



Agentura pro sociální začleňování
v romských lokalitách

Strategy for Combating Social Exclusion for the period 2011-2015

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Strategy for Combating Social Exclusion for the period 2011-2015

The Strategy for Combating Social Exclusion for the period 2011-2015 has been approved by the government on 21st September 2011. It's the principal document of the Czech government to support the social inclusion of people in socially excluded localities in the Czech Republic, which are currently mainly populated by the Roma. The Strategy has a form of an action plan with 77 measures in the fields of education, employment, housing, social services, family policy, healthcare, security and regional development. All measures have their responsible gestors (individual ministries) and deadlines within 2012-2015.

It's the first comprehensive concept document aimed at the solution of the social inclusion issue with concrete deadlines and executors responsible for individual measures. More than 100 experts from departments, regions, municipalities, academic institutions and NGOs took part in its preparation, coordinated by experts from the Agency for Social Inclusion. It has been presented to the government by the Prime Minister Petr Nečas together with the government commissioner for human rights. The government Agency for Social Inclusion was responsible for its preparation.

The government commissioner for human rights is responsible for the implementation of the strategy. She will coordinate meetings of representatives from the ministries (on the level of deputies). Here will be evaluate the implementation. The government commissioner for human rights will submit by the end of 2014 to Prime Minister the report about the implementation of the strategy. In this report will be include the proposal with more activities for support of the social inclusion in Czech Republic for the period 2014-2020.

The strategy for combating social inclusion has three main pillars:

- 1) The existence of socially excluded localities presents widespread costs for solving problems, which are connected to it. These costs reproduce since 1990 and steadily increase with the growing isolation of socially excluded localities and the continuous growth of social, economic, space and cultural barriers between the people from those localities and the general society.
- 2) It is possible to significantly reduce the amount of socially excluded persons and socially excluded localities in the Czech Republic through an appropriate mix of interventions and thus to significantly reduce the strain on public budgets. To achieve this it is necessary to motivate and start the mobility of socially excluded individuals and families back into the social and economic structure of society.
- 3) The main motives of the proposed intervention are not the affirmative actions, i.e. giving advantage to a certain group of Czech citizens, but the changes and additions to the central systems (e.g. care for threatened children and institutional care, planning and development of social services, pre-school and school education, active employment policy, housing support for low-income households etc.)

The strategy presents solutions, which will solve the situation of people in socially excluded localities and the situation of a wider locality as well, because the existence of socially excluded localities is connected to deeper structural problems of towns and regions, in which they are situated. Attention

is focused not only on problem in already existing excluded localities, but also on effective prevention of their creation.

Basic overview of the amount and location of socially excluded localities in the Czech Republic is provided by a map of socially excluded localities, which has been created on order from the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs in 2006. According to this analysis, there are 330 socially excluded localities with ca. 80 thousand people living in them (70 thousand being the Roma); (Gabal Consulting for the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, 2006). According to the newest estimates the number is now greater than 400, which will be ascertained by the updated report, which is now being prepared by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs.

Social exclusion is not only a social problem, but also an economic problem and its security dimension is also significant. Particularly the loosening of social (and sometimes inter-ethnic) cohesion among the people within and outside these localities (or sometimes between the major society and the Roma minority) results in tension escalation and the spread of petty and more serious crime, which in some cases grows into organized crime, particularly in human trafficking, money lending and drug distribution. The activities of extremists – particularly extreme right – also present a high security risk.

Foundations of the Strategy for combating social exclusion

The Strategy is based on the conclusions and recommendations of the Base Study for the Strategy for Combating Social Exclusion (Gabal, Víšek, 2009)¹ and conclusions of the studies of World Bank (2008², 2010³), Deloitte for the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (2006⁴) and CERGE-EI (2009). It takes into consideration the goals of Europe Strategy 2020, recommendations from the National Economic Council of the Government (NERV) and other experts, who agree on the need for systematic solutions leading to the support of social inclusion of people from socially excluded localities. They jointly point out the risks of increasing impacts on public budgets if the situation continues to be unresolved or its solution delayed.

The World Bank studies include cost calculations of solutions for the phenomena connected to socially excluded localities, such as long-term unemployment, dependence on social benefits, indebtedness, crime, rent defaults and subjecting of children into institutional care). The World Bank study (2010) states that due to insufficient inclusion of the Roma and their low education level the European countries are losing hundreds of millions EUR, in the case of the Czech Republic the loss is calculated to be 367 million EUR (World Bank, 2010, page 17).

Approximately 80 thousand people have to deal with the problem of social exclusion in the Czech Republic (ca. 70 thousand of that being the Roma); (Gabal Consulting for the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, 2006). This number presents approximately 16 thousand households and ca. 20 thousand families.

¹ Gabal, I., Víšek, P.: Working papers on formulation and implementation of the policy of inclusion of people from socially excluded localities into the Czech society and its social and economic structure, Prague, 2009.

² Czech Republic: Improving Employment Chances of the Roma. World Bank, 2008.

³ Roma Inclusion: An Economic Opportunity for Europe, World Bank, 2010

⁴ Deloitte BPO G I a.s.: Economic aspects of the existence of socially excluded communities, 2008.

The Strategy for Combating Social Exclusion is divided into these main parts:

- Security
- Housing
- Education
- Social services, family, healthcare
- Employment, benefit systems
- Regional development

1. Security

Socially excluded localities are generally connected with a crime rate, related to insufficient resources, adequate social contacts and opportunities and also to the spread of social pathologies, which is higher than the country average.

Crime in socially excluded localities often has a structure, which can be compared with a pyramid structure. On the top are those, who abuse the non-standard living conditions of people living in social exclusion. These are money lenders, drug dealers, pimps, organizers of illegal employment and other persons organizing systematic crime activity. These central figures organizing crime exploit (in the middle part of the pyramid) through a system of commitments, family and other ties, pressure and extortion, other persons, through which they spread their influence, ensure distribution or execute extortions. In the lower part of the pyramid are mainly the victims of the criminal activity, who are naturally the largest group and are connected to the crime system as forced users of illegal services, who constitute the dependent clientele (dependence on loans, illegal employment, conditional housing etc. and also physical addictions e.g. on drugs). The organization of this specific crime remains hidden to the public and often to the police as well. The situation of the crime victims gets more complicated due to the low law enforceability in socially excluded localities and also due to the fact that they are also often not only victims of a serious crime activity, but perpetrators of another as well.

The people living in the socially excluded localities have generally low law awareness and low confidence in institutions (including judges and police). A number of social pathologic phenomena, which can be the cause of crime – such as alcoholism or violence against women and children – are present directly in the families.

Ties to current and planned sector activities

Suggested measures in the Strategy for Combating Social Exclusion don't deal in detail with the issue of community policing, implementation of which into the work and education of policemen is considered as one of the goals of the Strategy of Police Work in Relation to Minorities (for the period of 2008-2010).⁵

⁵ <http://aplikace.mvcr.cz/archiv2008/dokument/2008/strategie-minority.pdf>

The material also doesn't deal in detail with the issue of extremism, which is thoroughly covered in the Strategy of Combating Extremism⁶ and in a number of other materials of the Ministry of Interior. This issue is covered only within the priority of help for hate violence victims.

Summary of measures in the Security field

1.5.1.1 Support for creation of communication workgroups for solutions in the field of security in municipalities with socially excluded localities

The aim of this measure is to support the creation of communication workgroups for solutions in the field of security in municipalities with socially excluded localities, which will serve as a regular meeting point for all relevant subjects participating in the solution of the security issue (administration bodies, municipal police, Czech Police, social terrain workers, employment agencies, Probationary and Mediation service, schools, NGOs and representatives of socially excluded localities).

