

Rights of Roma and Travellers in 13 European countries: Perspectives from the Roma Survey 2024

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Summary

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Why is this survey needed?

The Roma Survey 2024 provides comparable data on the actual impact of EU and national anti-discrimination, anti-racism and equality legislation and policies (including policies on poverty reduction and social inclusion) on Roma/Travellers, as a selected group of rights holders. The data from some EU Member States enable the analysis of trends over time. This reveals how the EU and its Member States uphold their legal obligations related to fundamental rights – as guaranteed under the Treaty on European Union, the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and the [Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union](#) – in respect of Roma/Travellers.

Previous findings from surveys by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) suggest that Roma and Travellers across the EU face not only direct violations of their fundamental rights – including discrimination, segregation and hate-motivated harassment and violence – but also indirect violations of their legally protected rights. This is demonstrated by a sizeable gap between Roma/Travellers and the general population with regard to key parameters of their achievements in education, employment, health and housing.

The principle of non-discrimination is the fundamental principle of EU law. Articles 2 and 6 of the [Treaty on European Union](#) ⁽¹⁾ explicitly acknowledge equality and non-discrimination as foundational values in the EU context.

In 2009, the Treaty of Lisbon introduced a cross-cutting clause with a view to integrating the fight against discrimination into all EU policies and measures ([Article 10](#) of the [Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union](#)) ⁽²⁾. This right is also enshrined in Article 21 of the [Charter of Fundamental Rights](#), which states that ‘Any discrimination based on any ground such as sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation shall be prohibited’ ⁽³⁾. The relevant authorities of Member States are bound to comply with the Charter of Fundamental Rights when implementing EU law.

The EU recognises that many Roma living in the Member States remain marginalised and face discrimination, antigypsyism and socioeconomic exclusion. Their fundamental rights are under threat in several areas of life ⁽⁴⁾. FRA’s findings have consistently demonstrated this using robust statistical data since 2008. The results of FRA’s surveys in 2008 ⁽⁵⁾, 2011 ⁽⁶⁾, 2016 ⁽⁷⁾, 2019 ⁽⁸⁾ and 2021 ⁽⁹⁾ show that the EU’s and the Member States’ efforts result in limited and uneven progress with regard to Roma’s access to fundamental rights.

A 2020 European Commission communication set out the [EU Roma strategic framework for equality, inclusion and participation up to 2030](#), promoting the effective equality, socioeconomic inclusion and meaningful participation of Roma⁽¹⁰⁾. It focused on addressing four objectives related to the right to education (Article 14 of the [Charter of Fundamental Rights](#)), employment (understood as the freedom to seek employment and work) (Article 15 of the [Charter](#)), housing (particularly the right to housing assistance) (Article 34 of the [Charter](#)) and the right of access to healthcare (Article 35 of the [Charter](#)). It asked FRA to collect and provide data and background information on progress towards Roma inclusion in the Member States on a regular basis. A year later, the [2021 Council recommendation on Roma equality, inclusion and participation](#)⁽¹¹⁾ called upon Member States to make use of the portfolio of indicators⁽¹²⁾, a monitoring framework developed jointly by FRA, the Commission and the Member States.

The EU-level policies for addressing Roma exclusion and deprivations are set out in the [EU Roma strategic framework for equality, inclusion and participation](#) (referred to hereafter as the EU Roma framework). It sets seven objectives at the EU level for the period up to 2030. Three of these objectives are cross-cutting in the areas of equality, inclusion and participation. The other four are sectoral objectives in the areas of education, employment, housing and health. To implement these objectives effectively, they need to be supported by the ability to measure progress⁽¹³⁾.

The 2020 communication situates the [EU Roma framework](#) in the context of building a union of equality. It refers explicitly to the general principles of non-discrimination and equality set out in the [Treaty on European Union](#) (Articles 2 and 3(3)), the [Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union](#) (Articles 8, 10, 19 and 67(3)), the [Charter of Fundamental Rights](#) (Articles 20 and 21)⁽¹⁴⁾ and secondary EU legislation such as Directive 2000/43/EC on racial equality⁽¹⁵⁾. The framework's principles and targets also correspond to the principles of the [European Pillar of Social Rights](#)⁽¹⁶⁾.

The [EU Roma framework](#) reflects the United Nations [sustainable development goals](#) (SDGs) and their overarching principle of leaving no one behind⁽¹⁷⁾. By addressing the situation of Roma, the EU can make progress in achieving the SDGs. SDGs 1 and 2 (reducing poverty and hunger), 3 and 4 (supporting health and well-being and quality education for all), 6 and 7 (access to clean water and sanitation and affordable and clean energy), 10 and 11 (reducing inequality within and among countries and developing inclusive and sustainable cities and communities) and 16 (peaceful societies, access to justice for all and effective, accountable and inclusive institutions) are particularly important entry points⁽¹⁸⁾.

