

2022



ROOM2ROMA  
"TOGETHER AGAINST DISCRIMINATION."  
FINAL REPORT

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The Room2Roma - "Together against discrimination." project, ID:22110029, is an international project implemented in the Visegrad Four countries, i.e. the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland and Hungary, and is funded by the Visegrad Fund.

The main objective of the project is to facilitate access to decent housing for Roma, in especial by reducing prejudice against Roma.

The project seeks to improve the society-wide perception of Romani people as neighbours. The uniqueness of the Room2Roma project lies in the international cooperation of the V4 countries, where all the partners are working together to change the majority society's view of Roma as neighbours. Discrimination against Roma leads to living in undignified conditions and excluded localities, and excluded localities only lead to discrimination again. The Room2Roma project is trying to break this vicious circle. Changing social perceptions is as important as housing itself.

The project is launching 4 simultaneous campaigns based on the stories of successful Roma who have managed to find decent housing thanks to our work and our partner organisations. The project is aimed at multiple target groups: Roma, the general population, public authorities, housing providers and Roma NGOs. Within this report we briefly describe the research part and the implementation of the campaign. The research report and the full versions of the material are included as separate annexes. Within this report, we present illustrative photographs of the materials produced and activities implemented.

The project itself consisted of 3 main parts, namely research, campaign preparation and the campaign itself. From the very beginning, a great emphasis was placed on the involvement of the Roma themselves in the whole process of the project, from the research, through the preparation of the campaign to the campaign itself.

## **1) Research**

The basic methodology - i.e., the research question and the form of the research - was agreed upon in discussion between the partners. All participants agreed that the title of the research should be in a neutral form, i.e. The Position of Roma on the Housing Market. The research question was then: Whether and how Romani people are discriminated against on the housing market.

The research itself consisted of several parts, namely desk research, where we focused on the analysis of already published documents, and active research, carried out by individual partners in their countries, which included mystery calls and unstructured interviews with members of the Roma community.

The individual partners agreed on which sources they would primarily draw on - taking into account the specificities of the country in question. Within the international documents we focused mainly on: the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the European Social Charter, within the national documents: mainly legal regulations, all countries have laws prohibiting discrimination in their legislation, have established institutions to monitor compliance and various strategic documents and local ones, concerning the given city of the project implementer and partners, we analysed mainly: mainly the conditions for renting a council or social housing and possible overt or hidden discriminatory manifestations.

Within each organization, staff members contacted 5 members of the Romani community and conducted unstructured interviews with them. The interviews were designed in a neutral format to avoid biasing their responses. Thus, we did not ask respondents whether they had been discriminated, but rather to describe their experiences in finding housing.

In addition, 20 mystery calls (10 to private landlords and 10 to real estate agents) were conducted in each partner country. Each partner analysed the information collected for their country, and the applicant then made a compilation of the information and a synthesis of the results in the form of a research report.

The results of the research have shown that Romani people encounter direct and indirect discrimination not only on the commercial housing market, but also within towns and municipalities, especially in connection with the system of allocating municipal housing. Our research, based on a study of the conditions of housing allocation, has shown that indirect discrimination is particularly widespread within the Czech Republic (Ostrava) and Slovakia (Bratislava). Indirectly discriminatory conditions include, for example, the condition of permanent employment, minimum income level, being debt-free, not only to the municipality, but also the impossibility of being in foreclosure or insolvency, the impossibility of repeatedly receiving social benefits, the willingness to agree to pay off the debt on the apartment (of the previous tenant) or the willingness to reconstruct the apartment at one's own expense, etc. These mechanisms, even if they are not directly aimed at the Roma minority, can act in a discriminatory manner for several reasons: firstly, many clients from the Roma minority have low incomes that do not allow them to agree to pay off debts or to reconstruct their flat at a high cost, which prevents them from applying for an apartment and thus being excluded from public supply, and they often do not meet the condition of being debt-free or employed on a main job.

Regarding municipal housing, it should be mentioned that there are other barriers to accessing housing besides discrimination. Many municipalities have privatized their housing stock, the lack of municipal housing then results in long waiting periods. This is particularly evident in Poland, where the Romanian Roma community finds the process more difficult, as communication with the authorities and formal documentation is done in Polish. Moreover, the FDP's experience shows that a significant number of people from the above group are illiterate and their linguistic competence in Polish (especially formal) is at a very low level, which may pose a significant difficulty in the eventual procedure. Applicants also do not always have valid identity documents, which are a necessary condition for applying for support.

Another difficult phenomenon in Poland and Slovakia are the settlements still operating - illegally occupied plots of land or empty buildings with makeshift barracks built by the community. Despite very difficult conditions (makeshift housing, lack of access to running water or electricity), camps are an important element of the community's daily life. This is mainly because the occupation of a plot of land or an empty building does not require 'formalities', payments (e.g. rent) and gives a good sense of security (thanks to the large number of people, usually more or less related). On the other hand, illegal buildings or staying on illegal land is an obstacle to receiving social benefits, where illegals are not entitled to them.

The findings from the literature are consistent with our findings in our own research, both from mystery calls and interviews with respondents. Within the mystery call we encountered different attitudes of owners and real estate agents towards Roma minority applicants. Our experience was confirmed by the respondents themselves. All respondents told us that they had experienced some form of discrimination when looking for housing. Whether it was direct, when they were rejected on the basis of their ethnicity, or indirect, on the basis of other justifications. For example, the number

of children, age or even the fact that they are single parents. However, these reasons are ultimately, in the opinion of the interviewees, clearly based on Roma origin, which may or may not be revealed in the following discussion. Apart from ethnic origin, children, especially if the number of children is higher, as well as indebtedness and unemployment are also significant obstacles to finding housing. Repeated rejection has a negative impact on respondents they face feelings of inferiority, humiliation, anger, frustration and even resignation.

The results of the research served as a basis for the development of the campaign. Based on respondents' accounts of what they experienced from landlords, information materials for landlords were created, focusing on what is legal and what is no longer legal under the tenancy agreement. Also. Information materials have also been produced to meet the needs of clients.

Furthermore, the results of the research have been used for discussions with political leaders at local, national, and international levels. Within the local level, these were mainly representatives of individual cities, within the national level, the results of the research were used in the development of the Roma integration strategy (in the Czech Republic) and presented in conferences. At the international level, the research results were presented at the European Parliament in Brussels (online participation). The research report is attached as a separate annex.

