



PAVEE POINT  
TRAVELLER AND ROMA CENTRE

## National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy II (NTRIS II) (2024 - 2028)

### Background

NTRIS II delivers on a commitment in the Programme for Government (2020) to review the National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy 2017 – 2021 (NTRIS) and to ensure that the successor Strategy has a stronger outcomes focused approach. Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre acknowledges the significant work undertaken in developing the NTRIS II. The process of developing a strategy with cross-departmental support and wider consultations with the key Government Departments and State Agencies, in developing actions, and the commitment to departments working together and in partnership with Traveller organisations and groups working with Roma to achieve full effective implementation is to be commended. The successor Strategy has the potential to deliver positive outcomes for Travellers and Roma in Ireland. However, this requires committed resources from DCEDIY, and other Departments, linked to targets and timelines if it is to be successful.

The publication of NTRIS is the direct result of lobbying by Traveller organisations and groups working with Roma for the development and implementation of a comprehensive successor strategy to ensure a strategic, coordinated whole of government approach to Traveller and Roma inclusion. While the first [NTRIS \(NTRIS 2017 – 2021\)](#) delivered on some key actions, a significant challenge remained at implementation level. NTRIS II seeks to address this issue through a stronger outcomes-focused approach and transparent reporting and implementation structure, with achievable actions, clear performance indicators and a robust monitoring system, which is to be welcomed.

“Implementation was a weakness in the last Strategy. I am satisfied that the NTRIS II has been developed to incorporate a stronger outcomes-focused approach and a transparent reporting and implementation structure, with achievable actions, clear performance indicators and a robust monitoring system. But full and effective implementation of this Strategy will only be achieved by Departments working together in partnership with Traveller and Roma organisations.”  
Roderic O’Gorman, T.D. Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth of Ireland

### An Action Plan and Strategy

The NTRIS II comprises two documents; (1) the overarching Strategy; and (2) a two year Action Plan. The Action Plan operationalises the Strategy from 2024-2026 and another Action Plan will be developed for 2026-2028 following the mid-term review.

## How was it developed?

The State undertook a review of NTRIS I as per commitments in the PfG, and following a comprehensive consultation process, published a draft successor Strategy, NTRIS II, in addition to a two year action plan. Ireland is required to develop this Strategy as part of its ongoing EU obligations under the EU Roma Strategic Framework for Equality, Inclusion and Participation (EU Roma Strategic Frameworks 2020-2030). DCEDIY sought feedback on the draft successor strategy and action plan from NTRIS Steering Group members; and following meetings with both Traveller organisations and groups working with Roma, collective and individual feedback were submitted to the Department for consideration. NTRIS II was published on 31 July, 2024.

## Vision

“A safe, fair and inclusive Ireland where Travellers and Roma are supported to lead inclusive, healthy and fulfilling lives.” NTRIS II

## Values

The vision is underpinned by a set of core values aligned with the 10 common basic principles of Traveller and Roma inclusion as adopted by the European Commission and are drawn from the agreed set of values and principles for collaboration and partnership working with the community and voluntary sector.

- Social Justice
- Respect for Diversity
- Empowering communities
- Visibility
- Collaboration
- Accessibility
- Accountability

“Above all, this Strategy is about protecting and promoting human rights, delivering equality and creating strong and cohesive communities. It recognises that working towards a diverse and inclusive society requires a multi-faceted, adaptable and ongoing approach with defined and measurable actions.” NTRIS II

## NTRIS II Themes

NTRIS II contains nine themes, aligning with the EU Roma Strategic Framework on Equality, Inclusion and Participation 2020-30:

1. Combating Racism and Discrimination
2. Children and Young People
3. Gender Equality
4. Health and Wellbeing
5. Employment and Enterprise
6. Accommodation
7. Education
8. Culture, Heritage and Identity

## 9. Participation, Empowerment, Cooperation and Accountability (including Implementation)

### **NTRIS II Key Actions**

The Action Plan contains 80 actions with KPIs/deliverables, responsibilities and timelines for implementation of actions. Actions include:

#### **Public Sector Duty**

- Review the implementation of the Public Sector Human Rights and Equality Duty, with reference to its overall impact, including for the Traveller and Roma communities, and draw up recommendations.

#### **Training**

- All government departments (and all organisations/agencies under their remit) commit to cultural awareness training for all staff within 3 months of employment

#### **Data**

- Review the current systems of data collection across all state-funded organisations, processes and systems relevant to the Traveller and Roma communities to identify any gaps that exist; consider further publication of disaggregated data; and consider ways to improve the quality of data collected, including through communication and information, informed by the upcoming National Equality Data Strategy.

#### **Research**

- The Strategy and Action Plan have a strong focus on commissioning research. While in some instances research may be required, research areas must be identified in partnership with Traveller organisations and groups working with Roma in line with research integrity and ethics.

#### **New developments**

- Roma Health Action Plan
- Develop and implement a Traveller and Roma Training, Employment and Enterprise Plan as committed to in Programme for Government 2020 to support, and build upon, the delivery of the strategic outcome and objectives of NTRIS II in the area of employment and enterprise.

