



Roma Plan for Rome

Mayor's Cabinet

Special Office for Roma, Sinti, Caminanti

The Roma Plan aims at the integration of Roma living on the territory of the Rome, by improving their access to education, employment, healthcare and housing. The Plan, which was adopted by the City Council with the city act Delibera di Giunta Capitolina n. 105, 26 Maggio 2017, is co-financed by the European Union.

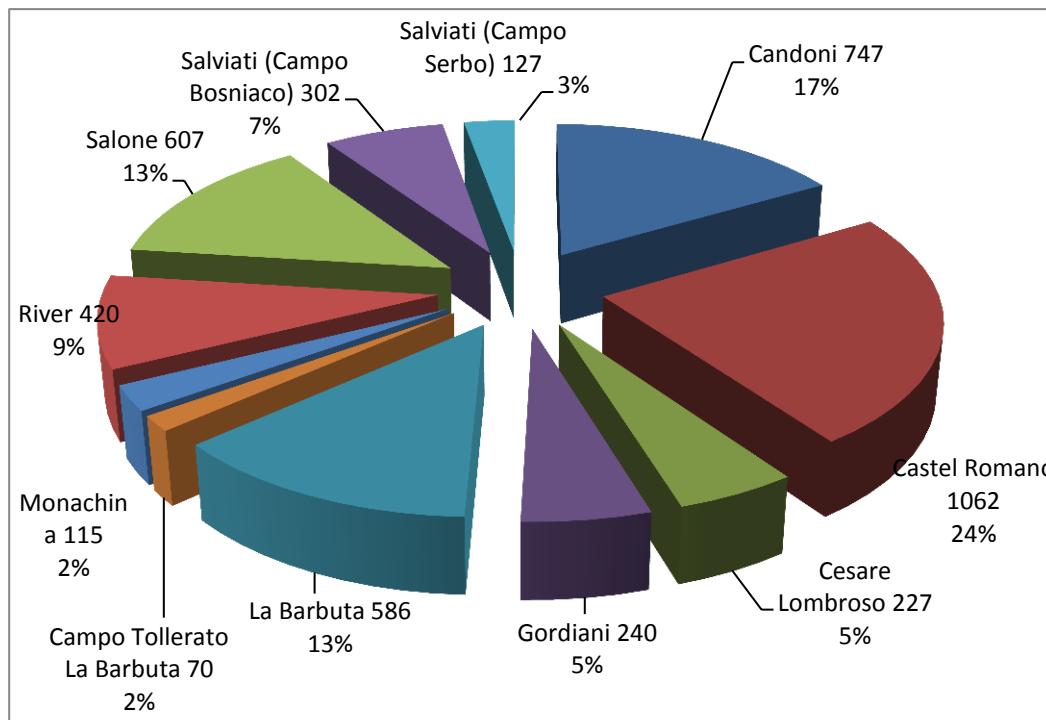
Background

It is estimated that as of February 2017 about 4500 people identified as Roma lived on the territory of the city of Rome plus almost 2000 living in unauthorised dwellings. Apart from the Roma group of Italian origin¹, most of the Roma living in Rome arrived from former Yugoslavia during the 1990s (about 70% of the total) and from Romania since the year 2000 (about 30 % of the total).

¹ Whose number is unknown because Italy does not record the “ethnic” component and because they are Italians since the XIV century. During the 1970’s also Italian Roma were living together with Italians in shanty towns, but during the 1970’s shanty towns were closed and the inhabitants (Roma and non Roma) transferred into social housing. In Rome, in 1952, there were 60.000 Italians living in informal dwellings and shanty towns.

Up to today most of the Roma live in encampments which were set up by the City with financial support from the State and institutionalized in 1985 following a Regional Law². As of February 2017 about 4200 Roma lived in these encampments. In addition about 1200 Roma live in unauthorised encampments. Most encampments, which are totally segregated, are established in the outskirts of the city, with limited access to public services and public transport.