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Agency		2012-2013

1.5.2.1 Creation of posts for specialists on money lending

This measure will create posts for specialists on money lending within the Department for Investigation of Organized Crime (ÚOOZ) in the scope of two table positions. Their role will be mainly methodological and coordinational; they will ensure the use of adequate methods of investigation, interrogation and witness protection and other specific activities.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Interior ministry		2013-2014

1.5.2.2 Research of current types of money lending in the socially excluded localities

Currently there are no up-to-date data available on the scope and types of money lending in the Czech Republic. It is therefore essential to perform a research which will map the forms of illegal money lending in social excluded localities. The research will be made using a representational model of excluded localities with emphasis on regions with indicators of increased occurrences of money lending.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Agency	Interior Ministry	2012-2013

⁶ <http://www.mvcr.cz/soubor/strategie-boje-proti-extremismu-v-roce-2009.aspx>

1.5.3.1 Protection of crime victims

This measure suggests a number of concrete amendments of the Criminal code aimed at increased protection of crime victims.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Justice		2014

1.5.3.2 Free legal assistance for a specified group of crime victims or poor victims

The goal of this measure is to enable, apart from current possibilities, free legal counsel for a specified group of vulnerable victims or poor victims. The measure will be incorporated into the draft of Crime Victims Act.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Justice		2014

1.5.4.1 Creation of a subvention title for prevention programs in socially excluded localities

This measure creates a special subvention title (development program) of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, within which preventive educational programs for underage persons in socially excluded localities will be supported in the following fields: basic financial and law awareness and primary prevention.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports		2013-2014

1.5.5.1 Campaign against hate violence

The Office of the Government will execute a widespread campaign against intolerance and xenophobia. One of the parts of the campaign will be a widespread media campaign pointing out the issue of hate violence.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Agency		2012-2014

2. Housing

Due to the gentrification of Czech towns and the rapid deterioration of acceptable housing supply in municipalities there is an increase in demand even for substandard housing from the socially excluded Roma. However with the continuing privatization of municipal housing funds the supply of such lower quality housing is decreasing. More and more socially excluded people thus live in provisory (crisis) housing forms, in hostels and asylum houses (in the better cases). The possibilities to find quality, hygienically acceptable housing outside the socially excluded localities are therefore significantly reduced for the socially weak persons.

The municipalities are not motivated whatsoever to systematically support the adoption of integration policies, including the adoption of measures leading to social exclusion prevention. The municipalities are not obligated or motivated to provide social housing and social services (Municipalities Act and Social Services Act). In practice, the obligation of “managing the entrusted property with due care” is prioritized to the obligation of “actively influencing local conditions” in the field of housing supply, where both are demanded from the municipalities due to their nature of public corporation.

The last range of issues in the field of housing is the participation of NGOs or providers of social services. The Czech Republic doesn't have a developed financial support for programs of training housing. Social service providers mostly have to rely on a year-to-year funding.

The need for the aiming of direct support for low-income households and persons endangered with social exclusion and poverty has been discussed by the European Commission in its Strategy for Intelligent and Sustainable Growth Supporting Social Inclusion⁷, respectively in its main initiative “European Platform for Combating Poverty”.

Ties to current and planned sector activities

The housing chapter further elaborates following government documents or their respective parts: documents of the Ministry for Local Development *Strategy of the Regional Development of the Czech Republic for 2007-2013* (chapter 2.1.4. Social structure and social integration, pages 17-19; chapter 2.1.5 Social problems, pages 19-20)⁸, *Policy of Local Development of the Czech Republic 2008*, pages 12-16⁹. The chapter reacts to the Recommendation for Municipalities and Towns to Prevent Creation and Spread of the Socially Excluded Localities with Emphasis on Addressing the Need for Housing, formulated by the Public Right Defender's office together with the Interior Ministry¹⁰, develops the priorities discussed within the Decade of Roma Inclusion and is in accordance with the World Bank recommendation.

⁷ *Strategie pro inteligentní a udržitelný růst podporující začlenění*. Available at: http://ec.europa.eu/eu2020/pdf/1_CS_ACT_part1_v1.pdf (visited on 26.4.2011).

⁸ Available at <http://www.mmr.cz/getdoc/f77e14bc-2c26-4884-9fda-b47c24a5294b/Strategie-regionalniho-rozvoje-Ceske-republiky-pro> (visited on 3. 5. 2011).

⁹ Available at <http://www.mmr.cz/Uzemni-planovani-a-stavebni-rad/Koncepce-Strategie/Politika-uzemniho-rozvoje-Ceske-republiky> (visited on 3. 5. 2011)

¹⁰ Available at http://www.ochrance.cz/uploads/tx_odlistdocument/Doporuceni_socialni_vyloucení.pdf. (visited on 3.5.2011).

The suggested measures take into account the Housing Conception (Ministry for Local Development), which is currently being prepared and considered solutions of social housing (Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs).

Summary of measures of the Housing section:

2.5.1.1 Taking into consideration the needs of the target group within the complex solution of social housing

The goal of this measure is to ensure solution of the needs of the target group within the complex solution of social housing, which will be prepared based on the Concept of Housing of the Czech Republic until the year 2020, approved by the government resolution from 13th July 2011 No. 524 and pursuant to the ongoing social reforms. This complex solution of the social housing will mainly define the tools and forms of support for persons in need of housing and the form of funding for social housing.

To find a solution for the situation of the target group it is necessary to solve following forms of housing within the complex solution: crisis (temporary) housing (the aim of providing the crisis housing is to provide immediate help for those in need); training housing (meant as an offer for households, who have dispositions to keep long-term rent housing and need to strengthen these habits and competences under expert guidance); long-term social housing (housing with parameters set in such a way that it could provide long-term dignified housing for the target group).

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry for Local Development, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs	Agency, Interior Ministry	2013

2.5.1.2 Provision of support projects for acquirement, reconstruction or construction and operation of all forms of social housing– crisis, training and long-term (particularly for non-profit and municipal social housing)

The goal of this measure is to enable financial support for acquirement and operation of all forms of social housing– crisis, training and long-term – especially for NGOs and municipalities, who are the main providers of social housing. Funding of this policy will be strengthened as possible also from the European funds within the 2014-2010 program periods and in accordance with the goals of EU Agenda 2020, particularly in the field of social inclusion.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry for Local Development,	Agency	2013

Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs		
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2.5.1.3 Execution of the Pilot Program of Guaranteed housing

This policy will ensure the Execution of the Pilot Program of Guaranteed housing. Its aim is to increase the availability of rent housing for households, which are usually perceived as risk groups by the landlords and who cannot obtain rent housing in the free market despite having adequate competences for keeping long-term rent housing. It will be executed via the guarantee fund, which will enable NGOs or municipalities to insure against risk of rent defaults from the tenants. This fund should be replaced by a commercial product in the future.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Agency		2013

3. Social services, family and healthcare

3.1. Social services

We identify continuous lack of quality and coverage of social services in municipalities and regions with socially excluded localities, especially social prevention and counseling. The networks of these services in regions and especially municipalities can be described as random, without concept and managed by the needs of the providers of services, not the needs of their beneficiaries.

The service networks are only seldom based on the well prepared Middle-term Plans for Social Service Development with the analysis of the needs of individual social services and related services. There is a lack of parameters for setting up optimal social networks in regions with socially excluded localities. Additionally, if there are more social services within the municipality, these are often not coordinated, which leads to unequal coverage, which results in duplicity work or lack of the needed service. Providers of social services and employees of social departments of authorities are not bound by law or methodological orders to active mutual cooperation, which would increase the efficiency of the help, provided for the service users and lower the financial costs of these services. The absence of social service planning on the municipal level leads to the conservation of the problem of social exclusion and to the lowering of local administrative responsibility for organization of social services. Planning on the regional level is characterized by huge fragmentation and lack of methodological anchor in the creation of Middle-term Plans for Social Service Development and there is also a lack of methodology for creation of plans for regions, municipalities or micro-regions. Other identified problem is the choice of the social services, which will be supported. There are no unified criteria on the side of region or municipality, which would take into account more aspects than the presented service costs (price of the social service).

Ties to current and planned sector activities

The obligation to perform middle-term planning of social services for municipalities is in accordance to the NAPSI – National Action Plan for Social Inclusion for 2008-2010, which was created by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs in 2008. It is also a part of the National Plan of Social Service Development for 2011-2016, which was prepared by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs in 2011. It is also in compliance with the execution of the individual project of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs with the ESF funding “Support of Processes in Social Services”, which is being executed in 2010-2015.