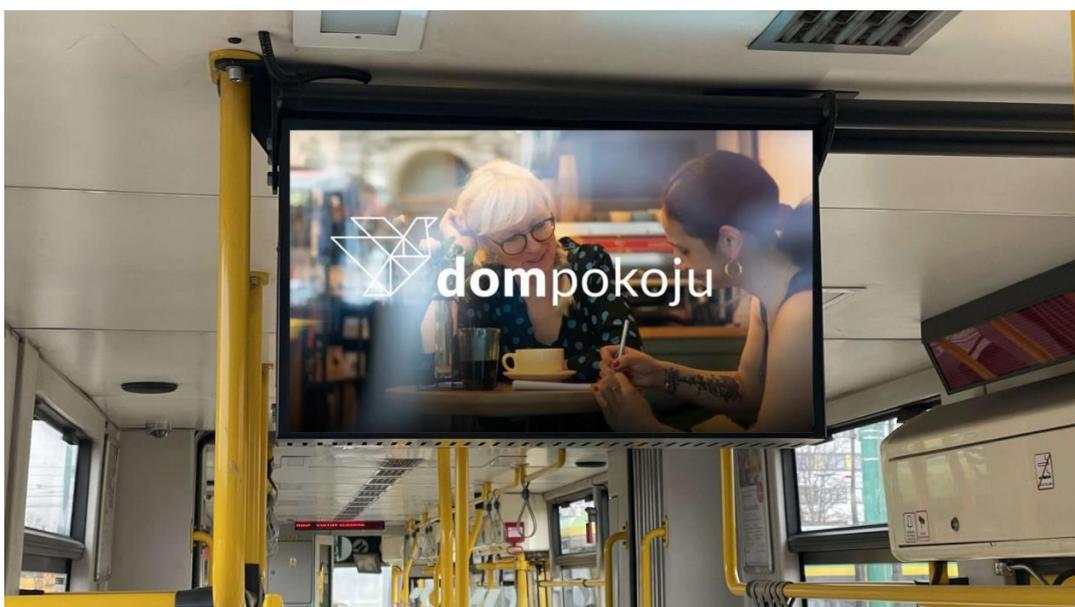
## **2) Campaign**

The main concept of the campaign was created during a joint online meeting to show that Romani people are good neighbours. During the online meeting, the individual partners agreed on a campaign design that reflects the specifics of the country. As part of the offline campaign, they agreed to create information/educational leaflets for clients focusing on housing rights and obligations, discrimination, etc. They also agreed on the design of information leaflets for landlords focusing on legal and illegal clauses in the tenancy agreement regarding the legal system of the country and regarding possible discriminatory clauses. Postcards on discrimination, etc. were produced. In addition, the design of promotional materials and the collection of case studies from individual clients of the organisations were devised. In the framework of the online campaign, the design of the website, the design of the videos and the FB page post were agreed. Furthermore, the possibility of promoting the project and the research results in political engagement, e.g., in meetings at municipalities, regions, with top politicians, conferences, etc. was discussed.

Members of the Roma community were approached in each country to contribute to the campaign by sharing their stories, speaking on camera, or becoming the "face" of the campaign in photographs. Audio-visual materials, postcards and information leaflets were created within each organisation, considering the specificities of the country. Each of the project participants set their own strategy for disseminating information about the project, considering the specificities of the target group and the country. The campaign ran simultaneously in all 4 countries, both in online and offline form. Individual partners shared campaign materials with each other, especially postcards, leaflets, and client case studies. Some materials, such as information leaflets, were shared on national housing platforms, among other NGOs and within individual branches of the organisation. All materials were shared online for better communication between country partners.

The campaign targeted various target groups, namely (a) Roma, as the direct beneficiaries of the campaign, (b) housing owners, (c) the general population, and (d) politicians. For each target group, a different information strategy was chosen. The campaign was run online and offline simultaneously.

The **offline campaign** was carried out in several ways regarding the target group. During the campaign targeting the **general population**, more general tools were used to implement the campaign. Leaflets, postcards, and articles in local newspapers. To reach as many people as possible, we mainly used advertising areas in public transport, where a short film about the project was shown and information leaflets were placed, public transport stops and places where an increased presence of people can be expected, such as offices and shopping centres. In particular, materials with simple text and photographs were used to attract attention. The online campaign mainly used social networks such as Facebook, websites, and Twitter.



Example of an advertisement on a bus



"Dobrým  
sousedem může  
být každý."

• Visegrad Fund

**ROMODROM**  
OBECNĚ PROSPĚŠNÁ  
SPOLEČNOST



"Domov na  
prvním místě."

• Visegrad Fund

**ROMODROM**  
OBECNĚ PROSPĚŠNÁ  
SPOLEČNOST

An example of information leaflets



Example of printed brochures

Members of the Romani community themselves were involved in the campaign aimed at the **Romani population**. Members of the Romani community were the "face" of the campaign, sharing their personal stories and motivating other members of the community to join the project. Educational and informational materials were created for the target group to educate them about discrimination, support them if they wanted to file a complaint to investigate discriminatory behaviour, and connect them with service providers who provided housing either directly within the organisation or other collaborating organisations to find suitable housing. Leaflets informing about the project, including educational brochures, were distributed by the organisation's own staff, and were distributed to places frequently visited by the target group, e.g., employment office, municipal offices, waiting rooms of doctor's offices, etc. The leaflets were also distributed by the Roma themselves within their community.



Postcard example 1



Postcard example 2



Postcard example 2

# ROMODROM o.p.s.

## Room2Roma

### Frequently asked questions and answers about housing



[www.romodrom.cz](http://www.romodrom.cz)

#### What is the difference between renting and subletting??

- Lease - a person lives on the basis of a lease contract, the content of the lease contract is regulated by Act No. 89/2012 Coll. The contract is concluded between the owner and the tenant. The tenant has the legal right to have a permanent residence in the apartment.
- Sublease - The contract is concluded between the tenant and the subtenant. The tenant is therefore not the owner of the apartment. However, the owner's consent is usually required to enter into a sublease. The content of the contract is an agreement between the tenant and the subtenant. You cannot have a permanent residence in the sublet.

I live with a private citizen and I have a boyfriend. We want to live together, do I have to have the landlord's consent? Or can he move in? Do I even have to notify the landlord?

- In this case, the owner's consent is not required, as this is a so-called close person. A close person is mainly a spouse, partner or sibling. However, you must notify the owner of a change in the number of persons, especially because of a change in service deposits.

The landlord wrote in my lease that I must not have a permanent residence in the apartment. Is that true?

- No. According to the law, if you have a valid lease, you can declare your permanent residence in the apartment. If your lease says you cannot have a permanent residence, that part of the lease is invalid.
- Permanent residence is processed at the registration office of the municipality where your new residence is located. To register your permanent residence, you will need to fill in a registration form, provide your tenancy agreement and your ID card. There is a fee for the application. The amount is 50 CZK per person.

The landlord hasn't renewed my lease. Do I have to move out even though I'm a permanent resident? And do they have to find me another apartment?

- Yes. The permanent address is only a record and does not give the right to live in the apartment. The lease expires at the end of the agreed period, by agreement

or by termination. If you do not move out of the apartment, the landlord has the right to take you to court to evict you and to demand rent for the time you were illegally occupying the apartment. The landlord is not obliged to find you alternative accommodation.

#### Can my landlord ban me from smoking in my apartment?

- No. The landlord cannot forbid you to smoke in the apartment. If the landlord prohibits smoking in the apartment in the lease, this part of the lease is invalid.

The owner doesn't want me to have a dog. Can he forbid me? It's not in the lease.

- No. The owner may not prohibit the keeping of animals, but the animal must not cause a nuisance to other residents that is unreasonable to the conditions of the house. In other words, you can keep a dog, cat or fish in your flat, but you must not keep poisonous or dangerous animals, you must not have a large number of dogs that bark all the time, or keep chickens in a block of flats, etc.

I lived with a private person, the rent was very high. I found a cheaper place and moved out. The landlord doesn't want to give me my security deposit back and says the rent is still there and I owe him rent. According to him, I didn't send him a notice, so I'm still living there. I didn't send the notice, but I put the keys to the apartment in his mailbox. I'm not in the apartment, so I don't want to pay anything, how is that?

- The owner's right. Termination of the lease ends with the agreed term, by agreement or by notice. If you do not agree with the landlord to terminate, you must give notice of termination. The notice must be in writing, even if you want to leave the apartment. If you did not give the landlord the termination in writing, your lease still continues and you must pay rent and utilities. The landlord therefore has the right to recover the rent you owe.

I deliver flyers. I have them stored in the hallway, but the neighbors complained about it and the owner forbade it. Does he have the right to do that?

- Yes, leaflets and other items such as a shoe rack do not belong in the hallway. This is particularly important in the event of a fire. In this case, the owner may ask you to remove the leaflets from the hallway.

#### How much deposit can the owner ask for?

- According to the law, the deposit can be a maximum of 3 months' rent. However, it can be lower if agreed with the owner.

My lease was up and the landlord told me that he would refund my security deposit after the utility bill. But that won't be for six months, and I need the money now. When do they have to give me my security deposit back?

- The landlord is obliged to return the deposit to you at the end of the lease. However, the landlord can deduct the rent due and any damage you have caused to the apartment from the deposit. The landlord has no right to withhold the deposit until the utility bill is sent. However, it has the right to ask you for any arrears of service charges.

When and how often may the owner inspect the apartment? Does he even have the right to do so?

- The landlord has the right to inspect the apartment for damage. However, only after agreement with the tenant and in his presence. At the same time, this inspection must not overburden the tenant, e.g. it cannot be carried out at weekends, late at night, every week, etc. Thus, you do not have to agree to this time if it is not convenient for you.

The landlord told me I could only have visitors in the apartment during the day. I can't have visitors at night. That's in the lease. You really can't have visitors staying over?

- The landlord cannot forbid you to receive visitors in the apartment or otherwise determine who can visit you and at what time.

My kids broke a window in the hallway, the owner says I have to pay for the damage. Is that true if it was in the hallway and not the apartment?

- Yes. The tenant is liable for the damage caused, even if the common parts of the building have been damaged.

You are therefore obliged to arrange for repairs or compensation. If you fail to do so, the landlord can arrange the repairs and recover the damage from you.

The landlord is selling the apartment and wants me to move out. But I still have a year left on my lease, do I have to move out?

- No. Selling the apartment is not a reason for terminating the lease. If the landlord gives you notice for this reason, you can challenge its validity in court. You must apply to the court to review the validity of the notice within 2 months of receiving the notice. Weekends and public holidays count towards this time limit.

I have a fixed-term contract, 1 year. Could it happen that the owner would not extend my contract?

- Yes. The landlord is not obliged to renew your lease after the expiry of the agreed lease period.

I went to Slovakia to visit my boyfriend for 4 months. For this time I gave the apartment to a friend who promised to pay the rent. But I didn't tell the landlord. When I returned, I found out that my friend hadn't paid anything. The landlord wants money from me, he says he doesn't care that my friend was supposed to pay the rent, and he told me he was terminating my lease for breaking the lease. Can he do that? Do I really have to pay the rent even though my friend lived in the apartment?

- Yes. The lease was concluded between you and the landlord, not your friend, and therefore you are obliged to pay the rent. So the landlord quite rightly wants to collect the debt from you. You can then recover it from your friend. Moreover, you have breached the lease by giving the flat to your friend without the landlord's consent. So the landlord can terminate your lease.

I have a broken faucet and a leak in my bathtub. I asked the landlord to pay for the repair because it's his place. He told me that I had to pay for these repairs myself.

- In this case, these are so-called minor repairs to the apartment, which are paid for by the tenant. Minor repairs to the apartment are defined by the decree and include, for example, repairs and replacement of switches, sockets, bells, repairs to showers, sinks, drains,

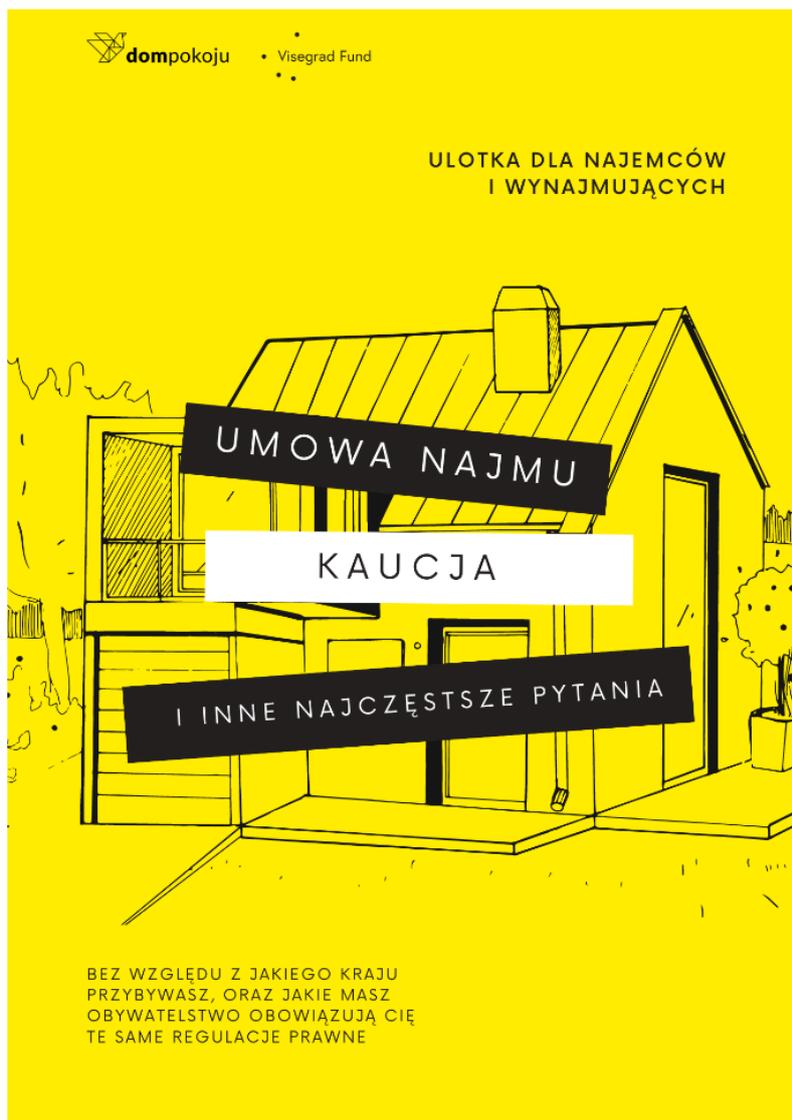
taps, etc. According to the amount of the cost, minor repairs are considered to be such repairs where the cost of one repair does not exceed CZK 1 000 or where they do not exceed an amount equal to CZK 100/m<sup>2</sup> of the floor area of the flat in a calendar year

#### What is a particularly serious and gross breach of the lease agreement?

- Particularly serious violations may include, for example, failing to pay rent and utilities for a period of at least three months, damaging the apartment or house in a serious or irreparable way, causing otherwise serious damage or inconvenience to the landlord or the persons living in the house (e.g. repeated noisy parties, repeated violations of the night-time peace, harassment of neighbours, etc.), or using the apartment illegally in a different way or for a different purpose than agreed. In this case, the landlord can terminate your tenancy without giving you notice. You must hand over the apartment without undue delay, but no later than 1 month after the end of the tenancy.
- It is a gross breach of the lease agreement if you sublet the apartment to a third party without the owner's consent, fail to notify an increase in the number of persons, or make building alterations without the owner's consent, if required. Here the notice period is 3 months.



Owners were approached in a targeted manner, these included both council housing and private landlords. Face-to-face communication was preferred in the campaign to make the information delivered more targeted. The campaign also produced information materials for landlords focusing on legal/illegal contractual clauses in tenancy agreements regarding the legislation of the country, as well as possible discriminatory arrangements. They were also informed, using examples of good practice, that a Roma tenant can be a good neighbour. Where possible we introduced landlords to Roma tenants who have been living in standard housing for a long time and are also "good neighbours" from the neighbours' point of view. Here is an example of a leaflet for landlords:



Example of a leaflet for owners 1

# ROMODROM o.p.s.

## Room2Roma How to rent an apartment

What is good to know?



[www.romodrom.cz](http://www.romodrom.cz)

### Rent or sublet?

**Lease** - a person lives on the basis of a lease agreement, the details of the lease agreement are regulated by Act No. 89/2012 Coll. The contract is concluded between the owner and the tenant.

**Sublease** - The contract is between the tenant and the subtenant. The tenant is therefore not the owner of the apartment. However, the owner's consent is usually required to enter into a sublease.

### What to include in the lease agreement?

- written contract helps avoid possible misunderstandings and disputes, regulates the rights and obligations of both the tenant and the landlord
- The lease agreement must specify the parties and the subject of the lease.
- The tenant and the landlord must be clearly identified in the contract by name and surname, date of birth and place of residence. If the lessor is a legal entity, the name, identification number and registered office.
- The contract should therefore specify which all premises are leased, for example, whether the basement, attic, etc. are also leased.
- The law does not explicitly provide for the obligation to state the amount of rent in the contract, however, it is recommended to include the rent and payments for services, including the method of payment, due date, billing and settlement in the lease agreement, however, it is more convenient, so you can avoid any disputes.
- It is advisable to specify in the contract the duration of the lease, for example, that the contract is for one year, or the date on which the lease ends. If the duration of the contract is not specified, the contract is for an indefinite period.
- The handover report is not a mandatory part of the lease agreement. However, it has its advantages. The status of individual meters, the equipment of the apartment, or any damage can be recorded in the protocol. The protocol can be supplemented with photo documentation. Any disputes can thus be avoided.

### What about deposit?

- A cash security deposit can be negotiated as part of the rental agreement. However, the amount is limited to a maximum of 3 months' rent.
- The security deposit is used to cover any debts for rent and services or to cover damages incurred by the landlord during the lease.
- The security deposit is refundable at the end of the tenancy, at which time the landlord can deduct the rent due. However, the security deposit cannot be held for a longer period (e.g. until the utility bill is settled)

### What about terminating the lease?

- The lease can end in several ways, namely:
  - Upon expiry of the agreed period. **WARNING!** If the tenant continues to use the flat and the landlord does not ask the tenant in writing to leave the flat within three months after the date on which the tenancy was due to end, the tenancy is deemed to have been renegotiated for the same period as previously agreed, but for a maximum of two years. The notice to quit must be in writing.
  - By agreement - the agreement must be in writing and must state the date on which the lease ends.
  - Termination with or without notice. Both the landlord and the tenant can give notice. A tenant may terminate a fixed-term tenancy if the circumstances on which the parties apparently based their obligation under the tenancy agreement change to such an extent that the tenant cannot reasonably be required to continue the tenancy. A tenant may terminate a lease for an indefinite period without giving any reason by giving three months' notice.

### When can I give notice to the tenant?

- The landlord may terminate the lease for a definite or indefinite period on three months' notice in certain cases:
  - if the tenant grossly breaches an obligation under the lease,
  - if the tenant is convicted of an intentional crime committed against the landlord or a member of his household or against a person living in the house

- where the tenant's apartment is located or against someone else's property located in that house,
- if the apartment is to be vacated because it is necessary, for reasons of public interest, to dispose of the apartment or the house in which it is situated in such a way that the apartment cannot be used at all, or
  - if there is another similarly serious reason for terminating the tenancy.

- An indefinite lease can be terminated even if:
  - the apartment is to be used by the landlord or by the landlord's spouse who intends to leave the family household and a petition for divorce has been filed or the marriage has already been dissolved,
  - the landlord needs the apartment for his/her relative or for a relative of his/her spouse in the direct line or in the second degree of the second degree.
- ATTENTION!** If you give notice to the tenant for one of these two reasons and if you do not start using the apartment within one month of the tenant vacating it, you are obliged to re-let the apartment to the tenant and pay for any damages incurred. The one-month time limit applies for the time needed to adapt the flat if you have started within two weeks of the eviction.
- The notice must be given to the tenant in writing and must state the reason for the notice.

### Can I terminate tenant without giving notice?

- Yes, if the tenant has breached the lease in a particularly gross manner.
- This violation may include, for example, failing to pay rent and utilities for at least three months, damaging the apartment or house in a serious or irreparable way, otherwise causing serious damage or inconvenience to the landlord or persons living in the house, or illegally using the apartment in a different manner or for a different purpose than agreed. He or she has sublet the flat to a third party without your consent, failed to notify an increase in the number of occupants, carried out building alterations without your consent if required.

- ATTENTION!** If the notice does not specify what constitutes a particularly serious breach of the contract or if the landlord does not invite the tenant to remedy the breach within a reasonable time, the notice is invalid.
- The tenant is obliged to surrender the apartment without undue delay, but no later than 1 month after the termination of the lease.

### What about repairs? What is paid by the tenant and what by the owner?

- During the period of the lease, the lessee carries out the normal maintenance of the property, unless the lessor has undertaken to do so.
- What is meant by routine maintenance and minor repairs is regulated by Government Regulation No. 308/2015 Coll.
- According to the amount of the costs, minor repairs are considered to be such repairs where the cost of one repair does not exceed CZK 1,000 or where they do not exceed an amount equal to CZK 100 per 2 floor area of the apartment in a calendar year. Anything above this amount shall be paid by the landlord.
- The lessee is obliged to immediately notify the lessor of the defects to be removed by the lessor and, if necessary, to remove them without delay, otherwise he is liable for the damage incurred.

### Other FAQs:

#### I'd like to check the apartment, can I enter?

- Yes, but only after prior agreement with the tenant and only in the tenant's presence. You cannot enter the apartment without the tenant's knowledge.

The tenant is not paying me, he has been given notice but has not left the apartment. Can I evict him and change the lock?

- No, if the tenant does not voluntarily surrender and vacate the apartment, but at the same time there are no grounds for the landlord to believe that the tenant has abandoned the apartment, the landlord must bring an action to evict the apartment. The landlord must then wait to evict until the court has ruled and cannot rent the apartment to a new tenant.

- The tenant is obliged to pay the landlord compensation in the amount of the agreed rent until the eviction decision is made.
- The court will consider in the proceedings whether there has been a valid termination of the lease. If it concludes that it has, it will order the tenant to vacate the apartment within 15 days of the decision to vacate, or a longer period depending on the circumstances.

### Can I prohibit a tenant from having a permanent residence in the apartment?

- No, if the tenant has a valid lease, he or she does not need the landlord's permission to establish permanent residence in the rented apartment.
- If such a clause is included in the lease agreement, the clause is void
- the landlord can terminate the permanent residence himself once the tenant moves out. The landlord only has to prove to the registration office that the right of use of the property has ended.

### Can I ban dogs or cats in my apartment?

- No, the tenant has the right to keep animals in the apartment if the keeping does not cause the landlord or the other residents of the house a nuisance unreasonable to the conditions in the house. If the keeping of the animal results in the need for increased maintenance costs for the common parts of the building, the tenant shall reimburse the landlord for these costs

The tenant has a Romani man for a boyfriend, can I ban him from entering the apartment, living in the apartment, or terminate their lease?

- No. The tenant has the right to accept anyone in his/her home. If the tenant takes in a new member of his household, he shall notify the landlord of the increase in the number of persons living in the flat without undue delay; if the tenant fails to do so even within two months of the change, he shall be deemed to have seriously breached his obligation

In the context of **political engagement**, the research results were used mainly in the context of negotiations with political representatives at local, national, and international level. At the local level, face-to-face meetings were mainly used (due to the Covid pandemic, a large part of the meetings were conducted online), while at the national level, the research results were mainly forwarded to the responsible persons, or staff were involved in commenting on the development of national strategies. The project and in particular the research results were presented at a meeting of the European Parliament in Brussels, which was held online due to the pandemic. During the implementation of the project, Romodrom became a member of two national platforms - the Housing Initiative and the Platform for Social Housing and a working group for the preparation of a law on social housing.

Because during the time of the campaign the main parliamentary elections in Hungary were held, we worked on a greater picture of housing problems and challenges of the country. Collaborating with the Coalition of Habitation (Lakhatási Koalíció), which is an umbrella organization of many Hungarian NGOs and research institutes on housing specially formed to impact the politicians and parties running on the elections. With these partners we formed a Housing Minimum (<https://lakhatasiminimum.hu>), where we laid the foundations for solving the housing crisis, including the problem of the minorities as the Roma people. The reception of the program was great among the opposition parties, the ruling party showed no interest (sadly it's usual from them in collaborating with any NGO's in general).

On 24th of February was held (in Hungary) the public presentation of the program and we asked direct feedback from the representatives of the political parties, and they voted almost with green to every point of it. We were looking forward to a great start for coworking in case they succeed in the elections, but unfortunately on this very same day the Russian aggression against Ukraine started, and not just took the focus from our event, but also led the ruling party to another large electoral victory.

The From Streets to Homes Association applied and reached the admission to a community of Roma and pro-Roma organizations called Egalipe Network. The networks holds together 15 organizations. They are standing for protecting the rights and interests of the Hungarian Roma community, strengthening Roma and non-Roma cooperation; and the development of methods, programs, and projects that, while bringing about changes locally, can be used and serve as a model for others, including governments, institutions, and decision-makers who mostly shape professional policies. As we discuss several topics that affect the Roma community we are strongly representing the cause of housing in these meetings.

Below is a list of political partners:

name	destination	short description	date
<b>Bartłomiej Świerczewski</b>	director of the Department of Social Causes Of the Municipal Office in Wrocław	The meeting concerned the acquisition of new premises for training flats for Roma families. The stay in training apartments is preceded by the waiting time for a social flat from the Wrocław Municipality	December 10th 2021
<b>Małgorzata Milewska</b>	Ministry of the Interior and Administration of the Republic of Poland	Diagnosis of the housing and socio-economic situation of Polish Roma in Wrocław. During the meeting, we talked	December 13th 2021

		about the housing condition of the community and the directions of activities aimed at improving it.	
<b>Marta Kucner</b>	Janina Ochojska's Deputies' Office of a Member of the European Parliament	The meeting concerned working with the housing first method with the Romanian Roma community in Wrocław and the universality of the method itself, which can be implemented to work with other ethnically different groups.	January 7th 2022
<b>Małgorzata Tracz</b>	Member of the Parliament of the Republic of Poland	The purpose of the meeting was to familiarize the MP with the Room2Room project and the housing situation of Polish Roma in Wrocław	January 14th 2022
<b>Andrzej Stefański</b>	Office of the Human Rights	periodic update meeting about your projects and actions undertaken for the benefit of the Roma community in Wrocław, including those related to the improvement of the housing situation	February 4th 2022
<b>Joana Bradke</b>	voivodes plenipotentiary for national and ethnic minorities	We shared information about the situation of the Roma community in this area and about our cooperation. We also talked about the types of issues that the Roma address to the plenipotentiary	February 10th 2022
<b>Marek Mikulec</b>	Methodologist for Social Housing, Municipality of Ostrava	Diagnosis of the housing and socio-economic situation of Polish Roma in Ostrava. During the meeting, we talked about the housing condition of the community and the directions of activities aimed at improving it.	October 24 <sup>th</sup> 2022
<b>Michal Ďord'</b>	Garant of Housing First, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs	Diagnosis of the housing and socio-economic situation of Polish Roma in Czech Republic. During the meeting, we	Regular meetings once a month, start of cooperation January 2021

		talked about the housing condition of the community and the directions of activities aimed at improving it.	
<b>Katarína Šránková</b>	Initiative for Housing - a national platform associating organisations working with homeless people	Cooperation on the preparation of the Social Housing Act	September 9 <sup>th</sup> 2022
<b>Markéta Benešová</b>	Head of the Ministerial Council - Deputy Director of the Department, Ministry for Regional Development	Discussions regarding the exclusion of Roma from the housing market, discussing the possibility of social work in preventing the loss of housing	November 10 <sup>th</sup> 2021
<b>Martina Štěpánková</b>	Deputy Minister for Management of the European Funds and International Cooperation, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs	Discussions regarding the exclusion of Roma from the housing market, discussing the possibility of social work in preventing the loss of housing	November 3 <sup>rd</sup> 2021
<b>Jan Blažek</b>	Analyst in cooperation with the Social Housing Support Project, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs	Preparation of research on housing providers, under what conditions they are willing to accept Roma into private housing, whether and what guarantees they expect	Regular meetings once a month, start of cooperation May 2021
<b>Petra Šobáňová</b>	Senior Researcher at SocioFactor s.r.o.	We collaborated on research into the housing conditions of Roma in the Czech Republic and the preparation of a census of homeless people. We shared our practical experience, participated in data collection among the Roma community	April 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2022 May 10 <sup>th</sup> 2022
<b>Adam Fialík</b>	Guarantor of Social Work, Platform for Social Housing	Discussions regarding the exclusion and discrimination of Roma from the housing market, discussing the possibility of social work in preventing the loss of housing	Regular meetings once a month, start of cooperation January 2021
<b>Vít Lesák</b>	Czech, Agency for Social Inclusion	Presentation of key results of work in the areas of social inclusion, integration of the Roma	Regular meetings once a month, start of cooperation January 2021

		minority and homelessness	
<b>Anna Hájková</b>	Innovator of tools of the MHMP- Social Housing project Department of Affordable Housing Concept, Department of Strategies and Analyses of Regional and Housing Policy, Ministry for Regional Development	Participation in the working group for the preparation of the law on social housing, We shared information about the situation of the Roma community in this area and about our cooperation.	Regular meetings once a month, start of cooperation May 2021
<b>Katarína Šrámková</b>	Initiative For Housing Coordinator of advocacy activities	Roundtable on Social Housing in the Czech Republic: what is the cost of not addressing housing need and what to do about it? Preparation of an advocacy plan	September 12 <sup>th</sup> 2022
<b>Iva Kuchyňková</b>	Initiative For Housing Advocacy Officer	Introducing and passing the Affordable Housing and Housing Assistance Act	June 7 <sup>th</sup> 2022
<b>Jan Klusáček</b>	Initiative For Housing, Expert in analysis and policy development	Presentation of key results of work in the areas of social inclusion, integration of the Roma minority and homelessness	November 5 <sup>th</sup> 2021
<b>Josef Hawel</b>	Department of Social Housing, Homelessness and Support for the Elderly Department of Social Services and Social Services Inspection	Workshop on crisis and guarantee funds and their use in preventing housing loss and finding housing on the private market	November 8 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Lucia Ďuriš Nicholsonová</b>	Member of European parliament, Chair of the Committee, Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, European Parliament	Presentation of key results of work in the areas of social inclusion, integration of the Roma minority and homelessness	October 25 <sup>th</sup> 2021
<b>Matilde Revelli</b>	Coordination and Communications Assistant at the Housing First Europe Hub	presentation of key results of work in the areas of social inclusion, integration of the Roma minority and homelessness	September 30 <sup>th</sup> 2021

The **online campaign** was mainly conducted through social networks, where the partners used their Facebook pages to keep the project information up to date. Information about the project was published on the websites of the individual organisations, and interviews were also conducted on

various podcasts. The campaign also included cooperation with Romeo TV, which specifically targets Roma audiences. As part of the video production for another project (Visegrad Roma Magazine, Volume 2: Housing) also funded by the Visegrad Fund focusing on Roma housing, information regarding the Room2Roma project and research results were presented. Another collaboration addressed directly the Roma audience. The RomNet is a popular news site by Roma journalists for Roma people, so we covered the problem of discrimination from both a larger and a smaller perspective, with giving some recommendation for a solutions.

We also cooperate with Telex. The Telex, Hungary's one of the most popular online news sites made by the ex-Index members (after the governmental occupation of the original Index), so our clear target was to reach the public through that. Staff member was working together with the author of the article, where the whole problem area of Roma housing was covered, explaining the results of our previous research too. The title: "Az utolsó két lakásnál sírva jöttem el" means: "I came away crying from the last two apartments".

On 19th of January in 2022 in the first Roma radio station of Hungary there was a whole morning program by Ernő Kadét's hosting, where the main topic was the accommodation of Roma people, especially the problems with finding a rent. There were several speakers who were sharing their experiences, also our organization was a guest with the campaign and the research results.

Again, we provide links to the online campaign:

<https://www.dompokoju.org/2022/06/15/kampania-spoleczna-razem-przeciwko-dyskryminacji/>

<https://www.dompokoju.org/2022/03/07/projekt-room2roma-razem-przeciwko-dyskryminacji/>

<https://romodrom.cz/cs/co-delame/bydleni/room2roma/>

<https://www.facebook.com/dompokoju/videos/571525214578793>

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=337813638390347&set=a.217698997068479>

<https://www.facebook.com/Romodrom/photos/a.219143521453417/5393003230734061/>

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1538890536565780>

<https://telex.hu/belfold/2021/12/18/roma-diszkriminacio-lakhatas-alberlet-kereses>

<https://www.romnet.hu/hirek/2021/12/18/a-koronavirus-erositette-a-nyilt-es-rejtett-diszkriminaciot-az-alberletpiacon>

<https://utcarollakasba.hu/kulcskerdes/>

## A KORONAVÍRUS ERŐSÍTETTE A NYÍLT ÉS REJTETT DISZKRIMINÁCIÓT AZ ALBÉRLETPIACON

2021. 12. 18. 00:00

f in

Kutatási adatok és személyes történetek is bizonyítják, ha valaki ma romaként albérletet keres, sokszor az sem jelent előnyt, ha biztos munkahellyel és iskolai végzettséggel rendelkezik, mert a kiadó lakásról elsőként a borszín dönt. Az effajta hozzáálláson kíván változtatni az Utcáról Lakásba! Egyesület egy országos, érzékenyítő kampánnyal, amelyet a visegrádi országokkal közösen terveztek.



„Sajnos már kiadtuk” „Kisgyermekeseket nem szeretnénk, mert most lett felhívva.” „Csak egyedülálló egyetemistákat szeretnénk” „Cigányoknak nem!” Aki ingatlanközvetítőt keresett, vagy a tulajdonosnál próbálkozott albérletet keresni, minden bizalommal találkozott már ezekkel a mondatokkal. A nyílt és rejtett diszkrimináció az albérletpiacon eddig is tapasztalható volt, de az elmúlt két évben, a koronavírus-járvány hatására tovább erősödött, a hátrányos megkülönböztetés elleni jogorvoslati lehetőségek pedig beszűkültek. Kutatási adatok és személyes történetek is bizonyítják, ha valaki ma romaként albérletet keres, sokszor az sem jelent előnyt, ha biztos munkahellyel és iskolai végzettséggel rendelkezik, mert a kiadó lakásról elsőként a borszín dönt. Az effajta hozzáálláson kíván változtatni az Utcáról Lakásba! Egyesület egy országos, érzékenyítő kampánnyal, amelyet a visegrádi országokkal közösen terveztek.

Találkoztunk már olyan gyermekes családdal, aki sírva panaszkodott, hogy hiába fizette volna ki a három havi kauciót, egy garzonlakást sem tudott kibérelni a főváros külső kerületeiben, mert látható volt roma származása, miközben a meghirdetett ingatlan rosszabb feltételek teljesítésével másnak is kiadták. Az albérletkeresés során a romák és a gyermekes családok vannak a legnehezebb helyzetben. Őket éri a leginkább diszkrimináció az albérletpiacon. Ezt támasztja alá az Utcáról Lakásba! Egyesület háttérkutatása is, amelyet a kampány előkészítéséhez készítettek. A diszkrimináció elleni fellépést és az attitűdváltást nehezíti, hogy a hátrányos megkülönböztetés a legtöbb esetben nem bizonyítható, hiszen a megkérdőjeztet roma lakáskeresők szerint amikor a lakástulajdonosok szembesülnek azzal, hogy az érdeklődő roma, általában arra hívtakoznak, hogy a lakás már ellett és csak a legutóbb esetekben vállalják nyitlan, hogy romáknak nem adják ki lakásukat. A diszkrimináció sok szinten, rejtetten történik. Legtöbb esetben ölt direkt formát, amikor a lakástulajdonos vagy munkáltató nyíltan megmondja, hogy romáknak nem ad lehetőséget, mert legutóbbazor csak annyit mondanak, amikor találkoznak a roma érdeklődővel, hogy már elkelt a lakás vagy majd visszatelefonálnak. Ezen kívül sokszor valamilyen más, fedő indokkal utasítják el a roma érdeklődőket az albérleti piacon: gyerekeik száma, koruk vagy éppen egyedülálló szülői voltak miatt. Am ezek az indokok végig soron a megkérdőjeztet véleménye szerint sokszor a roma származásának szól, ami vagy kiderül a további beszélgetés során, vagy nem.

### Utcáról Lakásba

#### A diszkrimináció magas aránya

A Minority Rights Group Europe 2021 májusában Romák Magyarországon: A diszkrimináció kihívásai címmel publikált jelentéséből az derül ki, hogy a koronavírus-járvány hatására nőtt a diszkrimináció, igaz nemcsak a lakhatáshoz való hozzáférésben, hanem az élet több területén is. A jogvédő kapacitások Magyarországon jelentősen csökkentek az utóbbi években, több szervezet megszűnt vagy más országba tette át székhelyét. A jelentés külön megemlíti, hogy 2020. januárjában megszűnt a diszkrimináció elleni köznevelési egyetemes joghatékonyabb szerve, az Egyenlő Bánásmód Hatóság, feladatait az alapvető jogok biztosa vette át. A jelentés azt is kiemeli, hogy a kormányzati roma stratégia elsőorban a társadalmi felzárkózásra koncentrált, viszont kiharadtak belőle a diszkriminációmentességre vonatkozó részek és az ezzel kapcsolatos irányok leírása.

A Közép-Európai Egyetem és az ELTE Szociálpszichológia tanszék közös projektében azt vizsgálta, hogy mit jelent a roma fiatalok számára a megkülönböztetés olyan hétköznapi szituációkban, mint az albérletkeresés, vásárlás vagy szórakozás. A projekt során a fiatalok meghirdetett albérletet hívtak fel, beszámoltak tapasztalataikról és utána közösen reflektáltak a történésekre. A fiatalok elmondták, hogy a leggyakrabban a következő válaszokat kapták a tulajdonosoktól és ingatlanközvetítőktől, miután a telefonban elmondták, hogy roma származásúak:

- vissza fogják hívni őket, de végül nem hívták vissza,
- már ki van adva a lakás,
- az ingatlanközvetítő hárítja a felelősséget, kivülálló szereplőként jelenik meg, aki nem vállalja fel a konfliktust vagy akár a kérdésfelvetést a tulajdonos felé.

### KI-KICSODA? >



#### Horváth Aladár

1982-84 az LKM betanított munkása, 1986  
fölköregyűstest alapít, 1985-86 a körömi, 1986-89 a...



#### Puporka András

1949-ben Bükkszéken született.  
Három éves korától kezdett érdeklődni  
a zene iránt. A Klarinet.



#### Jónás Judit

1964. január 8-án született Nógrád  
megyében, Bercelen. Általános iskolai  
tanulmányait Erdén...



#### Dr. Úrnös Andor

Normal 0 21 false false false  
MicrosoftInternetExplorer4...



Example of article

 **HOUSING FIRST #PODCATS**   
Poslechněte si zajímavý podcast  [https://1url.cz/@podcast\\_housing](https://1url.cz/@podcast_housing)  
od Aktuálně.cz.  
"Každý si zaslouží druhou či třetí šanci. Největší výhoda projektu spočívá v tom, že je zaměřený na ty nejchudší a nejpotřebnější."   
Děkujeme Ministerstvo práce a sociálních věcí, Platforma pro sociální bydlení a Sociální bydlení v ČR za podporu. Pokud si myslíte, že Housing First má smysl, SDÍLEJTE   
  [https://1url.cz/@Odkaz\\_na\\_clanek](https://1url.cz/@Odkaz_na_clanek)    
 Lukáš Bíba  
[International Visegrad Fund](#)



 **Romodrom**  
14. červenec 2021 · 

★ BYDLENÍ PŘEDEVŠÍM ★  
 V čem spočívá jedinečnost projektu Housing First?  Podívejte se na video a seznamte se s týmem lidí, kteří už dva roky pomáhají lidem na Karvinsku získat lepší a kvalitnější život.    
[International Visegrad Fund](#)





Example of Facebook posts

The **international campaign** among the countries outside the V4 was mainly under the responsibility of the applicant, i.e., Romodrom, where the campaign was mainly focused on disseminating the research output in international conferences and policy meetings. An example is the presentation at the international conference in Paris organised by the French Ministry of Labour - Conférence ministérielle : " Les politiques d'insertion en réponse aux défis de la relance " Ministerial conference : "Inclusion policies to address the challenges of recovery ". Panel: Working with the most vulnerable/vulnerable groups and talked about work with Roma, housing projects, employment, and children's groups. Then the Radicalisation Awareness Network, a conference held in Stockholm on 4 and 5 October. And the planned post-project conference on 29 November in Brussels, organised by Feantsa - European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless. Below is a list of national and international conferences where the project was presented

Name	Destination	Date
Mering of coalition on empowering the role of intercultural and Romani assistants	Warszawa,	June 28th.
IV National Forum of Intercultural and Roma Assistants in Krakow.	Krakow	June 6th
Integration of refugees and women refugees in Poland Final conference of the NIEM project	Gdansk	June 27th
Radicalisation Awareness Network	Stockholm	October 4-5th

Inclusion policies to address the challenges of recovery	Paris	March 1st
Target groups most at risk of housing need	Prague	November 15th
Housing First and the future of social housing in the Czech Republic	Prague	May, 23rd - 24th
Finding social housing on the private market	Prague	September 17 <sup>th</sup>



Photos from conferences

### 3) Evaluative meeting

The personal meeting took place on 4 November in Prague and was attended by representatives of the individual partners in the project. The meeting was not open to the public, but it was attended by invited guests, such as Kateřina Kubrichtová, who informed about the project, which also focuses on discrimination against Roma on the housing market. At the face-to-face meeting, each of the partners presented their organisation, summarised the preparation and progress of the campaign in their

country and presented future to build on the campaign implemented within the Room2Roma project. Members exchanged printed campaign materials.

In the evaluation of the campaign, all partners consider the project a success. From the point of view of the implementers, it was mainly successful to involve the Roma themselves in the campaign, or rather, in the entire process of the project, which all partners consider to be crucial. They see this as empowering the Roma community to defend their interests themselves and to give them the space to "be heard".

The partners also consider the numerous meetings and negotiations with politicians to be a great success. These negotiations mostly have local impacts (e.g. revision of the conditions for allocating urban housing), but in rare cases changes are also taking place at the national level, e.g. in the Czech Republic we became members of a working group preparing a law on social housing.

The meeting also included a free discussion on discrimination in the country. The partners also discussed the current situation in connection with the war in Ukraine and the arrival of refugees. The discussion focused on the position of Romani Ukrainian refugees in relation to the position of Ukrainian refugees belonging to the majority. Participants agreed that Ukrainian refugees, especially those of Roma origin, face discrimination within their countries, especially in relation to housing. There was general agreement that this was also a broad topic that should be focused on.