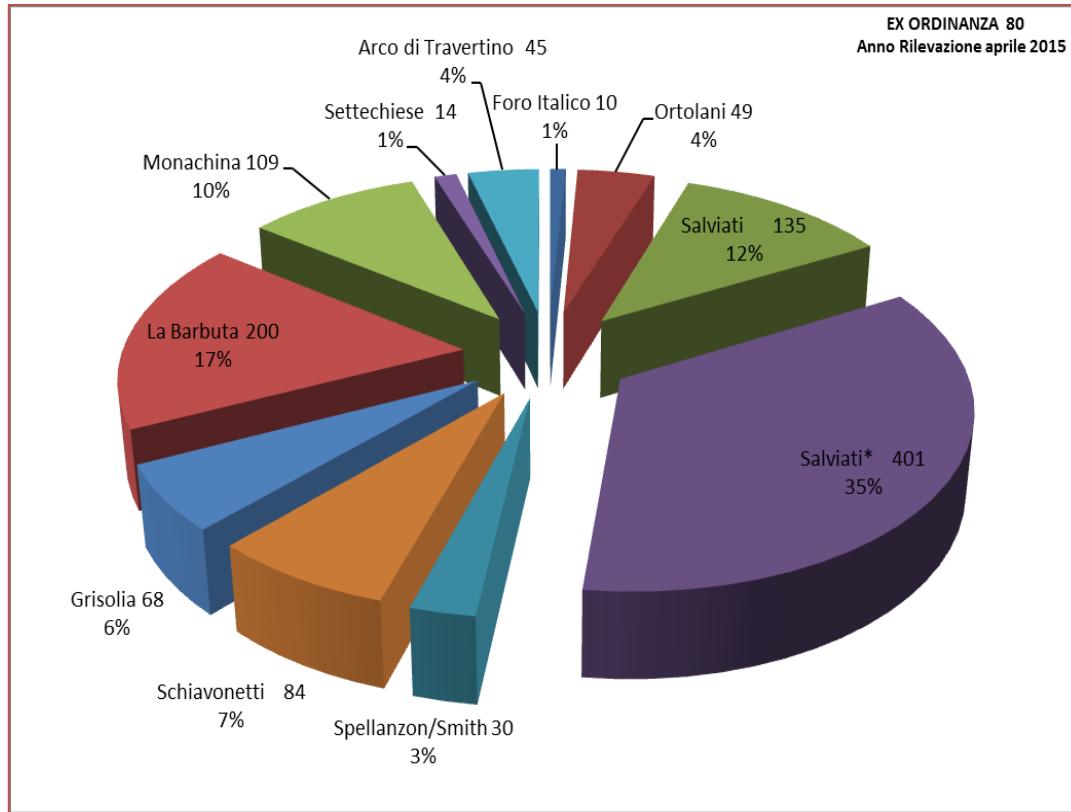
Tab. 1: Roma population in the “authorized” Encampments in Rome