3.2 Care for families and children threatened by social exclusion

Care for families and children threatened by social exclusion is lacking in both the capacity and organization. The area of the Czech Republic does not have sufficient social, counseling, medical and other service networks and many bodies do not fully appreciate the possibility of cooperation with other actors of the work with families. This leads to late identification of problems, which are in many cases rather monitored.

Services and interventions of individual actors are usually insufficiently coordinated, also missing is a unified and capacity-wise sufficient system of crisis housing and housing for low-income persons.

Ties to current and planned sector activities

Measures in the field of family and healthcare contained in the presented document are in full compliance with the National Action Plan for Transformation and Unification of Care for Threatened Children, which is currently being executed by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs. It also significantly contributes to the obligations of the Czech Republic set by the government resolution “General Policies for Execution of the Decisions of the European Court for Human Rights – Prevention of the Taking of Children due to Economic Reasons”¹¹, the fulfillment of which is regularly monitored by the UN Committee for the Rights of Child. Further the material directly corresponds with the Action Plan of Execution of the Concept of Early Care for Children from Socially Disadvantaging Environment and the Framework Concept of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports in the field of transformation of the system of substitute care for threatened children in school institutions for institutional or protective care and preventive care.

Summary of measures in the field of Social services, family and healthcare

3.5.1.1 To define an obligation for municipalities with extended authority to plan the development of social services in their administrative area

It is essential to implement the obligation for municipalities with extended authority to create an updated middle-term plan for social service development in their administrative areas. The plan will

¹¹ Usnesení vlády České republiky ze dne 7. prosince 2010 č. 882, Obecná opatření k výkonu rozsudků Evropského soudu pro lidská práva – prevence odebírání dětí z péče rodičů ze sociálně ekonomických důvodů

be the deciding guideline for funding of social services in the municipality and its administrative area, especially of services funded from the state or public budget.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs	Agency	2013-2014

3.5.1.2 To create parameters for setting up a network of social services in socially excluded localities

The creation of a methodological document in mutual cooperation of the Agency and the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, which will include recommended numerically and capacity-wise expressed setup of social services in socially excluded localities. The set model will have a character of a binding recommendation in a form of methodological order of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and will serve as an example for the ordering party and the supplier of social services in discussions about the setup of the social network in a particular area with socially excluded localities.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Agency	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, regions	2013

3.5.2.2 To interconnect the planning of social service development and their funding, creation of methodology for this process

To set up a mechanism that will ensure the connection of planning of the social service development with their funding, with the condition of the planning being based on identified needs of people in the given locality. It is necessary to create the methodology to ensure the connection of planning of the social service development with their funding, which will have the form of methodological order of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and will include conclusions from the individual project for support of the processes in social services.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs		2013 – 2014

3.5.2.3 To revise current definitions of social services – early care, support for independent housing, half-way houses, asylum houses in the Act No. 108/2006 Coll., on social services, as amended, in relation to the needs of people in socially excluded localities

The measure suggest to revise and amend definitions of some services within the individual project Support of Processes in Social Services, so that they would enable more effective targeting of the issue of social exclusion.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs	Agency	2014

3.5.2.4 The support of creation, extension and innovation of services in socially excluded localities

The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs will prepare proposals within the programs funded from the EU structural funds, which will support the availability, creation, extension and innovation of social services or similar services for citizens in socially excluded localities (hereafter only “services”), which will help them to become a part of the society and participate in the labor market.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs		2012-2013

3.5.3.1 To prepare a specific multidisciplinary standard of work with persons from socially excluded localities

The Agency for Social Inclusion in Roma Localities will be the keeper of the specific multidisciplinary standard of work with persons from socially excluded localities. Active application will be ensured by the presentation of this standard to the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and Interior Ministry with the proposal to publish the standard as a ministerial methodological order.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Agency	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Interior Ministry, Office of the Government, municipalities, regions	2012 – 2013

3.5.3.2 To implement the method of case management as the standard of direct work with socially excluded clients on the multidisciplinary level which is required by the law.

To ensure the cooperation and coordination of activities of individual actors of the social network in socially excluded localities in relation to case management on the level of Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, which would be used by state and non-state actors.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Interior Ministry, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Justice	2012-2013

3.5.3.3 To create the service coordination team of subjects working with people in socially excluded localities; to create its executive methodology.

The goal is to create a platform for the meetings of a multidisciplinary team of subjects (hereafter only “team”) of care, in order to share information about services, which they provide and their aims and to coordinate processes of services in relation to current phenomena in the region, which are being monitored by the team. For the purpose of social and legal protection of children it is recommended to create Teams for Children and Youth within the Early Intervention System, which monitor and evaluate trends in development in the field of social pathological phenomena and endangered children and the success rate of prevention programs and propose measures and strategies to remove these phenomena.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Interior Ministry, Ministry of Justice, Agency	2013

3.5.3.4 To implement specific requirements for the work of OSPOD (Body of social and legal protection of children) in relation to socially excluded localities

The measure implements requirements for OSPOD (Body of social and legal protection of children) to monitor the current situation in socially excluded localities (and share their findings at the team meetings). It is also necessary to legally set the requirement of continuous education with emphasis on specifics of work in socially excluded localities for the OSPOD workers. In this regard it is necessary to prepare a methodology for continuous education of the OSPOD workers as a part of OSPOD educational standards - specifics of work in socially excluded localities.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs	Agency	2013

3.5.4.1 Activation influence on a family, whose child is placed in an institutional care facility

Unfavorable situation of families and children from SEL is often solved by placing the children in institutional care. Intergenerational experience with the child’s stay in the institutional care often leads to the resigned attitude of the family, which starts to perceive this fact as a normal part of life. It is therefore necessary to use all options to prevent the placement of the child away from the family and work with the family systematically.

The measure leads to amendments of the Act on social and legal protection of the child and the Act on the execution of institutional and protective care, as amended, and the Standards of Quality of Work of the body for social and legal protection of the child.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	Agency	2012 – 2013

3.5.4.2 To legally prevent the order for institutional child care due to economic or housing reasons

It is necessary to adopt amendments to relevant legal documents which prevent the order for placement of the child into institutional care due to economic or housing reasons, within the measures reflecting the decisions of the European Court for Human Rights in the case of W. and W. vs. the Czech Republic from 26th July 2007 (“General Policies for Execution of the Decisions of the European Court for Human Rights – Prevention of the Taking of Children due to Social-Economic Reasons”).

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs	Ministry for Local Development, Ministry of Justice, Agency	2013- 2014

3.5.4.3 To optimize the network of Centers of Educational Care, at least in the regions with SEL

Due to the irreplaceable role of the Centers in the care for endangered family and child with emphasis on prevention it is necessary to increase the number and geographic availability of the Centers in direct relation to the needs of the target group. The Centers will prioritize ambulatory services with specialization on therapeutic work with the whole family in order to increase the parental skills and educational effect on the child.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, AK ČR, Agency	2015

3.5.4.4 Stipulation of the obligation for parents of the endangered child to use social or other support services

This measure will enable a broader use of effective methods of prevention of aggravation of socio-pathological phenomena, which significantly endanger the development and health of a child and which could lead to the placement of the child outside of the family. The measure also proposes that OSPOD or courts should be given broader authority to order the parents to use the support services as an obligation, if it is in the best interest of the child. The proposal will be always based on the case conference. The authority to give such an order will be given to municipalities or courts based on extended educational measures within the Family Act.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Ministry of Justice	2012 – 2013

3.5.4.5 To create methodology for screening of pre-school children, whose school attendance is endangered by social exclusion and to provide pre-school education to selected children

