

Michal Vašečka
Masaryk University

Education of Roma as the greatest Challenge of Inclusion Policies



Non-inclusiveness of CEE as a major problem

Minority policies and attempts to integrate and accommodate minorities failed in CEE countries due to structural reasons.

In fact, they will remain unsuccessful without changes of a nation state character, constitutional changes, and precise definition of integration aims. CEE countries should start to discuss and solve „racist paradox“ of their minority policies.

Example of Slovakia as an ethnicized country shows that the major issue is non-inclusiveness.

Integration in 21st century

- what do we mean by it?

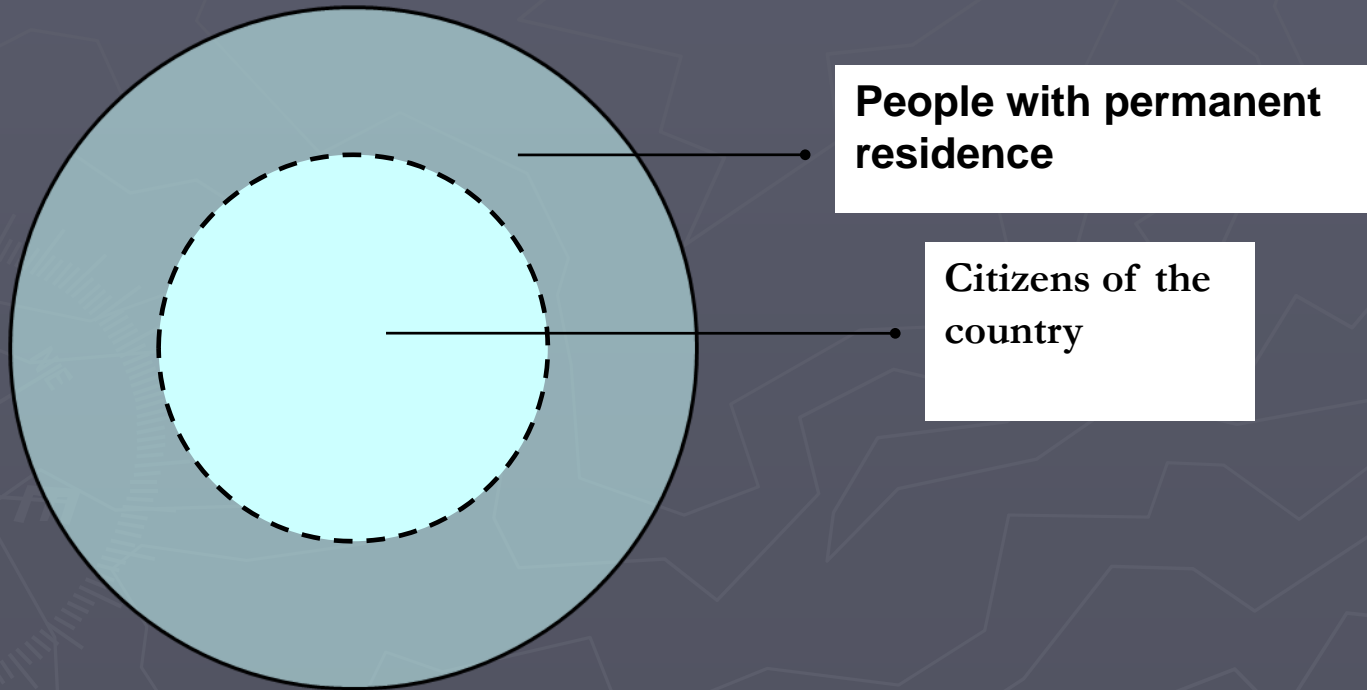
- ▶ *„There is no single, generally accepted definition, theory or model of immigrant integration. The concept continues to be controversial and hotly debated“ (Castles, 2001).*
- ▶ *„Integration is a chaotic concept: a word used by many but understood differently by most“ (Robinson, 1998).*
- ▶ Terminology: Integration? Or incorporation? Accommodation? Inclusion? Culturalization? Naturalization?
- ▶ Precise terminology might help, but we should rather tackle 2 issues:
- ▶ 1. *„Never-ending story...“* Integration is never-ending process, linear type of thinking is misleading.
- ▶ 2. *„This is the end of the world as we know it“* Integration as we know it from 20th century lost its meaning due to globalization processes and multilayer identities of people.

Core of the problem...

