

The situation of Roma in 11 EU Member States – Survey results at a glance

The surveys in a nutshell

This factsheet presents the first results of the surveys based on an analysis of only part of the available data. The results presented are a first step in addressing the severe lack of data on the socio-economic situation of Roma in the EU and the fulfilment of their rights.

Which countries were covered?

- The FRA Roma pilot survey covered Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, France, Greece, Italy, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Spain.
- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Bank and European Commission (UNDP/World Bank/EC) regional Roma survey also covered five of these, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and, in addition, six non-EU countries in the western Balkans and the Republic of Moldova.

Who was interviewed?

- Across the 11 EU Member States, the two surveys interviewed 22,203 Roma and non-Roma providing information on 84,287 household members.
- Interviews were carried out face-to-face in Roma and non-Roma respondents' homes.
- People self-identified as Roma. In France, these were people who self-identified as *gens du voyage* living in caravans on halting sites. Roma EU citizens from Romania who currently live in France were also interviewed; the results for this group will be presented in a subsequent report.
- The general population living in the same area or in the closest neighbourhood to the Roma interviewed. In the report, this group is referred to as non-Roma.

What did the surveys ask?

- Questions about the basic socio-demographic characteristics of all household members
- Questions about their situation in employment, education, health and housing
- Questions about the neighbourhood and its infrastructure
- Questions about integration, discrimination, rights awareness and citizenship issues
- Questions about mobility and migration

How representative are the results?

- The results are representative for Roma living in areas in a higher than national average density.
- The results for the non-Roma are not representative for the majority population, but serve as a benchmark for the Roma since the non-Roma interviewed share the same environment, labour market and social infrastructure.

What do the results show

The results present a grim picture of the situation of the Roma surveyed. The comparison with the non-Roma, who live in close proximity, show significant differences in their socio-economic situation; the situation of non-Roma respondents is nonetheless also often worrying. This evidence confirms the need identified in the European Commission Communication on *An EU Framework for national Roma integration strategies up to 2020* for “determined action, in active dialogue with the Roma, both at national and EU level”.

The indicators presented show that **in the 11 EU Member States covered by the surveys** the socio-economic situation of the Roma in the four key areas of employment, education, housing and health is not satisfactory and is worse, on average, than the situation of the non-Roma living in close proximity. They also show that Roma continue to experience discrimination and are not sufficiently aware of their rights guaranteed by EU law, such as the Racial Equality Directive (2000/43/EC).

In education:

- on average, only one out of two Roma children surveyed attend pre-school or kindergarten;
- during compulsory school age, with the exception of Bulgaria, Greece and Romania, nine out of 10 Roma children aged seven to 15 are reported to be in school;
- participation in education drops considerably after compulsory school: only 15% of young Roma adults surveyed complete upper-secondary general or vocational education.

In health:

- one out of three Roma respondents aged 35 to 54 report health problems limiting their daily activities;
- on average, about 20% of Roma respondents are not covered by medical insurance or do not know if they are covered.

In employment:

- on average, fewer than one out of three Roma are reported to be in paid employment;
- one out of three Roma respondents said that they are unemployed;
- others said that they are homemakers, retired, not able to work or are self-employed.

In housing:

- on average, in the Roma households surveyed more than two persons live in one room;
- about 45% of the Roma live in households that lack at least one of the following basic housing amenities, namely indoor kitchen, indoor toilet, indoor shower or bath and electricity.

Poverty:

- on average, about 90% of the Roma surveyed live in households with an equivalised income below national poverty lines;
- on average, around 40% of Roma live in households where somebody had to go to bed hungry at least once in the last month since they could not afford to buy food.

Discrimination and rights awareness:

- about half of the Roma surveyed said that they have experienced discrimination in the past 12 months because of their ethnic background;
- around 40% of the Roma surveyed are aware of laws forbidding discrimination against ethnic minority people when applying for a job.

- Is poverty addressed comprehensively targeting Roma 'explicitly, but not exclusively' and taking into account the needs of both Roma and non-Roma?
- Is general attention paid to the need to combat discrimination and anti-gypsyism and to improve equal access to education, employment, housing and healthcare services?
- Is anti-discrimination, raising awareness on fundamental rights and redress mechanisms mainstreamed so as to provide an environment where people feel confident to report discriminatory treatment and fundamental rights abuses?

In order to reduce the gap between the situation of Roma and non-Roma, national strategies will need to be effectively implemented. In order to be able to monitor the efficiency of strategies and measure progress on the ground, strong monitoring tools should be developed.

The way forward

The FRA will repeat the survey twice at the mid-term point and at the end of the Europe 2020 process providing robust comparable data that will assist the EU institutions and EU Member States in measuring progress made. During this period, the FRA will work together with Member States and other key actors to develop monitoring methods which can provide a comparative analysis of the situation of Roma across the EU.

How can the survey results be useful to policy makers?

Policy makers can use this evidence as it points to some important considerations that should inform the further development, implementation and monitoring of national strategies and action plans for Roma integration.

- Is attention being paid to Roma children participation in early childhood education? Do they focus sufficiently on the transition from primary to secondary education? Do they pay attention to school completion rates of Roma at all education levels – particularly in regions and localities with a high concentration of Roma?
- When addressing Roma unemployment is attention paid to their education status and skills? Is training addressing deficits in that regard?
- Are those aspects of housing where the needs of Roma are more acute, such as availability of space and access to basic amenities (indoor kitchen, indoor toilet, indoor shower/bath, electricity) taken into consideration?
- Is attention paid to the improvement of the health conditions of Roma and to ensuring equal access to medical insurance?

Further information:

Please visit the FRA website at:
http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/roma/roma_en.htm