Source: SPE Census Roma Capitale, Roma Special Office, 2017

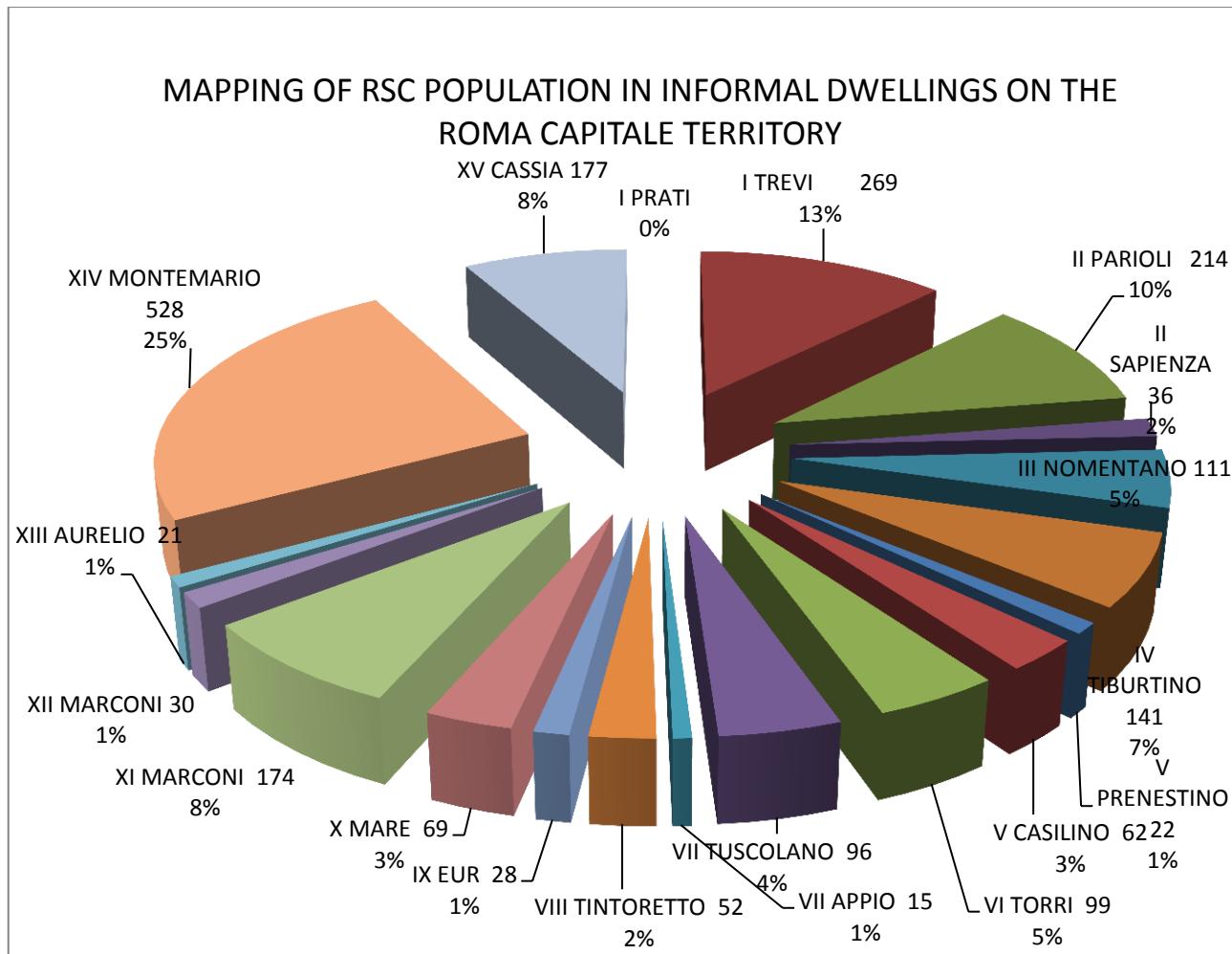
² Legge Regionale N. 82 DEL 24-05-1985, Regione Lazio, Norme in favore dei Rom. In 1980, the Mayoral Ordinance n. 80 created more camps in Rome outside the city ring.

Tab. 2 : Roma population in encampments “Ex Ordinanza N. 80” in Rome



Source: SPE Census Roma Capitale, Roma Special Office, April 2015

Tab. 3 : Roma population in unauthorized - spontaneous encampments in Rome



Source: SPE Census Roma Capitale, Roma Special Office, 2017

Roma residing in official encampments receive welfare benefits under the form of free basic housing and utilities. These services are provided for free, regardless of their contributing capacity of the residents and their eligibility³.

These conditions hindered so far the integration of Roma living in these encampments.

The current City Administration decided in 2016 to support the integration of the Roma, in particular their access to housing, employment, healthcare and education with the ultimate aim to close the encampments in which they live today.

Access to housing, occupation, healthcare and education strongly affects inclusion processes and everyday life for both Roma and for all city residents, with significant repercussions on social cohesion.

ROMA PLAN FOR ROME

The Roma Plan aims at enabling Roma to leave the encampments, by improving their access to education, employment, housing and healthcare, with the objective to gradually close down the encampments, starting with the encampments of Monachina and Barbuta (2018-2021) and Castel Romano (2017-2021).

The Roma Plan directly involves Roma families and individuals, in order to promote their active citizenship and emancipation through direct representation.

The Roma Plan aims at supporting the integration of 2000 Roma circa (first three years will address three encampments). To benefit from the support of the Roma Plan, Roma families must sign an agreement setting up their rights and obligations. This agreement defines the commitment between the residents and Roma Capitale and it requires to individuals and families to actively take part to the Plan activities (job training, job inclusion, support to house rent, compulsive schooling of children, compliance with current laws and regulations etc.) and to Roma Capitale to provide for support to the inclusion process along all of the 4 Strategy Axis (health, education, occupation employment) but with a strong focus on housing and employment. The following conditions must be fulfilled to be eligible for support from the Roma Plan: only individuals falling into the criteria set by the Plan are eligible for support from the Roma Plan. (ISEE fiscal declaration below 10.000 euro and other requirements also requested to Italians).

