

Improving Housing for Roma

**Assessment of the Capacities of the
State to Deal with the Negative Effects
of Legalization in the former Yugoslav
Republic of Macedonia**



**BEST PRACTICES
for
ROMA INTEGRATION
in the Western Balkans**

Funded by the EU



Supported by OSCE participating States

Implemented by



Starting point

Key question: how is the process of legalization implemented in practice?

- Interviews in Gostivar, Kumanovo, Tetovo, Prilep, Štip and Šuto Orizari - covering 53% Roma
- Evaluating the capacities of authorities
- Focusing on Roma
- Biljana Lubarovska, Assessment Author



Housing situation

- Majority of Roma live in urban areas - 43% in the capital Skopje
- Est. 70% of Roma have no ownership papers for their homes
- Unresolved property issues
- Outside of Urban Planning Zones
- No basic infrastructure



Legalization – the task ahead

- >350,000 applicants
- Completion rate is 12%
- 66% of cases are suspended
- We don't know how many Roma applied

Legalization

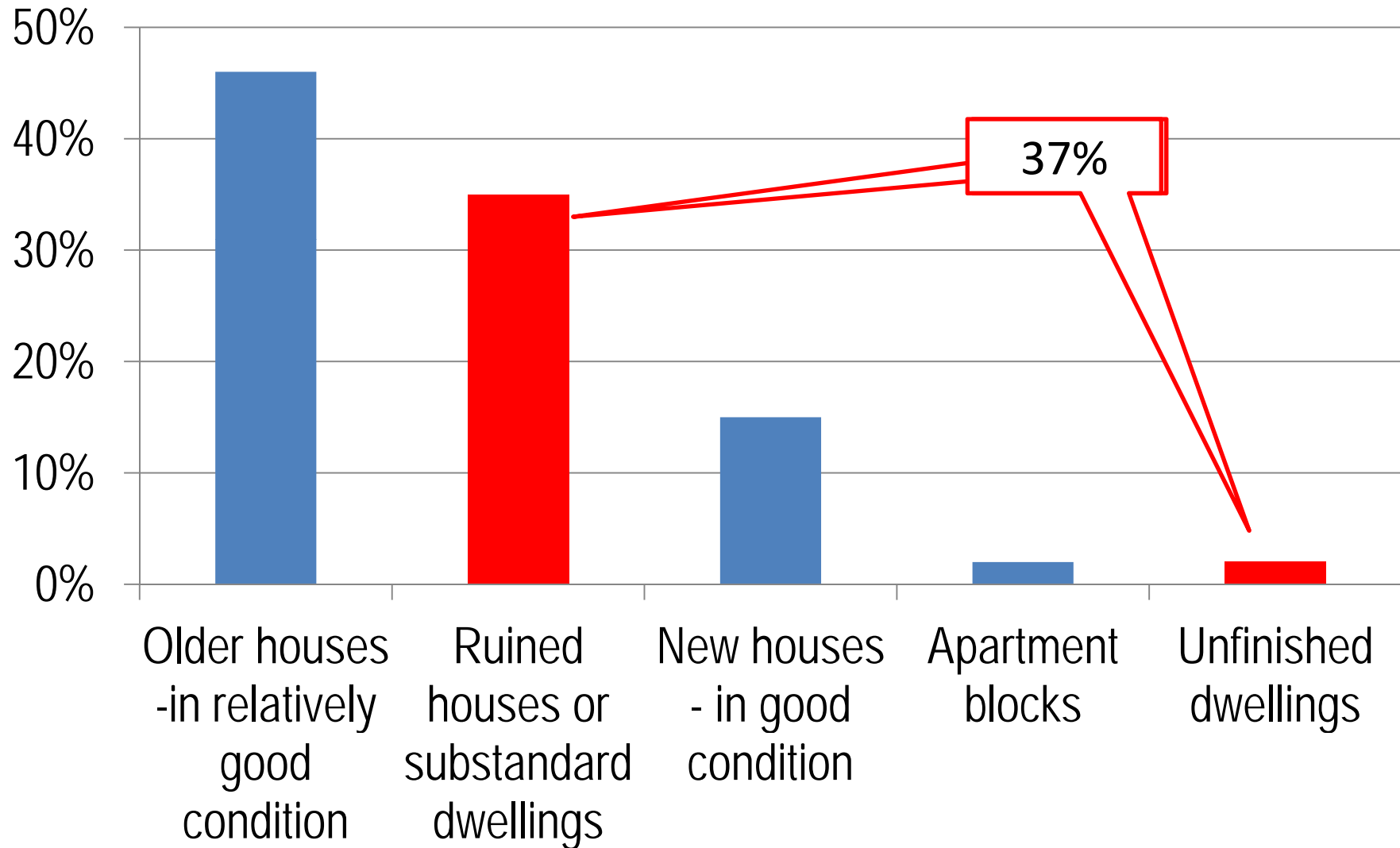
- Minimal Costs

50m² → 100 EUR (45 EUR)

75% of minimum monthly wage

- Lack of documents is the most common problem
- Municipalities were not prepared
- Having Roma employees helps

Not everything can be legalized...





Construction standards

- Functional whole
- Not prone to collapsing
- Accessible by road
- In line with planned status of the land



The Problem

Government confronted with 3 key problems:

- Roma are not aware of regulations and procedures
- Roma do not have affirmative access to housing
- Lack of data on housing



The Problem

The Roma are confronted with several problems:

- Living in illegally constructed houses
- Settlements outside of urban planning zones
- Insufficient communal infrastructure
- Overcrowded homes
- Ownership documentation
- Limited access to affordable loans



The Findings

- Lack of Documents
 - Geodetic report
 - Proof of ownership
 - Identification documents
- Inability to pay expenses
- Awareness and knowledge about the process
- Problem of property/right to use land



The Findings

- Unresolved family issues
- Municipal capacity
- Roma representation in municipalities
- Additional taxes
- Impact over social financial assistance



The Findings



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

ul. Miodowa 10

00-251 Warsaw

Poland

Tel: +48 22 520 06 00

Fax: +48 22 520 06 05

bpri@odihhr.pl

www.osce.org/odihhr