FRA uses the term 'Roma' as an umbrella term to encompass Roma, Sinti, Kale, Romanichals, Boyash/Rudari, Balkan Egyptians, eastern groups (Dom, Lom and Abdal),

groups such as Travellers, Yenish and the populations designated under the administrative term *Gens du voyage* and people who identify themselves as Gypsies ⁽¹⁹⁾. This is consistent with the practice of the European Commission and aligned with the definition of the Council of Europe. FRA, like the Council of Europe, adds the term 'Travellers' where appropriate to highlight actions that specifically relate to them.

Need for data: monitoring the EU Roma framework

FRA's mandate is to provide assistance and expertise relating to fundamental rights in the EU. One way of doing this is by supplying relevant, objective, reliable and comparable information and data on fundamental rights to EU institutions and Member States ⁽²⁰⁾. The [EU Roma framework](#) also stipulates the Agency should carry out a regular Roma survey for the years 2020, 2024 and 2028, to provide the data necessary for baseline, midterm and final results, reflecting any change in the situation of Roma.

In 2024, FRA launched a survey on Roma/Travellers in 10 Member States (Bulgaria, Czechia, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Romania and Spain) and three accession countries (Albania, North Macedonia and Serbia).

All the countries covered were included in previous FRA Roma surveys (the Second EU Minorities and Discrimination Survey (EU-MIDIS II) in 2016, the 2019 Roma and Travellers Survey and the 2021 Roma Survey), with the exception of Albania, and all host sufficiently large Roma/Traveller populations. Albania, North Macedonia and Serbia have been added to the survey as non-EU countries, reflecting their membership as observers on FRA's Management Board and given that they have sizeable Roma populations. The countries included in the Roma Survey 2024 cover 86 % of the estimated Roma/Traveller population in the EU and 54 % of the estimated Roma/Traveller population in Europe ⁽²¹⁾.

The survey aimed to provide data to populate the [EU Roma framework's](#) headline and secondary indicators for use in the framework's monitoring. In terms of methodology and the questionnaire used, the survey aligns with the Roma Survey 2021 as well as previous FRA Roma surveys (EU-MIDIS II, the Roma and Travellers Survey), which enables the analysis of trends in key indicators. This should help Member States to develop more targeted measures in their national Roma frameworks and to assess the achievement of their objectives. The current survey provides data for the assessment of

changes in the situation of Roma/Travellers midway through the implementation of the [EU Roma framework](#).

The report

The report's principal objective is to provide **evidence on the exercise of fundamental rights by Roma/Travellers** in selected European countries and to provide **data for the [EU Roma framework](#)** at its midpoint. As a result, the report's structure aligns with the framework's seven objectives:

- fight and prevent antigypsyism and discrimination;
- reduce poverty and social exclusion to close the socioeconomic gap between Roma and the general population;
- promote participation through empowerment, cooperation and trust;
- increase effective equal access to quality and inclusive mainstream education;
- increase effective equal access to quality and sustainable employment;
- improve Roma health and increase effective equal access to quality healthcare and social services;
- increase effective equal access to adequate desegregated housing and essential services.

For each objective, the report covers the headline indicators, supported by selected secondary indicators. In addition to presenting the data for 2024 for all countries covered, it compares the 2024 data with those from 2021 and 2016 for countries where it is possible. Data for France and Ireland are compared with those from the 2019 Roma and Travellers Survey (marked with an asterisk (*) in the figures). A trend analysis looks at the change vis-à-vis 2016 (2019 for France and Ireland). These values were used in defining the [EU Roma framework](#), and the numeric targets of the framework use these values as a basis. Given the limited comparability of 2024 and 2021 data for Italy due to a change in the survey methodology and the non-existence of 2016 data for Italy, the report does not analyse trends in Italy.

The Roma Survey 2024 also provides data on Travellers in Ireland and *Gens du voyage* in France. Differences exist in the terminology used for the groups researched, but for clarity, figures and tables in the report use only the term 'Roma' in the legend when values for the general population are also provided. In the case of France, the term encompasses Travellers. In the case of Ireland, the report presents results for Travellers

and Roma separately to examine trends since 2019, when only Travellers were interviewed in Ireland. When referring to information related to the entire Roma Survey 2024, the report uses the term 'Roma/Travellers'. When referring to individual countries, the report uses the terms 'Roma' or 'Travellers' depending on the population covered in that country.