#### **Supporting a strong Traveller and Roma infrastructure**

- Undertake an audit of local representative structures with the aim of identifying gaps in local structures, by local authority area, and making recommendations in relation to the same.
- Assess advocacy and local representation needs of Roma communities at local level and to support the extension, as appropriate.

#### **How will NTRIS II be implemented?**

Implementation will be supported and coordinated at central Government level. Political oversight of this whole of Government Strategy will be provided by the Cabinet Committee

on Social Affairs and Public Services and to ensure successful implementation of the Strategy.

A high level strategic Steering Committee will be established within three months and chaired by the Minister for DCEDIY to oversee implementation, with a Secretariat in the DCEDIY established to ensure regular and intensive monitoring of progress towards the agreed strategic outcomes of the Strategy. Clear ToR will be drawn up and sub-committees will be established and will report to the Steering Committee.

### **Funding and Resources**

As of Wednesday 31st July, no new funding or resources have been announced for NTRIS II.

### **How will accountability be achieved?**

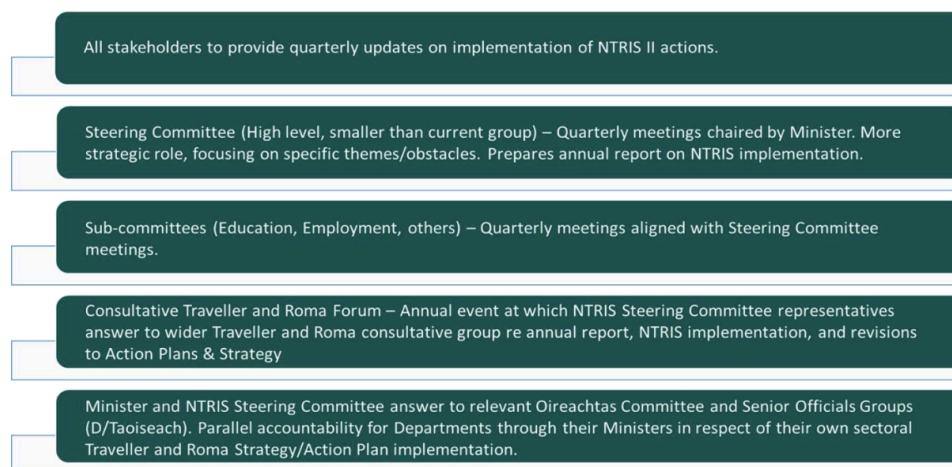
Each Department and organisation will be required to give quarterly updates on implementation of actions under the Action Plan and to make them available online. A formal mid-term review of the Strategy will be undertaken in 2026 and will inform the development of new actions before the Strategy concludes in 2028.

The Minister and the Steering Committee will actively communicate with the Oireachtas Committee and Senior Official Groups to ensure accountability at senior level. There will be a parallel accountability structure for individual departments to go through their Ministers regarding their own sectoral Traveller and Roma strategy/action plan implementation (e.g.) TRES, NTHAP, etc.

An annual forum will be held where Travellers and Roma and organisations will have the opportunity to raise questions and to seek further information from the Steering Committee.

### **NTRIS II Reporting Structure**

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### **How will progress be measured?**

Quarterly reporting on progress in delivering actions under NTRIS II across all Departments, State Agencies, and Traveller organisations and groups working with Roma will be published. This will be accompanied by an annual report and presented to the Minister and to the Cabinet Committee.

### **Opportunities**

NTRIS II holds potential to have a positive impact on the lives of Travellers and Roma, if fully resourced and implemented:

- NTRIS II has a stronger and clearer proposed implementation and monitoring structure, including a high level Steering Group chaired by the Minister for DCEDIY, with a Secretariat provided by the Department.
- A partnership approach with Traveller organisations and groups working with Roma is embedded.
- NTRIS II remains agile and responsive to the changing needs of Travellers and Roma.
- A renewed and strengthened focus regarding Roma, with Roma specific actions across most thematic areas.
- Commitment to the development of a Traveller and Roma Training, Employment and Enterprise Plan as per Programme for Government. Pavee Point requested that this be included in its feedback on drafts of the Strategy.

### **Gaps**

- NTRIS II requires multi annual funding from DCEDIY and other Departments aligned with targets and timelines.
- Limited joint actions across departments, with some actions siloed within themes; further opportunity to do this (e.g.) in health and employment, education and employment, young people/children and education, etc.
- There are no actions on environmental justice and/or climate which disproportionately impact on Travellers and Roma.
- A significant number of actions in the Plan are targeted; there is a need to ensure a strong balance in relation to both targeted and mainstreaming. Ethnic data is required to support this.
- No clear action to address child poverty, including establishing a baseline or to tackle the issue systemically through universal application of Child Benefit, given the disproportionate impact on Roma families.
- Accommodation has overall limited actions, and lacks targeted actions related to Roma accommodation and ending Roma homelessness. There is a need for stronger action and commitment from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to address Traveller and Roma homelessness and provide enough culturally appropriate accommodation.

[Read more on NTRIS II here.](#)