Pursuant to the Action Plan of Execution of the Concept of Early Care, prepared by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and the measures of this strategy in the field of education – creation of compulsory kindergarten attendance by the OSPOD in case of endangering the school success of the child, it is necessary to set a screening procedure and subsequent provision of development of cognitive and social skills of socially disadvantaged children, ideally in common school institutions, eventually in other services. Based on the evaluation of the rate of endangerment of future school success the OSPOD will order the lawful representatives of the child to comply with the compulsory attendance to kindergarten or any other similar collective educational institution from the child's age of 5 at the latest.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Agency	2013

3.5.5.1 Name of the measure: Implement the subject “Specifics of Work in Socially Excluded Localities” into the agenda of methodical guidance of OSPOD workers

To implement the subject “Specifics of Work in Socially Excluded Localities” into the agenda of methodical guidance of OSPOD workers and other employees of the state and local administration, who are in professional contact with people from SEL; to incorporate this subject into the system of professional training of said employees.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs	Agency	2013

3.5.6.1 To take into account the specific conditions of SEL in the methodology of setting the number of work positions for OSPOD and youth curator workers

Within this measure a principle of quotas is created for the number of work positions for OSPOD and youth curator workers adjusted in relation to the existence of SEL in the administrative area of OSPOD and to increase the capacity of OSPOD and youth curator workers in relation to the amount of people endangered by social exclusion. The amount of these people will be ascertained e.g. based on the amount of paid benefits for people in material need.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, regions	Agency	2015

3.5.7.1 The creation of the post of a social medical worker within terrain programs

The proposal for this measure is based on a proven and functional practice of social medical workers, who provide medical prevention in the SEL and who are in case of need able to provide also expert medical treatment, which is significant especially for the child population. It sets the requirement to use the prepared methodology for social medical worker.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, regions	Agency, Ministry of Health	2012 – 2013

4. Education

The proposed measures in the field of education set the basic steps leading to the limitation of failures of children from SEL at common primary and secondary schools and eventually in the labor market. The chapter is based on the assumption, confirmed by the current development of pedagogic sciences and school practice in the most successful countries in this regard¹², that the quality educational system, which doesn't unnecessarily segregate children (educates them together in the educational mainstream) and is able to react to individual needs of each one of them, is the most effective tool in combating social exclusion and its intergenerational reproduction. Analogical evidence has been presented in the recently published Framework of the Competitiveness Strategy, made by the Government's National Economic Council (NERV).

The important fact is that if the system continues to work efficiently and will knowingly and purposefully lead to inclusive education, it will benefit all jointly educated children and not only those, who were segregated by the current system outside the educational mainstream (socially and physically disadvantaged). Therefore the beneficiaries of the thoroughly thought out execution of this part of the strategy will be all, not just the socially excluded children, although the impact would be the greatest for them.

The direction towards joint, non-selective (inclusive) education in the Czech Republic is required by a number of international documents and is recommended by important international institutions. The latest one to recommend it to the Czech Government was the NERV in its Framework of the Competitiveness Strategy.

As evidenced by a number of recent researches and analyses, the Czech educational system lacks the ability to keep in its mainstream a number of specific groups of children, who are then exposed to segregation in separate groups or schools and often don't receive adequate regular education. This fact is also pointed out by the decision of the Strasbourg Court for Human Rights in the case D.H. and others vs. the Czech Republic from 2007 concerning specifically Roma children and their placement outside of the educational mainstream. The reaction to this should have been among others this Strategy for Combating Social Exclusion.

The shortcomings are caused by many factors, that's why their solution must take into account a systematic approach to the whole sector and inevitably must be accompanied by an adequate increase of public resources for pre-school, primary and secondary education (as stated below). If the solution had impact only on one part of the system without the support of other parts and wouldn't be accompanied by adequate resources, its efficiency would be seriously limited.

On the other hand it is necessary to point out that the transformation period of any complex system will necessarily lead to local and temporary tensions. Certainly as in other countries, which underwent such transformation, part of the pedagogic public working in parallel system of special education (due to fears for their jobs and their children) or those working in the educational mainstream (due to fears of influx of new children) will stand up against these reforms. Conversely a large part of the public will support these reforms. It will be mainly those, who already implement

¹² Sweden, Denmark, Netherlands, Great Britain

some inclusive education reform and who understand the right and the need of children to be educated together.

However the reforms will be most certainly rejected by a part of the general public who perceive the presence of socially or physically disadvantaged children or culturally diverse children in the group with their own children as a threat. The aim should be to prevent these tensions by explaining the reforms, inclusion of parents in concrete local solutions within the school or town, mutual interconnection of measures and ensuring adequate public resources.

Ties to current and planned sector activities

The chapter of education is in accordance or further develops the following government documents of their relevant parts: National Action Plan of Inclusive Education (Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports), Action Plan of Execution of Early Care Education (Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports), Transformation and Unification of Care for Endangered Children (Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs), and Decade of Roma Inclusion (Office of the Government). The chapter also in large part fulfills the obligations resulting from the decision of the Strasbourg Court for Human Rights in the case D.H. and others vs. the Czech Republic from 2007 as well as some commitments resulting from the Convention of Rights of Physically Disabled Persons. The chapter also complies with recommendations of the World Bank, OECD, UNICEF and proposals of the Framework of the Competitiveness Strategy (NERV) in the field of transformation of the Czech educational system¹³.

Summary of measures in the field of Education

4.5.1.1 Connect the increase of normative to socially disadvantaged students

The current legislative doesn't enable the schools to implement measures reacting to special educational needs of children/students with social disadvantage. The measure proposes to clearly define the social disadvantage in the Regulation No. 73/2011 Coll. as a statement that it regards a student with special educational needs – socially disadvantaged, on which base the school will receive an increase of its normative for the student and which will be issued by a pedagogical and psychological counsel center. In Regulation No. 492/2005 Coll. a bonus payment to the normative will be defined in the amount of 0.5 times the relevant normative for 1 socially disadvantaged child.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	Agency	2013

4.5.1.2 The transition from the system of special educational tools to the system of supportive measures on all levels of education

¹³ OECD Report: Implementing Inclusive Education (1997), UNICEF Report on Central and Eastern Europe (2005), World Bank Document: Improving Employment Chances of the Roma (2008), World Bank Report: Roma Inclusion: An Economic Opportunity for Europe (2010), Framework of the Competitiveness Strategy (NERV 2010)

Current categorization of students with special educational needs stated in the Act No. 561/2004 Coll. On Pre-School, Basic, Secondary, Tertiary Professional and Other Education (herein after the Education Act) is based on a horizontal segregation of pupils who are physically disabled, physically disadvantaged and socially disadvantaged. Their inclusion in those categories and especially into the category of social disadvantage is being increasingly perceived as stigmatizing. The new version of § 16 of the Education Act takes into account categorization – pupil with the need of supportive measures of the mild, increased, intensive and extraordinary type. This concept is much more appropriate as it doesn't build upon the child's problems, but on the determination of such a support ratio which the pupil needs in his education and subsequent determination of concrete supportive measures. The basics of the attitude towards the student should be set by the catalogue of supportive measures connected with the system of funding.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	Agency	2013 - 2014

4.5.1.3 To incorporate school counseling facilities into the standard funding of schools in a range depending on the amount of students of the school

The aim is to ensure that a school counseling facility (special pedagogue, psychologist, social psychologist, educational counselor, prevention methodologist etc.) would be operational at every school and its size would be based on the number of students of the school and its funding would be a part of the basic school funding and thus not solved through additional unstable subvention titles.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	Agency	2013 – 2014

4.5.1.4 To create a specific eligibility support for socially disadvantaged students

The aim of this measure is to provide socially disadvantaged children and students with a financial support to cover the expenses for education (fares, food, educational materials costs, extracurricular activities costs, school trips costs etc.). The measure should among others replace the current subvention system for support of Roma high school students. All socially disadvantaged students would be supported.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	Agency	<i>Decision on the form of solution: 2012</i> <i>Execution of the measure: 2013</i>

4.5.2.1 System for funding of kindergarten costs for socially disadvantaged children

The aim of this measure is to fund the costs for kindergarten attendance of socially disadvantaged children through a subvention title of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. Kindergartens are more effective in preparation of socially disadvantaged children for school attendance than the preparatory classes at primary schools. Some of the important barriers of access to kindergartens are payments for food and attendance which amount to ca. 1000 – 1500 CZK a month. The measure will be implemented as an additional Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports title through which the kindergartens will be reimbursed for the costs in cases of “granted” payments for socially excluded children.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	Agency	2013

4.5.2.2 The provision of early care, especially through the child’s kindergarten attendance

The aim of this measure is to provide adequate range of early care based on the number of children in municipalities through the increase in availability of kindergarten attendance and stabilization and strengthening of subvention titles for pre-school education support. Combined social-educational intervention in the pre-school age group must be strengthened by the funding of projects and events from development subvention programs of Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports for kindergartens and primary schools, NGOs and other subjects.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports		Identification of kindergarten needs: 2012 Increase of the number of kindergartens and stabilization of subvention titles of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports: 2013 - 2014

4.5.2.3 Piloting of methods aimed at the strengthening of cognitive functions and language education

This measure assumes:

- a) To execute the piloting of methods aimed at the strengthening of cognitive functions and language education on groups of children from socially excluded localities. Identify the potential of individual methods and specify dispositions for their implementation in various environments (schools, NGOs, home).