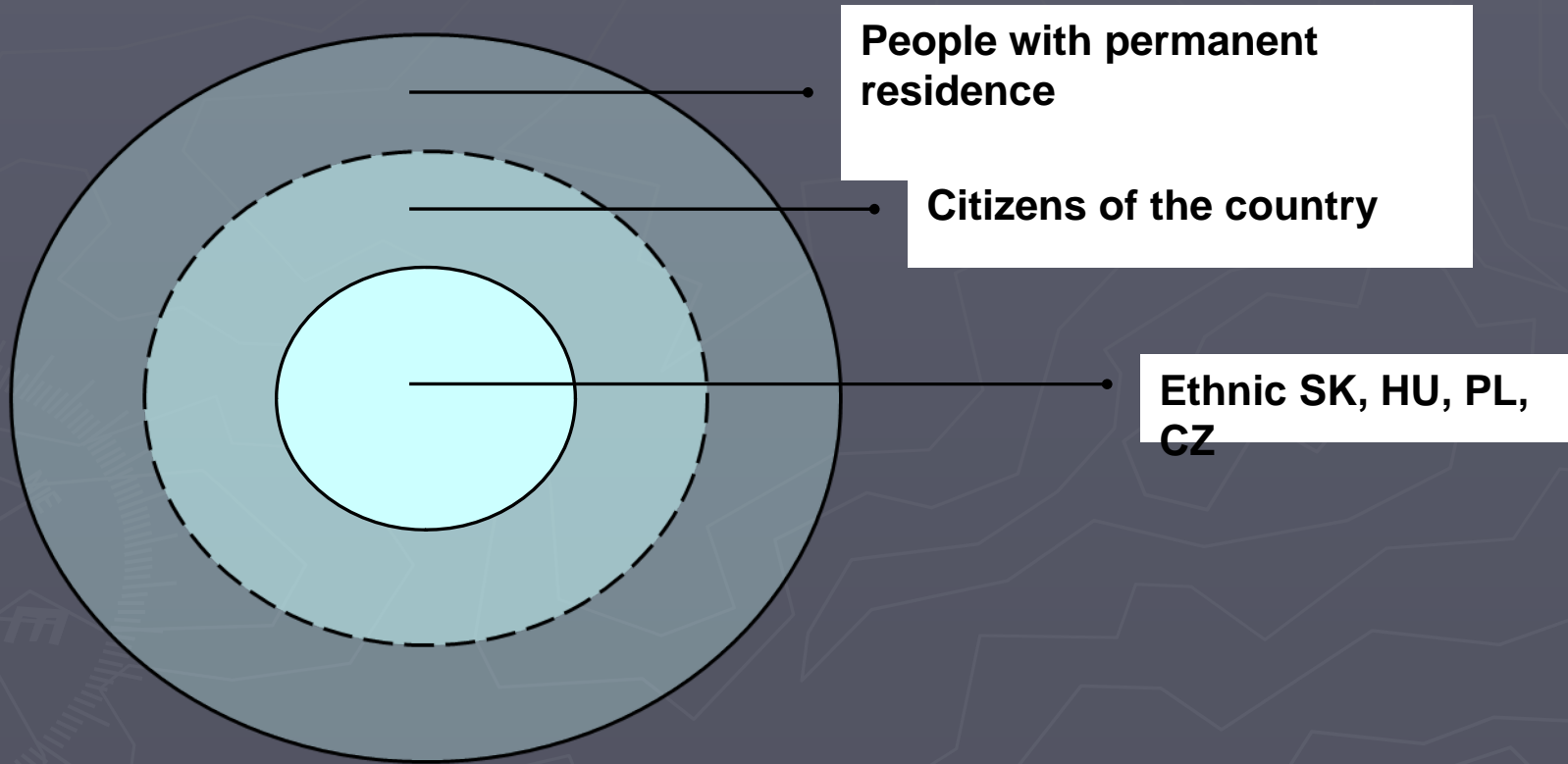
How to become part of the core.

- ▶ Integration in both social and civic terms rests on the concept of equal opportunities for all. In socio-economic terms, migrants must have equal opportunities to lead just as dignified, independent and active lives as the rest of the population.
- ▶ Equality. Is it enough?
- ▶ Integration is successful when autochthonous minorities and migrants become part of the core in all aspects of life - social, societal, economic, cultural, and symbolic ones. Integration cannot be successful in situation when minorities and migrants have problems to penetrate into the core of society.

