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**Abstract**

This paper builds an overview of the context for implementing equity public policies targeting the Roma youth in Romania, with a focus on the specially designed study grants (reserved places—It refers to study grants offered specially for the Roma young people. They pass the same type of competition for admission at the study program however they only compete with the other Roma potential students accessing these “reserved places”, thus increasing their admission chances. After admission, they never pay for tuition as it is covered by these study grants from the public budget. We will hereon refer to them as “reserved places”.) for this category of students. In order to determine the impact of present policies and recommend further steps forward, the paper revisits previous studies on this issue and analyzes the existing Romanian regulations on the subject. Furthermore, the paper

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identifies the difficulties these young Roma persons encounter at higher education level and the factors that supplementary impact on their early dropout. Young Roma people are discouraged to enter higher education by cultural factors such as poor background, lack of family support, traditional role models, but also a difficult integration in the educational community. Their situations are differentiated regionally and, in many cases, participation to education proves to be more a cultural challenge than an academic one. In this challenging context, the paper discusses the implementation of various equity policies addressing Roma people at higher education level. In sum, a comprehensive and coherent, long term approach on the issue is needed. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)

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