- b) Prepare and publish methodological materials based on the pilot project for practical use (including their publication on publicly accessible websites) and distribute it among employees of educational institutions.
- c) Ensure a possibility of funding for education and training of employees and execution of the measures for increasing children’s cognitive function within the development programs of Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	Agency	a) Short-term - 2012 b) Middle-term - 2014 c) Long-term- 2012

4.5.2.4 To increase the strictness of criteria for creation of preparatory classes and placement of children in these classes

It is necessary to prevent that the operators of kindergartens and primary schools would choose the creation of a preparatory class as a cheaper variant to the strengthening of kindergarten network. Kindergartens are more effective in preparation of socially disadvantaged children for school attendance than the preparatory classes at primary schools. The measure will also make it impossible to create preparatory classes at schools which have been individually established for pupils with mild mental disability.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports		2013

4.5.2.5 Abolishment of discriminatory criteria for admission of children into public kindergartens

The aim of this measure is to abolish those criteria, which are set by the local administration and which are in their consequence discriminatory. The measure reacts to the current state, where among the kindergarten admission criteria is the criterion of parents’ jobs, permanent residence or the presence of other children in the family. These criteria significantly reduce the availability of kindergartens especially for children from poor and/or socially disadvantaged families.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports		2013

4.5.2.6 Amendment of the Act No. 108/2006 Coll. on social services so that it will be possible to provide early care for children from socially excluded environment

The aim is to amend the Act No. 108/2006 Coll. on social services so that it will be possible to provide early care for children from socially excluded environment.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs		2013

4.5.2.7 The implementation of the possibility to order kindergarten attendance in case of identification of endangered school success of a child by OSPOD

This measure implements a new possibility of OSPOD intervention in families; where OSPOD workers detect significant handicaps in the children's school preparation, risk of school failure, truancy tendencies etc. Kindergartens will allocate a certain percentage of their capacity for such assigned children (e.g. 5 %). The child with compulsory kindergarten attendance will be freed from payments for kindergarten. The attendance order must be accompanied by other measures to support the family in order to prevent school failure and endangering of the child.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs	Agency	2013

4.5.3.1 Standardization of work, methodological guidance and training of pedagogue's assistants

The aim of this measure is to standardize the work of pedagogue's assistants and sufficient education for current and future assistants. This includes among others: to create work standards of pedagogue's assistants or implement the part about AP's work into the general work standard of pedagogical workers; to prepare a complex methodology of AP's activities.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	Agency	2013

4.5.3.2. To strengthen the observation of the Education Act in regard to the demands of a place in a catchment area school and its observation regarding the rejections of admission to a primary school

The aim of this measure is to stop the breaking of rules of admission of children into school attendance by the so-called catchment area schools, defined by the Education Act (No. 561/2005 Coll.). The contents of this measure are: To initiate regular, targeted and thorough monitoring of the observation of the Education Act in the field of admission of children into school attendance, which will be executed by the Czech School Inspection (ČŠI). To ensure that the school founders will provide in cooperation with schools, NGOs, pediatricians and other actors regular and thorough information to the target socially excluded groups about their rights and procedures of the child's enrollment into a primary school.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	Agency	2013

4.5.3.3 Short-term measures for transformation of the system of schools established for pupils with mild mental disability

The aim of this measure is to transform the parallel system of schools established for pupils with mild mental disability so that the resulting state would enable to educate all children in the schools of educational mainstream.

The transformation itself is divided into two measures, short-term and middle-term, so that it will be possible to evaluate the situation in municipalities and prepare necessary steps for the support of schools of educational mainstream, which are subject to most of the measures presented in the Education section.

The short-term measure includes, among others:

- Legislative ban on education of children without serious disadvantage/disability in substandard educational programs and to forbid the placement of these children into classes created specifically for pupils with mild mental disability.
- To make it impossible to create preparatory classes at schools established for pupils with mild mental disability
- To make it impossible to put the child into the integrated class right at the start of the first year.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	Agency	2013

4.5.3.4 Middle-term measures for transformation of the system of schools established for pupils with mild mental disability

The middle-term measure includes:

- Legislative ban on establishment of schools specifically for pupils with mild mental disability and set a compulsory maximum number of group integration classes at one primary school based on the number of other classes.
- Based on analyses and in cooperation with all operators and other relevant actors in localities to decide whether to close (those who are competing with normal primary schools, their personal capacities will be transferred to those schools) or transform (implementation of the standard educational plan) schools that are specifically established for pupils with mild mental disability.
- To transfer the transformed schools under the authority of municipalities.
- To abolish the attachment of the Framework Educational Program for Mild Mental Disability.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	Agency, regions, municipalities	Decision 2013 Execution 2015

4.5.3.5 Implementation and execution of “Municipal Strategy” for education of socially excluded children

The aim of this measure is to prepare the “Municipal strategy for education of children with special educational needs”, if there is a socially excluded locality in the area of the municipality.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	Agency, municipalities	2014

4.5.3.6 Implementation of a standard system of prevention and solution of truancy

The aim of this measure is to implement an effective system of prevention and solution of truancy, i.e. failure to fulfill the compulsory school attendance. The measure should strengthen the enforceability of school attendance as well as other various preventive measures of schools and other institutions.

The fundamental tool for realization of this measure is the creation of a legal document, which will replace the current methodological order of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports on the unified procedure for excusing students from education, prevention and penalization of truancy. The new document should be on the regulation level complementing the relevant legislation and should provide schools with a clear guideline on how to react to obvious and hidden truancy with emphasis on keeping the primary objective of preventive activities.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Education,	Agency	2013

Youth and Sports Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs		
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4.5.4.1 To prolong the compulsory school attendance at least until the achievement of certificate of apprenticeship

The goal of this measure is to prolong the compulsory high school attendance at least until the achievement of certificate of apprenticeship. The student should have an obligation to study at least for two years on a high school with the minimum achievement of the certificate of apprenticeship. With the current abolishment of ninth grades the compulsory school attendance should last for ten years.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports		2015

4.5.4.2 To systemize the methodologically treated, quality professional training for primary schools and to allocate adequate financial resources

The aim of this measure is to set the scope of the professional preparation on primary schools, quality content and methodological anchoring of professional preparation and allocation of adequate financial resources for its implementation and support of its execution.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports		2013

4.5.4.3 To create a system of minimum obligatory support of high school students

The aim of this measure is to set a minimum obligatory standard of complex high school student support and to anchor it methodologically.