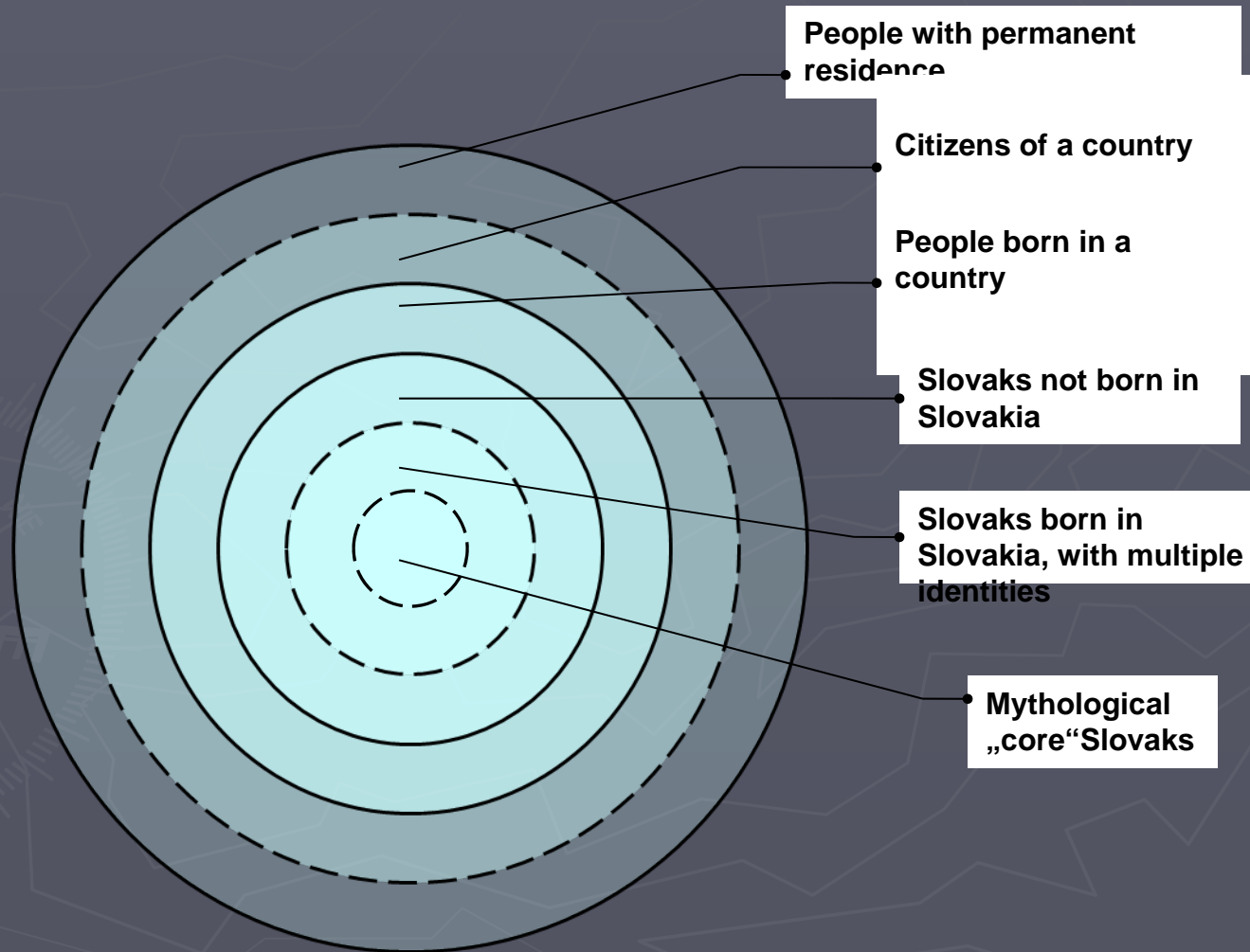
Core and out groups - ideal type



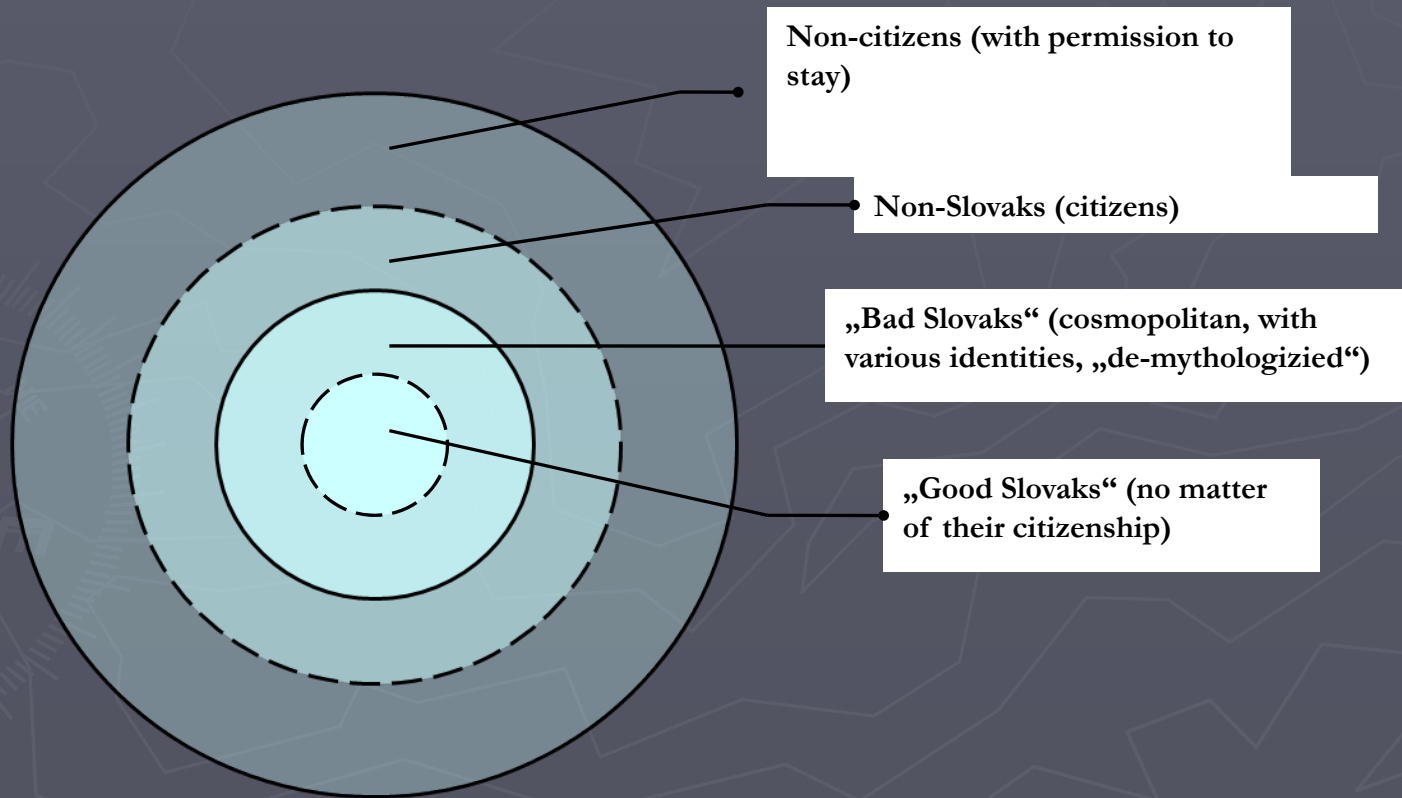
Core and out groups in V4 - division of the out group



Core and out groups in Slovakia – complex analysis



Core and out groups in Slovakia – media coverage and simplification in every-day life



Pre-conditions for becoming part of the core

- ▶ Pre-conditions for becoming part of the core:
 - ▶ 1. Equal status (citizenship policies, equal rights)
 - ▶ 2. De-etnization of public sphere;
 - ▶ 3. Shift toward political nation;
 - ▶ 4. Culturally neutral state;
 - ▶ 5. De-racialization of interactions between citizens.

Unclear Goals of Integration Policies

More generally it is not fully clear what goals the governments want to achieve by particular arrangements, what is the vision of all possible investments. All policies should be focused on full integration in all dimensions:

1. Cultural integration;
2. Social-economic integration;
3. Civic-political integration.

The only dimension of these integrations that is relatively successful is the civic-political integration. Even this achievement is, however, more a result of the level of assimilation of some of minorities and disappearance of their identity than of some consistent state policy.