The report refers to the average value for the EU (EU total). The EU total includes the weighted average of all Member States covered in the relevant surveys (marked with a double asterisk (**)) in the figures). For each survey, the EU total refers to the following countries.

- EU total for Roma 2024 covers 10 Member States: Bulgaria, Czechia, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Romania and Spain. Weights are based on the size of the Roma/Traveller population covered in the Roma Survey 2024.
- EU total for Roma 2021 includes the 10 Member States covered in 2021: Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Spain. Weights are based on the size of the Roma population covered in the 2021 Roma Survey and the national Roma surveys in Bulgaria and Slovakia.
- EU total for Roma 2016 covers nine Member States: Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Greece, Hungary, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Spain. Weights are based on the size of the Roma population covered in EU-MIDIS II in 2016.
- The EU total for the general population covers the EU-27. Weights are based on the size of the general population. The source of the values for the most recent year is provided under each figure. The baseline values (from 2018) for the general population are taken from the [analytical document accompanying the EU Roma framework](#) ⁽²²⁾.

This report presents data FRA collected in the 10 EU countries and three accession countries covered by the Roma Survey 2024. FRA also supports national collection of data on Roma in other EU countries. The results from these countries, such as Slovakia, will be published by FRA when they become available.

When interpreting the values provided in the report, it must be understood that there is a sampling error embedded in the data. Therefore, if the difference between values exceeds ± 5 percentage points, it should be interpreted as no change.

The report also provides a visual indication of how data between 2016 and 2024 should be interpreted in terms of trends:

- ~ indicating no change in the situation
- ↓ ↑ indicating a positive trend (improvement) – depending on the indicator, this corresponds to either an increase or a decrease in value
- ↓ ↑ indicating a negative trend (worsening) – depending on the indicator, this corresponds to either an increase or a decrease in value.

Key findings

This report presents evidence on how Roma/Travellers' fundamental rights under EU law are exercised in selected Member States and accession countries. The data and their interpretation illustrate how the measures and activities of EU institutions and of individual countries as duty bearers are reflected in the changing situation of these specific groups of rights holders. It compares the situation in 2024 with that in 2016 (2019 for France and Ireland). These past values were used as a benchmark when establishing the current [EU Roma framework](#).

Roma Survey 2024 data (Figure 1) suggest that, on average, there have been (EU-level) improvements for Roma/Travellers in 10 out of the 16 headline indicators proposed by the [EU Roma framework](#). This means Roma and Travellers have greater access to certain rights now than they did in 2016, including the right to a standard of living adequate for their health and well-being and those of their family (partial improvement); the right to education (partial improvement), the right to work (partial improvement) and the right to access preventative healthcare and to benefit from medical treatment. The situation has worsened with regard to one indicator (the under-reporting of discrimination). No change is observed for five indicators (overall discrimination experience, educational attainment, segregation in education, gender employment gap and overcrowding). Out of these, three indicators – the ones related to discrimination (overall and in individual areas of life), to segregation in education and to gender equality in employment – are directly linked to rights guaranteed by fundamental rights law that underpins the [EU Roma framework](#).

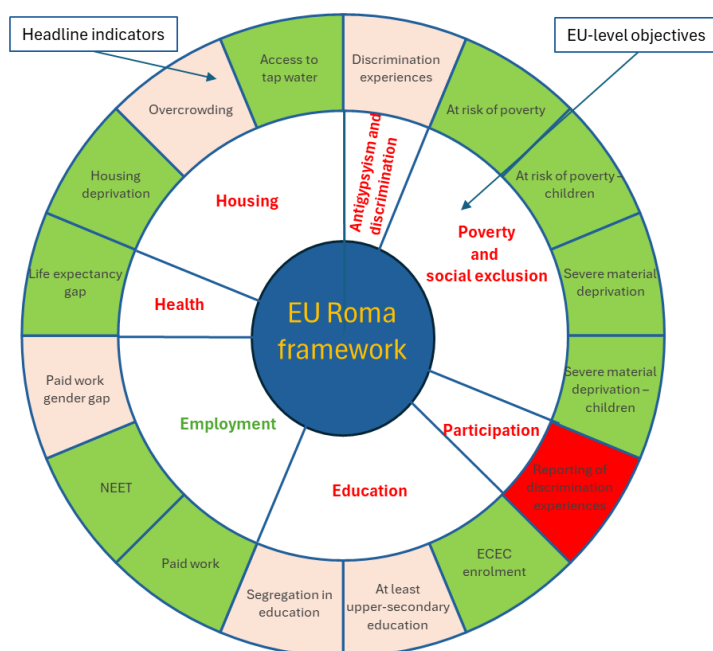
The data suggest that most of the EU-level goals set by the [EU Roma framework](#) for increasing effective equal access to quality and sustainable employment are likely to be achieved by 2030. The data also suggest that several of the EU-level goals set are not likely to be achieved by 2030, including:

- fighting and preventing antigypsyism and discrimination;
- reducing poverty and social exclusion to close the socioeconomic gap between Roma and the general population;
- promoting participation through empowerment, cooperation and trust;
- increasing effective equal access to quality and inclusive mainstream education;
- improving Roma health and increasing effective equal access to quality healthcare and social services;

- increasing effective equal access to adequate desegregated housing and essential services.

In the cases of health, poverty, social exclusion and housing, the EU-level goals are not likely to be achieved by 2030, despite recent improvements in indicators. This is because the starting conditions were very poor, meaning it will take longer to reach the objectives.

Figure 1 – Trends in the situation of Roma and Travellers between 2016 and 2024 regarding the EU Roma framework’s headline indicators and likelihood of achieving the EU-level goals



NB: For the headline indicators, pink indicates no change, green indicates improvement and red indicates deterioration. For the EU-level objectives, red indicates goals not likely to be achieved by 2030; green indicates goals likely to be (mostly) achieved by 2030. ECEC, early childhood education and care; NEET, not in education, employment or training.

No Member State is likely to achieve the EU-level goals set for antigypsyism and discrimination, participation or health (No country is likely to achieve the EU-level goals set for antigypsyism and discrimination, participation or health. Two countries each are likely to achieve the EU-level objectives on poverty and social exclusion (Bulgaria and Hungary) and education (Bulgaria and Italy). Four countries each are likely to achieve the objectives on employment (Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy and Romania) and housing (Czechia, Greece, Italy and Spain). A closer look at the individual goals shows that all of

the countries have the most difficulty with those related to closing the gap between Roma/Travellers and the general population.

). Data suggest that two Member States each are likely to achieve the EU-level objectives on poverty and social exclusion (Bulgaria and Hungary) and education (Bulgaria and Italy). Four Member States each are likely to achieve the objectives on employment (Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy and Romania) and housing (Czechia, Greece, Italy and Spain). The largest number of objectives are likely to be achieved in Bulgaria (on poverty and social exclusion, education and employment) and Italy (on education, employment and housing). A closer look at the individual goals shows that Member States have the most difficulty with those related to closing the gap between Roma/Travellers and the general population. An assessment of the likelihood of the Member States covered by the Roma Survey 2024 achieving the EU-level goals at the national level is provided in Annex 1.

Table 1 – Likelihood of achieving the EU-level goals by country

Objective	EU total	BG	CZ	EL	ES	FR ^(a)	HU	IE ^(b)	IT	PT	RO
Antigypsyism and discrimination	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
Poverty and social exclusion	Red	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red
Participation	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
Education	Red	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green	Red	Red
Employment	Green	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green	Red	Green	Red	Green
Health	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
Housing	Red	Red	Green	Green	Green	Red	Red	Red	Green	Red	Red

^(a) France’s sample comprises *Gens du voyage*.

^(b) Ireland’s sample comprises Travellers (the Roma interviewed for the Roma Survey 2024 in Ireland are not included in this analysis).

NB: Red colouring indicates goals not likely to be achieved by 2030; green colouring indicates goals likely to be (mostly) achieved by 2030.

The availability of comparative data for several time periods enables increased precision in documenting the real situation of Roma/Travellers in the countries surveyed. The Roma Survey 2024 data also suggest that COVID-19 had a large impact on Roma ⁽²³⁾ across the surveyed countries. Data for 2021 were collected using the same methodology as in 2016 and 2024, but the situation in 2021 was atypical. For one thing, Roma were disproportionately affected by the toll of pandemic-related emergency measures. For another, such measures (lockdowns and other restrictions) affected both the survey process (making access to Roma communities more difficult) and the

respondents' priorities regarding daily challenges they were struggling with. As a result, the indicators for 2021 (also presented in this report) often stand outside the trend that is observable between 2016 and 2024. At the same time, the measures and policies individual countries implemented during this period could not have had a large enough impact in such a short period of time to explain the substantial changes between 2021 and 2024.

Data from previous FRA surveys have been criticised for not fully illustrating the variety of the situations of Roma and Travellers in the countries surveyed. However, it is important to note the findings from the Roma Survey 2024 present an average picture of the situation of Roma and Travellers. The situations of individual Roma/Travellers between and within the countries surveyed may vary for better or worse.