The student support should include, among others:

- Activities aimed at preventing early exits from schools
- Activities aimed at motivation for study
- Activities aimed at inclusion of parents and communication with them

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Education, Youth		

and Sports		2014
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4.5.4.4 To review the Framework Educational Programs for Professional Education

The aim of the revision of the Framework Educational Programs for Professional Education (especially in the programs of category E) is:

- To explicitly disable the education of pupils without mental disability, proved by adequate diagnostics of the school counseling facility in so called E programs and to initiate a checking procedure of this ban's observance.
- To require informed agreement of parents or legal representative with the child's education in the so called E program in similar scope as is proposed in the measure for reform of schools for pupils with mild mental disability.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports		2013

4.5.5.1 The creation of a system and methodology of early identification of child's endangerment and case cooperation of all involved subjects aimed at the prevention of child endangerment and its placement into institutional or protective care

The aim of this measure is to create and implement a system of early identification of child's endangerment and early intervention in cooperation with other institutions and organizations (school, physician, OSPOD, curator, NGOs, police etc.) and a system of case cooperation between these institutions during the solution of child's endangerment with emphasis on preventive activities.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	Agency, Ministry of Health	2013

4.5.5.2 Transformation of school institutions, which provide institutional or protective care in accordance to the Concept of Transformation of the Alternative Educational Care System

The aim of this measure is to transform the school institutions of institutional or protective care and preventive educational care to emphasize the preventive and ambulatory solutions of the problem, differentiation (conceptual and physical) between different types of accommodation facilities and transformation of these facilities towards specialized family-type facilities with low number of clients.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs Ministry of Health Ministry of Interior	Decision 2013 Execution 2014

4.5.6.1 The increase of counseling facilities' capacity

The aim of this measure is to legally set adequate capacities of school counseling facilities (pedagogical-psychological counseling centers, special pedagogical centers) based on the number of students in the region and adequately increase current capacities to the level required by law.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	Agency, regions	Description and confirmation 2013 Implementation 2015

4.5.6.2 The improvement of quality and standardization of counseling facilities' services

The aim of this measure is to improve the quality of school counseling facilities, their methodological anchoring and standardization.

The measure necessarily includes these sub-goals:

- To create and apply operational standards of individual counseling facilities and their employees, including among others also the obligatory cooperation between individual experts in facilities, between facilities, direct cooperation with the school and teachers and an increased share of support provided directly in schools.
- To establish a central subject of methodological guidance and supervision for school counseling facilities and to set the contents and scope of the methodological guidance and supervision in cooperation with the academic sphere and expert public
- To ensure continuous actualization of diagnostic tools and their implementation in a scope needed for adequate diagnostic of special educational needs/needs for supportive or equalizing measures.
- To establish school counseling facilities among subjects, which are checked by the Czech School Inspection, strengthen the CSI with experts on diagnostics and counseling and train current CSI inspectors.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Education,		2013 - 2014

Youth and Sports		
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4.5.6.3 To standardize school counseling facilities at primary and secondary schools

The aim of this measure is to standardize the operation and provide personnel for school counseling facilities. School counseling facilities should comprise of school psychologist, special pedagogue, social pedagogue (performing the activities of current educational counselors and prevention methodologists) and other experts if need be.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports		2013 - 2014

4.5.7.1 The creation of a compulsory pro-inclusive standard of the pedagogical worker

The aim is to create a compulsory pro-inclusive standard of the pedagogical worker, which will also include the obligation and ability to create an inclusive environment in the classroom and use adequate supportive and equalizing measures for work with neglected students.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports		2013

4.5.7.2 To ensure the readiness of future pedagogical workers to perform pro-inclusive practice

The aim is to ensure that all levels of education of future pedagogic workers would prepare workers for work with supportive and equalizing measures, specific work with children/pupils/students from socially excluded or culturally diverse environment and for creation and use of inclusive educational methods.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	Agency	2013 - 2014

4.5.7.3 To ensure sufficient supply of quality education of current workers within the Additional Education of Pedagogical Workers in the fields of application of supportive and equalizing measures, work with children/pupils/students from socially excluded or culturally diverse environment and the setting and use of inclusive educational methods.

The aim is to strengthen and stabilize sufficient supply of quality education of current workers within the Additional Education of Pedagogical Workers in the fields of application of supportive and equalizing measures, work with children/pupils/students from socially excluded or culturally diverse environment and the setting and use of inclusive educational methods.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	Agency	2013 - 2014

4.5.7.4 Standardization and content determination of social pedagogue's work at primary and secondary schools

The aim of this measure is to standardize the work of the social pedagogue at primary and secondary schools and to set its contents. The measure includes, among others:

- Incorporation of the social pedagogue into the Act on pedagogical workers
- The creation of the operational standard of the social pedagogue, including current tasks of educational counselors, execution of professional preparation, communication between the school and family, family and OSPOD and communication between the basic and high school, for social pedagogues at high schools also the choice of a university or college and support of the preparation for the entry exams of these schools.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	Agency	2013 - 2014

4.5.8.1 The increase of efficiency of the subventions for NGOs in the field of education support

The aim is to increase the efficiency of Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports subvention titles aimed at the support of NGOs providing services in the field of education support of children and pupils (especially from socially excluded localities).

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	Agency	2012

4.5.8.2 Incorporation of all necessary measures for support of successful education of socially excluded children into the priorities for drawing from the European Social Fund in 2014+

The aim of this measure is to ensure that in the next program period of the European Social Fund (2014+), especially in the operation program connected to the current Operational Program

Education for Competitiveness (OPVK), the needs for support of the education of socially excluded students will be taken into account and principles of inclusive education will be developed – in pre-school, school and extracurricular education

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	Agency, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Ministry for Local Development	2014

5. Employment and benefit systems

Integration into the labor market is the key condition for social inclusion of people from socially excluded localities. Unemployment in most of the socially excluded localities reaches 90 – 100%.

This high rate of unemployment, which is often of the long-term or repeated type, leads to a number of significant impacts on the people from socially excluded localities. Apart from the material poverty there are social (exclusion from participation in social and economic life) and psychological consequences (resignation on job searching, loss of working habits, succumbing to addictions etc.). These consequences then negatively reflect in the lowered chances to participate in the labor market. We can often describe this situation of socially excluded localities as factual unemployment.

Unemployment also has a significant regional dimension. In regions with high unemployment rate over 15-20% of the population the demand for jobs exceeds the supply by many times. In this situation the people from socially excluded localities are basically unemployable.

If the people from social excluded communities work, their position in the labor market is usually marginal. They perform mostly seasonal jobs, which are based on unprotected industrial relations. This employment type is typically connected with low income and continuous fear of job loss. Indefinite term work contracts are total exceptions for these people.

Long-term unemployed people from socially excluded localities gradually establish alternative life strategies, which help them to provide sustenance. Firstly it is the creation of total dependability on social benefits, indebtedness, illegal work and other informal economic activities. These strategies and related values (undervaluation of the impact of education and paid work, orientation on the present etc.), are in the environment of socially excluded localities gradually strengthened and intergenerationally reproduced.

65 percent of the people from socially excluded localities in the productive age are the beneficiaries of social benefits. Approximately 75 percent of these are non-active or unemployed; further 11 % has only occasional employment.

Another significant barrier of formal employment is the over-indebtedness. Analyses show a significant availability of relatively small and unsecured loans with high interest rate for persons with zero creditworthiness. In case of over-indebtedness the tendency toward informal employment presents a mechanism to protect one's income from executors.