Social exclusion

- ▶ Social exclusion means
 1. Insufficient involvement in the systems of production, family life, life of the community and political life,
 2. Insufficient access to basic civil rights, including the right to political and religious beliefs,
 3. Insufficient cultural/national identity and recognition within civic society, involvement in cultural activities and,
 4. Insufficient sharing social rights, including the right to access social institutions, education and health care, to enjoy social protection and to be able to secure housing

Important Principles for integration policies

Following three principles can secure full integration and accommodation of marginalized minorities into the “core” part of society:

Principle of de-stigmatization

This principle allows overcoming the social dependency trap on benefits. It requires individual assessment of each individual case of social exclusion and social dependency. It therefore does not allow confirmation of stereotypes of Roma being a potential parasite.

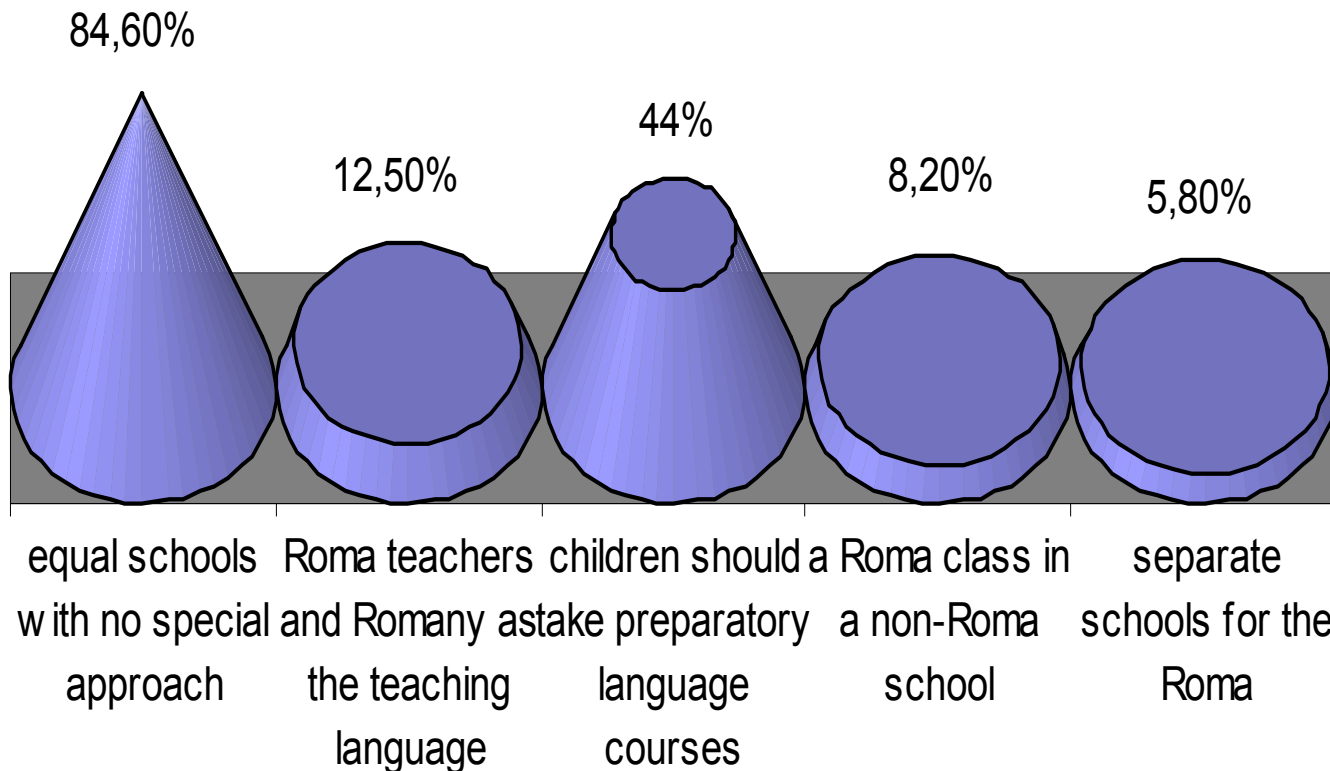
Principle of de-segregation

This principle allows to remove spatial segregation of Roma families and settlements. The first step is building and connecting the infrastructure in the locality.

Principle of de-ghettoization

This principle allows to increase social cohesion in a locality. It means predominantly to remove, in continuity with principles of de-stigmatization and de-segregation, social isolation of Roma who live in Roma settlements.

How to ensure the same access to education for both Roma and non-Roma children? /Opinions of Roma/



Interest of Roma in Using Romany Language in Schools.

	All subjects	Some subjects	No subjects	Don't know
Primary school	11%	33%	45%	11%
Secondary school	6%	23%	54%	17%
Higher education	5%	17%	54%	24%