This report provides a snapshot of the persisting impact of antigypsyism and the problems many Roma and Travellers face in accessing their fundamental rights to employment, education, healthcare and housing. Since the first Roma Survey in 2011, FRA has issued 160 FRA opinions in its publications indicating what practical improvements should be made by the EU and individual Member States to fulfil their obligations with respect to the fundamental rights of Roma and Travellers. However, policies have been notoriously slow and ineffectual in addressing the challenges identified by FRA reports, and most of these FRA opinions remain valid. A list of publications with FRA opinions related to Roma and Travellers is provided in Annex 2.

Discrimination against Roma because of their origin remains high over time

EU ROMA FRAMEWORK

The EU Roma framework's target for objective 1 is to, by 2030:

- cut the proportion of Roma who have experienced discrimination by at least half; that is, ensure that fewer than 13 % of Roma experience discrimination.

Overall, Roma/Travellers observe no change with respect to their experience of discrimination and harassment because of their ethnic origin. The EU-level target of fewer than 13 % of Roma experiencing discrimination by 2030 (halved from the value observed in 2016) most likely will not be achieved by 2030, given that current levels are

more than double the target percentage. Experiences between women and men vary among countries. Older Roma/Travellers report experiencing discrimination less often. Roma living in non-Roma neighbourhoods experience discrimination less often than those living in neighbourhoods where all or most people are Roma, especially in Albania, Bulgaria, Czechia, Italy, Portugal and Serbia.

- Every third Roma/Traveller respondent (31 %) felt discriminated against based on their ethnic background in the 12 months preceding the survey in at least one of the following areas of life: when looking for work or at work; in education (as students or as parents/guardians of students); in health; in housing; in administrative offices or public services; or when in other public or private services such as restaurants, bars, night clubs, hotels, shops or public transport. This finding suggests no substantial change in comparison with 2016, when the value was 26 %. Discrimination rates have decreased, although only very moderately, in Greece and Serbia, while they have increased in Czechia, France, Ireland, North Macedonia and Portugal.
- Every fifth Roma/Traveller respondent (19 %) experienced at least one out of five forms of hate-motivated harassment in the 12 months preceding the survey, confirming a positive trend in the reduction of harassment in comparison with the 30 % reported in 2016. The same trend is visible at the national level in Czechia, France, Greece, Hungary and Romania, while the opposite trend is found in North Macedonia and Portugal.

Fewer Roma live in poverty but still four times more than the general EU-27 population

EU ROMA FRAMEWORK

The EU Roma framework's targets for objective 2 are to, by 2030:

- halve the poverty gap between Roma and the general population and ensure that the majority of Roma escape poverty;
- reduce the poverty gap between Roma children and other children by at least half and ensure that the majority of Roma children escape poverty.

The [EU Roma framework](#) sets targets for objective 2 to combat social exclusion and poverty, in compliance with the safeguards provided by Article 34 of the [Charter of Fundamental Rights](#). The fight against social exclusion has been taken up by EU law, in addition to Council of Europe law. Article 153, paragraph 1, of the [Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union](#) provides that the EU must 'support and complement the activities of the Member States' to combat social exclusion without binding measures being adopted, based on Member States invoking their national powers and the principle of subsidiarity.

Overall, Roma/Travellers observe improvements in comparison with 2016 and especially with 2021 (during the COVID-19 pandemic) in all headline indicators related to poverty and social exclusion. However, neither of the two EU-level targets for this objective are likely to be achieved by 2030. There are no discernible differences in the situation between women and men. The survey results suggest that three factors increase the risk of poverty and social exclusion: age, limitations in daily activities due to health reasons and living in areas where all or most people are Roma/Travellers (with the last two having a significant impact).

- Three out of four Roma/Travellers (70 %) are at risk of poverty: they live in households with an equivalised income (after social transfers) that is lower than 60 % of the median income in their country. The percentage has decreased in comparison with 2016 (80 %), drastically so in each individual country. However, differences between the rate for Roma and that for the general population are still large (16 % in the EU-27 in 2024 and 17 % in 2018).

- 77 % of Roma/Traveller children aged under 18 live in households at risk of poverty. This rate is lower than in 2016 (85 %) but still much higher than that for children from the general population (19 % in the EU-27 in 2024 and 20 % in 2018).
- A considerably smaller share of Roma/Travellers live in severe material deprivation (37 %) than in 2016 (62 %). The data show a worsening trend only in Ireland (for Travellers) and no change in France, North Macedonia and Portugal. In the remaining countries, the trend is towards improvement. However, the latest data available for the general EU-27 population (6 % in both 2020 and 2018) show consistently large gaps with the Roma/Traveller population. This indicator is no longer monitored by Eurostat and was replaced by the material and social deprivation rate.
- The share of Roma/Traveller children aged 17 and under living in severe material deprivation is also lower (40 %) than it was in 2016 (66 %). The rates in the countries surveyed have generally decreased since 2016, except for Traveller children in Ireland. In comparison, 7 % of children in the general population in the EU-27 are in the same situation (data from 2020 and 2018).

