

**Working Group**  
**GOOD PRACTICES IN IMPROVING THE ACCESS OF  
ROMA TO HOUSING IN RURAL AND URBAN AREAS**

**CONFERENCE ON IMPROVING ACCESS TO HOUSING FOR ROMA:  
GOOD LOCAL PRACTICES, FUNDING AND LEGISLATION.  
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# FRA Research and Data Collection

In October 2009 FRA published

- **Comparative report** “Housing conditions of Roma and Travellers in the European Union”
- **Six case studies** illustrating various housing initiatives (qualitative research – in depth interviews with representatives LAs, NGOs and Roma Beneficiaries)
- Analysis of relevant **EU-MIDIS data** (quantitative research)



## Selection Good practices

- Improving the situation regarding **non-discrimination** and **equal opportunity**;
- **Mainstreaming** of Roma and Traveller housing issues **in general housing policy**, while retaining a focus on Roma/Travellers to **overcome structural exclusion**;



- **Mainstreaming** the specific issues affecting Roma/Traveller women in Roma/Traveller housing policies and general social inclusion policies;
- **Actual participation** of Roma/Travellers in project design and implementation;
- **Positive feedback** from Roma/Traveller beneficiaries;



# Case studies

- ‘Living together’, **Czech Republic**
- ‘Combating Roma residential segregation’, **Hungary**
- ‘Traveller participation in decision making on housing issues’, **Ireland**
- ‘Roma housing projects in small communities’, **Slovakia**
- ‘A Model of Traveller Needs Assessment’, **United Kingdom**
- ‘Improving Roma housing and eliminating slums’, **Spain**



# Case Study UK: Cambridgeshire Model of Traveller Needs Assessment

- The initiative is the **Cambridge Sub-Region Traveller Needs Assessment 2005-2010 (CNA)**
- **Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA)** is required under the Housing Act (2004) & the guidance of the circular 01/2006 on policy on planning for Gypsies and Travellers



- The institution **leading** the implementation is Cambridgeshire County Council (local government authority) and a **consortium of public authorities** (7 local authorities).
- **Target group:** The target group is defined as the Gypsy/Traveller population of the CSR which is estimated at 6,500-7,000 (including those in standard housing).
- **Total Budget:** around £120,000



- **CNA objectives:** to provide an **accommodation assessment**, but also to assess future needs in respect of **education, health** and other key services, finally to understand the **demographic profile of Travellers**.
- The Cambridge Project went **beyond** a simple **assessment** of accommodation needs and shows a **multifaceted approach** to other service/living needs of Gypsies and Travellers.



- The main **quantitative data sources** were the findings of an **interview survey of 313** Gypsies/Travellers on sites of all types and general housing which was undertaken in 2005 as well as the **official six monthly counts of caravans** undertaken since 1980 and **local school rolls data**.



- **Travellers Involvement:** an **advisory group** of **nine Gypsies and Travellers** was formed and met four times; all of them were **engaged in policy initiatives or activism** and had relevant socio-political and cultural experience.
- **Interaction between Travellers and Local Authorities:** The participation of Gypsies and Travellers, including those conducting the survey, **helped to ensure trust between the local authorities and the study populations** on the purpose and use of the information collected.



- **Difficulties & limitations:**
  - **Gaps and weaknesses** in existing data, i.e. absence of **separate ethnic categories** in the ten-year national Census;
  - **Negative** or **virulent** tabloid media coverage
  - **The limitations of the survey methodologies** in reaching **nomadic families**



- **Transferability:**

The Cambridge Model, or elements of the model, have now been **adapted by many other local authorities**, including eight other Traveller Needs Assessments

- **Sustainability:**

The Model contributes to **an efficient planning process** so that there should be **less chances of pitches and sites being refused planning permission** because the **consultative process** has been robust.



- **Lessons learned:**

- The **'front-loaded' investment** in terms of resources and methodology in **an initial needs assessment** can make a significant **impact on improving the pace** and **provision** of Traveller/Gypsy-specific accommodation in a local area;
- **Adequate accommodation** for Gypsies/Travellers **reduces friction with local settled communities** and can significantly **reduce negative media coverage** related to Gypsy/Traveller accommodation;



# Case Study: Traveller participation in decision making, Ireland

- The initiative is the **Meath County Council (MCC) Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC)** and the **Meath County Council Traveller Accommodation Programme 2009-2013 (TAP)**.



- The two most important elements of the **Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998**, with respect to the implementation of Traveller accommodation in Ireland at a local level are the **Traveller Accommodation Programmes (TAPs)** and the **Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committees (LTACCs)**.



- The **leading institution** in implementation is the Meath County Council, a **local government authority**.
- The **total budget** provided to MCC for capital funding by central government (DOEHLG) for their TAP in 2005 (as an example) is **1,304,708 EUR**.



- The **Meath LTACC** includes local authority officials; local elected councillors and **representatives of Travellers and Traveller organisations**. The LTACC is chaired by a local councillor and the **Vice Chair is a Traveller**.
- **Non-discriminatory approach**: In its **Traveller Accommodation Programme 2009-2013**, Meath County Council has highlighted that it recognises **Traveller Culture** and is committed to **promoting equality and inclusion for Travellers**.



- **Lessons learned** from the Meath County is the central importance of **an overall policy framework** developed at **national level**,

Which includes:

- **Traveller Accommodation Programmes;**
- **Effective consultative mechanisms at national and local levels;**
- **Establishment of guidelines on good practice and technical specifications** where appropriate on all aspects of Traveller accommodation;



- Having a **multifaceted programme** that includes Traveller specific accommodation and access to general (social and private rented) housing;
- Importance of setting **targets** and **indicators** through which to **measure progress**;
- **Partnership** approaches and the **effective participation of Traveller representative organisations**;



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*Thank you for your attention!*

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More information available at:

[http://www.fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/roma/roma\\_en.htm](http://www.fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/roma/roma_en.htm)