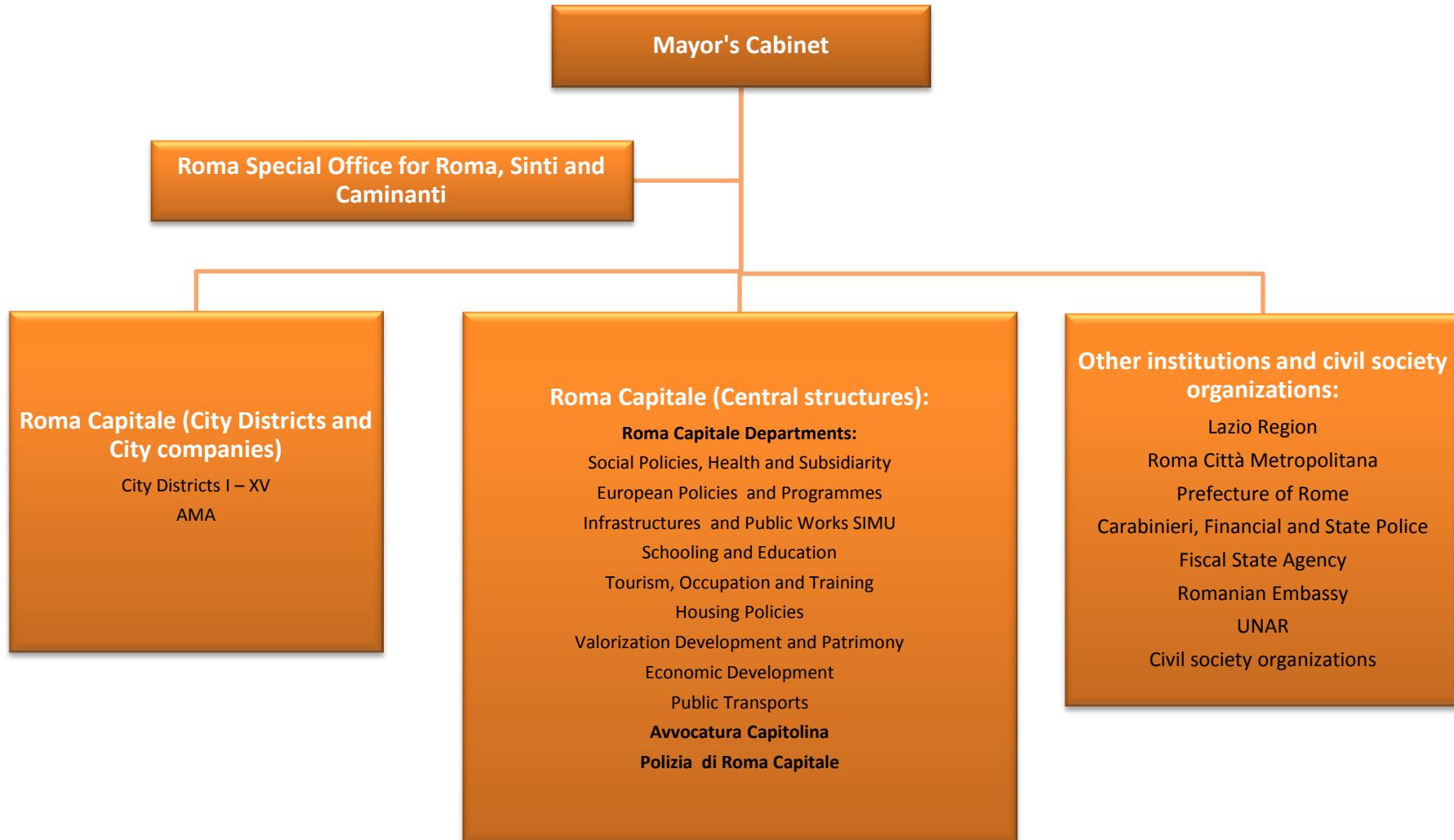
³ EU citizens who are not employed or self-employed may live in another EU country for longer than 3 months if they have sufficient resources for themselves and their family, so as not to be a burden on the host country's social assistance system.

The National Operational Program “Metropolitan cities” finances the interventions of two camps of Monachina and Barbuta with a budget of 3.800.000 Euro; the plan includes activities of labour inclusion, professional training and services for housing.

The administrative procedures related to the public procurement are almost finalized.