*The rate of unemployment correlates with the **state spending on active employment policy**. The highest rate of unemployment can be observed in the Ústecký and Moravskoslezský regions, where a number of socially excluded localities are also present. In accordance to this the spending on active employment policy is the highest in these particular regions.¹⁴*

¹⁴ Spending on active employment policy amounted in 2009 in the Ústecký region 585 921 thousand CZK, in Moravskoslezský region 546 461 tisíc Kč. In: <http://portal.Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs.cz/sz/stat/vydaje>

Overall it is possible to make a quantified guess that a mid-term unemployed person burdened the public budgets with 108 130 CZK in 2009, related to the middle-term nature of the unemployment that makes 21 626 CZK a month.¹⁵ (This number is a little lower than in the calculations performed by Elbona for the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs in 2005)¹⁶ If we accept the analytical data of G&C from 2006, then with a rate of unemployment of 70-90% in the socially excluded localities, i.e. 30 000 people, the yearly costs related to unemployment in socially excluded localities amount to more than 3.2 billion CZK.¹⁷

Ties to current and planned sector activities

- The measures are proposed in accordance to the following key strategic documents:
- National Report on Strategies of Social Protection and Social Inclusion 2008-2010
- National Program of Reforms of the Czech Republic 2008-2010
- Concept of Development of Small and Middle-Sized Businesses 2007-2013
- Strategy of Regional Development of the Czech Republic
- Concept of Roma Integration 2010-2013
- National Program of the European Year of Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion
- National Strategy of Financial Education
- Priorities of Consumer Policy 2011-2014

Summary of measures in the section Employment and Benefit Systems:

5.5.1.1 Efficient use of benefit systems for employment activation of people for and for housing support

This measure supports the increase of efficiency of benefit systems for employment activation of people for and for housing support. It will provide evaluation of the use of tools of the institute of special beneficiary, vouchers for goods/services or the so called social cards – the proposal of “social reform II” will use a principle, according to which must the individual social transfers in the field of housing support at least partially available to those people, who are in a sub-tenancy relation and/or without a permanent residence in a place of their temporary/long term stay.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs	Agency	2013 - 2014

5.5.2.1 Implementation of zonal employment arrangement

The aim of this proposed measure is more efficient targeting of the tools of the active employment policy and consequently a better employability of the applicants. Appropriate tools for short-term

¹⁵ Analysis of costs per one middle term unemployed person. Ing. Jan Čadil, Ph.D. (Unicorn College) pro o. s. Nová ekonomika, 2011.

¹⁶ State’s costs per one unemployed person. Elbona 2006.

¹⁷ Economic aspects of the existence of socially excluded communities. Deloitte BPO 2008.

unemployed people are for example so called Info Jobs, their aim is to introduce new systems of independent job searching to the newly unemployed, so that they could use the internet kiosks, free calls to employers, print and send their CVs etc. The long-term unemployed with vanishing work habits and diminishing self-confidence can be supported by e.g. accompanying them to job interviews.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs	Agency	2013 - 2014

5.5.2.2 To prepare a joint methodology for the implementation of the gradual system of employment

The aim of this measure is to create a permeable system of gradual employment, which will enable a combination of employment policy tools, their logical connection and care following the applicant's entry into a job. First grade will be the public service. Those who prove themselves in the public service will be placed into the second grade – publicly beneficial services. The third part is the transitional social company with subsidized wages and the fourth grade is the free labor market or business activity.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, General Directorate of the Employment Office	Agency	2013

5.5.2.3 To strengthen the cooperation with social service providers in creation of individual action plans

The aim of this measure is therefore to increase the efficiency of individual action plans (IAP), the improvement of their quality and the removal of formal approach to their preparation. The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs / General Directorate of the Employment Office will therefore prepare a methodological order, which will recommend the employees of EO contact places to cooperate with a social worker in preparation of the individual action plan, should the applicant ask for it.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs	Agency	2013 – 2014

5.5.2.4 Implementation of tools for flexible employment and reimbursement

The aim of this measure is to support flexible employment and reimbursement of such a type that will present minimal financial and administrative burden for the employer and will motivate them to employ socially excluded persons.

The Labor Code enables the creation of industry relations based on the amount of work hours and reimbursement e.g. on a daily basis. Examples of flexible employment based on the lowered administrative demands can be observed for example in France (the use of vouchers that prove the completed working hours, which serve also as the documents for payments of insurance and tax advancements), in the Netherlands (the use of shorter employment types and other non-traditional employment forms) or in Denmark (a clever system of activation of long-term unemployed people outside the labor market).

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs	Ministry of Industry and Trade, Agency	2013 – 2014

5.5.2.5 Methodological support of creation of local employment networks in socially excluded localities

The aim of this measure is to support the creation of local employment networks, which will connect the key actors of employment support, especially the employment agencies, NGOs, employers, municipal authorities, schools and school facilities etc. The actors in the local employment network will then together plan and execute measures and projects aimed at the increase of employment and employability of unemployed people.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Agency, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs		2013

5.5.3.1 Socially responsible placing of public contracts in socially excluded localities – use of the institute of special condition

The aim of this measure is the support of employment of long-term unemployed people in socially excluded localities through the amendment of rules of public contract placement.

Particularly the par. 8, section 44 of the Act No. 137/2006 Coll., on public contracts, enables to state in the contract conditions requirements concerning the special conditions of the public contract fulfillment, especially in the social field, in the field of employment or environment. It is therefore possible to require e.g. that a certain percentage of the total number of the supplier's employees

would have to be made up of long-term unemployed persons, i.e. job applicants who were evidenced at the employment office for at least 5 months.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry for Local Development	Agency	2013 – 2014

5.5.4.1 The creation of interdisciplinary platform for over-indebtedness and regular monitoring of consumer protection concerning financial loans and consumer credits

The aim of this measure is to increase the consumer protection concerning financial loans and consumer credits with the creation of an interdisciplinary platform for over-indebtedness and the performance of regular monitoring of consumer protection concerning financial loans and consumer credits.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Agency	Ministry of Industry and Trade, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs	2013 - 2014

6. Regional development

This part of the strategy has been executed in a different mode than the previous parts. It is the outcome of the workgroup for regional development and public administration and proposes measures, which are aimed at the support of social businesses as a tool for increasing employment in the structurally underdeveloped parts of regions, where most of the socially excluded localities are located. The workgroup met once and reflected the measures of other workgroups, which have impact on the regional development and public administration.

Summary of measures in the section of Regional development:

6.3.1.1 Methodology of community work

This measure needs to utilize experience from pilot projects aimed at the creation of community work methodology. It is also appropriate to concentrate all available experience from community work from abroad. A methodology of community work will be prepared, ideally as a sum of best practices of all executed projects. The direct grant support within the European Social Fund for 2014+ will be used as an appropriate form of support of the execution of community work programs.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs	Agency	2013- 2014

6.3.2.1 Credits for social economy and the procedure of their allocation

This measure will provide an analysis of conditions, under which it is possible to ensure the availability of stated credit types according to the type of its provider, setting of various levels of support for the credit size in relation to the turnover and history of the applicant.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs	Ministry of Industry and Trade	2013 - 2014

6.3.3.1 The small projects fund

This measure is aimed at the consideration - during the planning of the next program period - of a fund for small projects (e.g. up to 1 million CZK), which will be aimed at the support of social integration of people living in the most problematic localities or towns (with a high unemployment rate, crime rate, rate of extremism or a presence of a high number of socially excluded people or people endangered by social exclusion etc.).

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Ministry for Local Development	Agency, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs	2012- 2013

6.3.4.1 The preparation of an analysis of migration with emphasis on migration due to housing reasons and employment-caused migration

This measure is aimed at a preparation of an analysis of migration due to housing reasons and migration caused by employment opportunities. The study should have a comparative form – comparison of regions as well as emphasis on identification of behavioral models and strategies (and potential migration) of different types of socially excluded groups or groups endangered by social exclusion.

