water, fire, waste, etc.)
- ✓ **Ensure adequate access to school** for the 5,000 children living in slums
- ✓ Offer appropriate **access to employment programs**
- ✓ Find **appropriate solutions for pendular mobility**, particularly in relation to **seasonal work**
- ✓ **Fight against situations of control and human trafficking**
- ✓ **Promote citizenship**

Travellers

- ✓ Support the **development of family rental sites**
- ✓ Take into account the environment and the location of **reception areas**
- ✓ Engage in a reflection on the **status of the caravan** as a house
- ✓ **Facilitate schooling**
- ✓ Continue to support the national **health mediation program**
- ✓ Strengthen partnerships and actions in the cultural and memorial fields
- ✓ Continue the **dialogue and consultation** between the public authorities and representatives within the framework of the National Consultative Commission of Travellers

A concerted elaboration, a close monitoring

Led by the Dihal, in conjunction with the General Secretariat for European Affairs, [the French strategy](#) was the subject of consultations with the stakeholders (State administrations, local authorities, civil society, people concerned, National Advisory Commission on Travellers (CNCGDV), National Commission for the Clearance of Slums). After **interministerial validation**, the French authorities sent the final document to the European Commission in early February 2022. Its implementation will be monitored based on a series of results or activity indicators and **the submission of an annual report.**