Additional resources to implement the Plan in the other two encampments selected will be made available through ordinary city resources and by the savings obtained by the withdrawal of previous public bids. These resources, which were originally earmarked to maintain the camps, will be instead used to actively include and support RSC toward occupation and housing inclusion.

The Roma Plan for Rome is an integrated project which requires institutional synergies and a high degree of co-planning between the various structures involved: the graphic below describes the governance of the Plan.



Steps of the Plan

1. Census and mapping of the encampments' social capital
2. Gradual closing down of the encampments
3. Supporting Housing Inclusion
4. Promoting Job Inclusion
5. Facilitating access to Education and Healthcare
6. Management of the encampments still open
7. Preventing the formation of new informal dwellings
8. Increasing the capacity of institutions and Roma

1. Census and mapping of the encampments' social capital

- Updating of census data including socio-demographic data;
- Elaboration of the Social Capital map of the encampments⁴;
- Cadastre of financial, assets and property of residents to assess eligibility to support from the Roma Plan;

2. Gradual closing down of the encampments

- Evictions and closing down of the encampments will all be gradual and supported by officers of the Roma Special Office and by the concerned Municipal Districts;

3. Housing Inclusion

4. Local administrations will help the encampments' residents in their search for housing. Those entitled will for a limited duration receive a rent subsidy;
- Building renewal: Alternative housing solutions in partnership with non Roma will be promoted to avoid "Roma-only solutions" through the renewal of abandoned buildings;
- Selection of families which can be already independent economically and those who had already registered for social housing (like Italians Roma have access to L.633 for social housing);

⁴ The map of the encampments' social capital records all RSC abilities and skills, even if only informal, in order to facilitate the job inclusion process through the valorization of the individual competencies.

- (If willing) Assisted return. Roma Capitale is undertaking a series of meeting with political delegation from Romania in order to promote employability and sustainable projects of assisted return. The cooperation between Rome and Romanian cities will be beneficial in terms of practical partnership to support the projects' sustainability through the participation to EU calls and with the help of other financial tools in order to promote concrete employment opportunities;
- (If willing) Relocation in the province of Rome for families that for different reasons cannot have access to normal apartment rent (for example families who have more than six children). In these very specific cases Roma Capitale will help families to use the contribution for other housing solutions;

5. Job Inclusion

- Active inclusion measures, with the support of the Roma Special Office and relevant Departments. Occupations must guarantee a level of economic self-sufficiency that will allow for the renting of an apartment and autonomous life;
- Handicraft activities (not recycling of second-hand objects) in specific areas with certification authorising the trade within the city of Rome;
- Creation of enterprises and mixed cooperatives for services (cleaning, gardening etc.);
- Access to microcredit systems and/or self-entrepreneurship together with specific and soft skills trainings;
- actions to favour Youth employment through access to EU direct tools;
- Regularization of metal recyclers after enrolment in the “Albo gestori ambientali” scheme established by the Ministry for Environment;

6. Access to education

- Targeted intervention for specific cases (mono-parental families, absence of transport, others), and systemic interventions to tackle school dropping out;

- To benefit from support measures of the Roma Plan, families must adhere to a series of rules among which the commitment to send their children to school;

7. Access to healthcare

With the aim to enable encampments' residents to use public health services autonomously the Roma Plan includes:

- Agreements with the Local Health Agencies (AA.SS.LL.) involving also hospitals such as the INMP San Gallicano which has a long standing experience on migrants' health, will ensure that also health aspects will be tackled appropriately;
- Support to the already existing project for the encampments' health assistance (with AASSLL). The Regional Health Offices have two projects already implemented: an outreach equipe to favour RSC access to services and child vaccination campaign

8. Management of the encampments still open

For the encampments that will not be closed in the short term, the Roma Plan foresees:

- Revision and update of the encampment regulations;
- Reinforcements of controls by the Local Police;
- Support to individuals and families already able to leave the encampment;

9. Preventing the setup of new unauthorised encampments

Roma living in unauthorised encampments will also – at their request – benefit from the support of the Roma Plan. On the other hand, the Police of Roma Capitale and the relevant municipal departments will prevent the formation of new unauthorised encampments;

10. Increase the capacity of institutions and of the Roma

- The Roma Plan relies on the self-determination of Roma and on their active involvement in family or individual plans for their economic and housing inclusion;
- Residents of the encampments will be the main actors of the Plan and will be involved in each and every step in order to favour the development of mechanisms of direct self-representation and emancipation;

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