Supervision	Co-supervision	Deadline
Agency	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs	2012 - 2013

Annex I. - Strategy for Combating Social Exclusion for the period 2011-2015

Strategy for Combating Social Exclusion for the period 2011-2015

	measures	Supervision	Co-supervision	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
SECURITY	1.5.1.1 Support for creation of communication workgroups for solutions in the field of security in municipalities with socially excluded localities	Agency							
	1.5.2.1 Creation of posts for specialists on money lending	Interior ministry							
	1.5.2.2 Research of current types of money lending in the socially excluded localities	Agency	Interior ministry						
	1.5.3.1 Protection of crime victims	Ministry of Justice							
	1.5.3.2 Free legal assistance for a specified group of crime victims or poor victims	Ministry of Justice							
	1.5.4.1 Creation of a subvention title for prevention programs in socially excluded localities	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports							
	1.5.5.1 Campaign against hate violence	Agency							
HOUSING	2.5.1.1 Taking into consideration the needs of the target group within the complex solution of social housing	Ministry for Local Development, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs	Agency, Interior ministry						
	2.5.1.2 Provision of support projects for acquirement, reconstruction or construction and operation of all forms of social housing– crisis, training and long-term (particularly for non-profit and municipal social housing)	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs	Agency						
	2.5.1.3 Execution of the Pilot Program of Guaranteed housing	Agency							
	3.5.1.1 To define an obligation for municipalities with extended authority to plan the development of social services in their administrative area	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs	Agency						
	3.5.1.2 To create parameters for setting up a network of social services in socially excluded localities	Agency	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, regions						
	3.5.2.2 To interconnect the planning of social service development and their funding, creation of methodology for this process	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs							
	3.5.2.3 To revise current definitions of social services – early care, support for independent housing, half-way houses, asylum houses in the Act No. 108/2006 Coll., on social services, as amended, in relation to the needs of people in socially excluded localities	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs	Agency						
	3.5.2.4 The support of creation, extension and innovation of services in socially excluded localities	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs							
	3.5.3.1 To prepare a specific multidisciplinary standard of work with persons from socially excluded localities	Agency	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Interior Ministry, Office of the Government, municipalities, regions						

SOCIAL SERVICES, FAMILY, HEALTHCARE	3.5.3.2 To implement the method of case management as the standard of direct work with socially excluded clients on the multidisciplinary level which is required by the law.	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Interior Ministry, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Justice						
	3.5.3.3 To create the service coordination team of subjects working with people in socially excluded localities; to create its executive methodology.	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Interior Ministry, Ministry of						
	3.5.3.4 To implement specific requirements for the work of OSPOD (Body of social and legal protection of children) in relation to socially excluded localities	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs	Agency						
	3.5.4.1 Activation influence on a family, whose child is placed in an institutional care facility	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	Agency						
	3.5.4.2 To legally prevent the order for institutional child care due to economic or housing reasons	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs	Ministry for Local Development, Ministry of Justice						
	3.5.4.3 To optimize the network of Centers of Educational Care, at least in the regions with SEL	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, AK ČR, Agency						
	3.5.4.4 Stipulation of the obligation for parents of the endangered child to use social or other support services	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Ministry of Justice						
	3.5.4.5 To create methodology for screening of pre-school children, whose school attendance is endangered by social exclusion and to provide pre-school education to selected children	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Agency						
	3.5.5.1 Name of the measure: Implement the subject "Specifics of Work in Socially Excluded Localities" into the agenda of methodical guidance of OSPOD workers	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs	Agency						
	3.5.6.1 To take into account the specific conditions of SEL in the methodology of setting the number of work positions for OSPOD and youth curator workers	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, regions	Agency						
3.5.7.1 The creation of the post of a social medical worker within terrain programs	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, regions	Agency, Ministry of Health							

EDUCATION	4.5.1.1 Connect the increase of normative to socially disadvantaged students	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	Agency						
	4.5.1.2 The transition from the system of special educational tools to the system of supportive measures on all levels of education	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	Agency						
	4.5.1.3 To incorporate school counseling facilities into the standard funding of schools in a range depending on the amount of students of the school	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	Agency						
	4.5.1.4 To create a specific eligibility support for socially disadvantaged students	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	Agency						
	4.5.2.1 System for funding of kindergarten costs for socially disadvantaged children	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	Agency						
	4.5.2.2 The provision of early care, especially through the child's kindergarten attendance	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports							
	4.5.2.3 Piloting of methods aimed at the strengthening of cognitive functions and language education	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	Agency						
	4.5.2.4 To increase the strictness of criteria for creation of preparatory classes and placement of children in these classes	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports							
	4.5.2.5 Abolishment of discriminatory criteria for admission of children into public kindergartens	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports							
	4.5.2.6 Amendment of the Act No. 108/2006 Coll. on social services so that it will be possible to provide early care for children from socially excluded environment	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs							
	4.5.2.7 The implementation of the possibility to order kindergarten attendance in case of identification of endangered school success of a child by OSPOD	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs	Agency						
	4.5.3.1 Standardization of work, methodological guidance and training of pedagogue's assistants	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	Agency						
	4.5.3.2. To strengthen the observation of the Education Act in regard to the demands of a place in a catchment area school and its observation regarding the rejections of admission to a primary school	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	Agency						
	4.5.3.3 Short-term measures for transformation of the system of schools established for pupils with mild mental disability	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	Agency						
	4.5.3.4 Middle-term measures for transformation of the system of schools established for pupils with mild mental disability	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	Agency, regions, municipalities						
	4.5.3.5 Implementation and execution of "Municipal Strategy" for education of socially excluded children	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	Agency, municipalities						
	4.5.3.6 Implementation of a standard system of prevention and solution of truancy	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs	Agency						
	4.5.4.1 To prolong the compulsory school attendance at least until the achievement of certificate of apprenticeship	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports							
	4.5.4.2 To systemize the methodologically treated, quality professional training for primary schools and to allocate adequate financial resources	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports							
	4.5.4.3 To create a system of minimum obligatory support of high school students	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports							

	4.5.4.4 To review the Framework Educational Programs for Professional Education	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports								
	4.5.5.1 The creation of a system and methodology of early identification of child's endangerment and case cooperation of all involved subjects aimed at the prevention of child endangerment and its placement into institutional or protective care	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	Agency, Ministry of Health							
	4.5.5.2 Transformation of school institutions, which provide institutional or protective care in accordance to the Concept of Transformation of the Alternative Educational Care System	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Interior							
	4.5.6.1 The increase of counseling facilities' capacity	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	Agency, regions							
	4.5.6.2 The improvement of quality and standardization of counseling facilities' services	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports								
	4.5.6.3 To standardize school counseling facilities at primary and secondary schools	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports								
	4.5.7.1 The creation of a compulsory pro-inclusive standard of the pedagogical worker	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports								
	4.5.7.2 To ensure the readiness of future pedagogical workers to perform pro-inclusive practice	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	Agency							
	4.5.7.3 To ensure sufficient supply of quality education of current workers within the Additional Education of Pedagogical Workers in the fields of application of supportive and equalizing measures, work with children/pupils/students from socially excluded or culturally diverse environment and the setting and use of inclusive educational methods.	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	Agency							
	4.5.7.4 Standardization and content determination of social pedagogue's work at primary and secondary schools	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	Agency							
	4.5.8.1 The increase of efficiency of the subventions for NGOs in the field of education support	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	Agency							
	4.5.8.2 Incorporation of all necessary measures for support of successful education of socially excluded children into the priorities for drawing from the European Social Fund in 2014+	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	Agency, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Ministry for Local Development							
	EMPLOYMENT, BENEFIT SYSTEMS	5.5.1.1 Efficient use of benefit systems for employment activation of people for and for housing support	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs	Agency						
		5.5.2.1 Implementation of zonal employment arrangement	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs	Agency						
5.5.2.2 To prepare a joint methodology for the implementation of the gradual system of employment		Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, General Directorate of the Employment Office	Agency							
5.5.2.3 To strengthen the cooperation with social service providers in creation of individual action plans		Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs	Agency							
5.5.2.4 Implementation of tools for flexible employment and reimbursement		Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs	Ministry of Industry and Trade, Agency							
5.5.2.5 Methodological support of creation of local employment networks in socially excluded localities		Agency, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs								
5.5.3.1 Socially responsible placing of public contracts in socially excluded localities – use of the institute of special condition		Ministry for Local Development	Agency							
	5.5.4.1 The creation of interdisciplinary platform for over-indebtedness and regular monitoring of consumer protection concerning financial loans and consumer credits	Agency	Ministry of Industry and Trade, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs							
Regional development	6.3.1.1 Methodology of community work	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs	Agency							
	6.3.2.1 Credits for social economy and the procedure of their allocation	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs	Ministry of Industry and Trade							
	6.3.3.1 The small projects fund	Ministry for Local Development	Agency, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs							
	6.3.4.1 The preparation of an analysis of migration with emphasis on migration due to housing reasons and	Agency	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs							