“Croatian Experience with Roma settlements in the context of access to water and sanitation“

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Context and presentation of challenge

• Roma in Croatia
  – 9,463 Roma or 0.21% of total population (according to 2001 census data)
  – 30,000-40,000 Roma estimated to live in Croatia

• Living conditions of Roma in Međimurje County:
  – Lack of basic infrastructure
  – Illegal settlements
  – Economical, spatial and social marginalization
Policy measures adopted

• Planning and implementation projects financed under the EU pre-accession funds

• Link with national strategic documents:
  – National Roma Programme
Results achieved

• Infrastructure improvement in 6 Roma settlements in Međimurje County:
  – 3 Roma Support Projects under PHARE and IPA programmes
  – Construction of community roads, supply of water and electricity, sewerage and other facilities and services

• Access to water and sanitation utilities

• Strengthening co-operation between Roma and local authorities
Success factors and lessons learned

• Regularization of illegal settlements – problems encountered:
  – Challenges of the legalization process
  – Joint efforts of the state administration, local authorities and Roma
  – The role of the Government Office for National Minorities

• Positive effects:
  – Legislative changes
  – Incentive for other local communities to resolve infrastructure and legalization issues
Thank you for your attention.