Despite an increase in trust in the police and the legal system, Roma under-report discrimination and harassment

EU ROMA FRAMEWORK

The EU Roma framework's target for objective 3 is to, by 2030:

- double the proportion of Roma who file a report when they experience discrimination – that is, ensure that at least 30 % of Roma victims of discrimination report it.

The objective's formulation reflects the Member State obligation to ensure that there are national bodies providing independent assistance to victims of discrimination in pursuing their complaints about discrimination, without prejudice to the right of victims and of associations, organisations or other legal entities, as guaranteed by Article 13 of [Directive 2000/43/EC](#) on implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin.

Roma/Travellers continue to under-report cases of discrimination, even more so than in 2016. Based on this worsening trend, it is very unlikely that the EU-level target will be achieved by 2030. While under-reporting occurs across the Roma/Traveller populations, awareness of equality bodies and trust in the police and the national legal system vary by sex, age, disability status and type of neighbourhood in which a respondent lives.

- The incidents of discrimination, hate-motivated harassment and violence that Roma/Travellers experience in the EU remain largely invisible to the institutions, including equality bodies and law enforcement authorities, that have a legal obligation to assist victims. Only 6 % of all Roma/Traveller victims of discrimination reported or made a complaint about the latest incident of discrimination. This is just over a third of the rate in 2016 (16 %). A negative trend persists in all countries but North Macedonia, Serbia and Spain, where the rate has not changed.
- Every second Roma/Traveller respondent (46 %) has heard about at least one equality body, national human rights institution or ombudsperson's office in their country – confirming the trend of improvement observed between 2016 (29 %) and 2021 (50 %). An overall positive trend is observed in most countries except for Hungary and Serbia, where the rate is stagnant.

- Every second Roma/Traveller respondent (49 %) trusts the police in their country. This is more than in 2016 (37 %) but considerably less than the rate among the general population in the EU (73 %). Trust in the police decreased only in Greece, Ireland (for Travellers) and North Macedonia. Two out of five Roma/Traveller respondents (40 %) trust the legal system in their country. This figure was 29 % in 2016. The value for the general EU-27 population is 55 %. Trust in the legal system decreased only in Greece.

More Roma children are enrolled in early childhood education, but segregation and discrimination persist

EU ROMA FRAMEWORK

The EU Roma framework's targets for objective 4 are to, by 2030:

- cut by at least half the gap between Roma and the general population regarding enrolment in early childhood education and care and ensure that at least 70 % of Roma children are in preschool;
- reduce the gap in upper-secondary education completion by at least one third and ensure that the majority of Roma youth complete at least upper-secondary education;
- ensure that fewer than one in five Roma children attend schools where most or all of the children are Roma.

The objective's formulation refers to the obligation of the Member States to ensure the right to education as guaranteed by Article 14 of the [Charter of Fundamental Rights](#) and to ensure that this right includes the opportunity to receive free compulsory education. Pursuant to Article 51(2), the [Charter](#) purports not to create any new powers for the EU, but to encourage cooperation between Member States and, 'if necessary', supplement and support their action in education generally and on all levels, as enshrined in Article 149 of the [Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union](#).

Overall, there have been improvements in the situation of Roma/Travellers since 2016 in terms of early childhood education, although most countries increased the

segregation of Roma/Traveller children. Data suggest that none of the three EU-level targets on education are likely to be achieved by 2030. Educational indicators are not influenced by sex or age, but Roma/Travellers living in areas where only some or no other people are Roma/Travellers achieve a higher level of education and experience segregated education and discrimination less.

- Every second Roma/Traveller child (53 %) attends early childhood education. Although there has been improvement in comparison with 2016 (42 %), this is still only about half of the proportion observed for children in the general population in the EU (95 % in both 2023 and 2018). A positive trend is observed in most countries covered except for Spain, where Roma Survey 2024 data confirm the opposite trend to that indicated in the Roma Survey 2021.
- Only 32 % of Roma/Travellers aged 20–24 have completed at least upper-secondary education; this marks little change in comparison with 2016 (28 %). In the general EU-27 population, this rate was 84 % in both 2024 and 2018. In Czechia, Greece and Serbia, the share is decreasing, while in Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Spain, it is increasing. In the remaining countries, the situation has not changed.
- Every second Roma/Traveller child (46 %) is educated in a school where all or most of the pupils are Roma/Travellers. This has changed very little over the past few years (52 % in 2021 and 44 % in 2016). Only in North Macedonia is the trend positive, while most countries surveyed, including Bulgaria, Czechia, France, Greece and Romania, have shown a negative trend (i.e. an increase in segregation) since 2016.
- 14 % of Roma/Traveller respondents felt discriminated against because of their ethnic origin during the 12 months before the survey when in contact with an educational institution, either as a student or as a parent/guardian of a child. This is a higher share than in 2016 (7 %). All countries surveyed observe the same negative trend except for Hungary, Serbia and Spain, where the situation has not changed, and Greece, where the share of Roma experiencing discrimination in education has decreased.

More Roma are in paid work, but the gender gap and discrimination have also increased

EU ROMA FRAMEWORK

The EU Roma framework's targets for objective 5 are to, by 2030:

- cut the employment gap by at least half and ensure that at least 60 % of Roma are in paid work;
- cut the gender employment gap for Roma by at least half to ensure that at least 45 % of Roma women are in paid work;
- cut the rate of youth not in education, employment or training (NEET) by at least half and ensure that fewer than one in three Roma youth are NEET.

The strategic targets of the [EU Roma framework](#) underline the obligations from the provisions of the recast Directive 2006/54/EC on equal opportunities and equal treatment of women and men in employment and occupation, which requires the prohibition of direct and indirect sex discrimination, harassment and sexual harassment with regard to pay, (access to) employment and occupational social security schemes. The objectives are also compliant with obligations set out in Directive 2000/43/EC implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin. This directive prohibits discrimination on the ground of racial or ethnic origin in a broad range of fields, including employment, social protection and social advantages, education and goods and services available to the public, including housing.

Overall, the employment situation of Roma/Travellers has improved in comparison with 2016. It seems that almost all EU-level targets on employment can be achieved by 2030. However, the gender employment gap and discrimination have increased. Roma living in non-Roma neighbourhoods are in a better situation in the labour market than Roma living in neighbourhoods where all or most people are Roma, especially in Albania, Czechia, Hungary, Portugal and Romania.

- In 2024, every second Roma/Traveller aged 20–64 (54 %) was in paid work. This encompasses being in full-time work, part-time work, self-employment or occasional work, doing ad hoc jobs or having worked in the past four weeks. This is an improvement on the 2016 rate (43 %) but is still only less than three quarters

of the rate for the general EU population (75 % in 2023 and 73 % in 2018). A positive trend is observed in all countries surveyed, except for Portugal, where the trend is negative, and France, Greece and Serbia, where the rate is unchanged.

- Employment levels have increased for both Roma/Traveller women and men. In 2024, 38 % of Roma/Traveller women aged 20–64 were in employment, in comparison with 69 % of Roma/Traveller men in the same age category. However, the gender gap (31 percentage points) has increased since 2016 (27 percentage points). Four countries have reached the EU-level target for Roma women’s employment: Bulgaria (49 %), Czechia (45 %), Hungary (53 %) and Italy (45 %).
- Every second young (aged 16–24) Roma/Traveller (47 %) is NEET, a large decrease from the rate of 62 % in 2016. This is still five times higher than the rate for the EU-27’s general population (9 % in 2023 and 10 % in 2018). A negative trend is observed only in Portugal and Serbia. In Czechia, Greece and Ireland (for Travellers), the situation has not changed.
- Every third Roma/Traveller older than 16 (36 %) felt discriminated against because of being Roma/Traveller when looking for a job in the last 12 months before the survey – double the rate from 2016 (16 %). The discrimination rate is somewhat lower once they are in work – two out of five Roma/Travellers older than 16 (22 %) felt discriminated against because of being Roma/Traveller in the workplace in the last 12 months before the survey. This is four times more than in 2016 (5 %). Every Member State surveyed shows the same negative trend in both indicators.

Gap in longevity between Roma and the general population has decreased

EU ROMA FRAMEWORK

The EU Roma framework's target for objective 6 is to, by 2030:

- cut the life expectancy gap by at least half and ensure that Roma women and men live five years longer.

The objective relates to Article 1 of the [Charter of Fundamental Rights](#) as an overarching principle and to the right to life guaranteed by Article 2 of the charter. In general, it is also connected with the right to access preventative healthcare and the right to benefit from medical treatment under the conditions established by national laws and practices, guaranteed by Article 35 of the [Charter](#), as these are interconnected with life expectancy. In addition, it is linked to the political obligation under the [European Pillar of Social Rights](#). While the pillar itself does not directly address life expectancy, its principles and safeguards for rights can contribute to longer and healthier lives by promoting access to healthcare, social protection and a supportive environment. The [EU Roma framework](#) formulates the need to adjust these political goals for the Roma community.

Although Roma Survey 2024 data suggest a small decrease in the gap between Roma/Travellers and the general population with regard to life expectancy at birth, the EU-level target is not likely to be achieved by 2030.

- Roma/Traveller women's lifespans are 7.4 years shorter than those of women in the general population, and those of Roma/Traveller men are 8.0 years shorter than those of men in the general population (these gaps were 8.0 for women and 8.5 for men in 2017). In all countries covered by the survey, the gap shows a declining trend. Life expectancy for Roma/Traveller women in the Member States covered is on average 75.6 years (74.6 in 2017), while for Roma/Traveller men it is 69.2 years (68.3 in 2017).
- Three out of four Roma/Travellers in the Member States surveyed (74 %) have health insurance in their country. There has been no change in this regard since 2016 (73 %). In Bulgaria, Czechia, Greece, Hungary, North Macedonia and Serbia, there is a positive trend. In the remaining countries, the situation has not changed.

- 16 % of Roma/Travellers felt discriminated against for their Roma/Traveller origin when accessing health services in the past 12 months. This is two times more than in 2016 (8 %). All countries surveyed show the same negative trend except for Greece, Romania, Serbia and Spain, where the situation has not changed.

Housing conditions for Roma are getting better

EU ROMA FRAMEWORK

The EU Roma framework's targets for objective 7 are to, by 2030:

- reduce the gap between Roma and the general population with regard to housing deprivation by at least one third and ensure that the majority of Roma do not face housing deprivation;
- reduce the gap between Roma and the general population with regard to living in overcrowded households by at least half and ensure that the majority of Roma do not live in overcrowded households;
- ensure that at least 95 % of Roma have access to tap water.

The targets set for objective 7 seek to ensure a decent existence for all those who lack sufficient resources, in compliance with Article 34 of the [Charter of Fundamental Rights and](#) in accordance with the rules set out by EU law and national laws and practices. They reaffirm the EU's and Member States' obligations to combat social exclusion and poverty, with recognition of and respect for the right to social and housing assistance.

Overall, the housing situation of Roma/Travellers has improved since 2016. However, national variations exist. The EU-level targets could be achieved in most countries with regard to housing deprivation and access to tap water but not overcrowding. Children (aged 15 and under) face worse housing conditions than other Roma/Travellers. Living in non-Roma localities often results in better housing conditions and access to tap water and less overcrowding than living in predominantly Roma/Traveller areas.

- Every second Roma/Traveller (47 %) lives in a state of housing deprivation, that is, in damp, dark dwellings or housing without proper sanitation facilities. The rate has improved since 2016, when it was 61 %, but it is far higher than the rate of 18 % for the general EU population in 2023 and 2018. The Roma Survey 2024

confirms the decreasing trend in comparison with 2016 in almost all countries surveyed. An increasing trend is found only in France and Portugal, while in Ireland (for Travellers) and Spain, there is no change.

- Four out of five Roma/Travellers (83 %) live in a household that does not have enough rooms and is overcrowded. This rate has changed little since 2016 (78 %). It is almost five times the rate for the general EU population in both 2024 and 2018 (17 %). The data show no positive change in comparison with previous years in all the countries surveyed except North Macedonia.
- One out of five Roma/Travellers (17 %) live without tap water inside their accommodation – a clear improvement in comparison with 2016 (30 %). Progress is mainly due to substantial reductions in Hungary and Romania. The rate is still eight times higher than it was among the general EU-27 population in 2023 and 2018 (2 %). The trend is negative only in North Macedonia. In the remaining countries, the trend is positive or unchanged.
- Every third Roma/Traveller (35 %) experienced discrimination because of their ethnic background when looking for housing – a slight improvement compared with 2016 (41 %). At the national level, the same decreasing trend is found in only two of the countries surveyed – Czechia and Spain. In Bulgaria, France, Hungary and Romania, the situation has worsened.

Conclusions

This report presents evidence on how Roma/Travellers in the European countries selected exercise their fundamental rights. It explores how the measures and activities of EU institutions and of individual countries as duty bearers result in changes in the experiences of rights holders. The results should be considered primarily in light of applicable EU law on fundamental rights, particularly the [Charter of Fundamental Rights](#) and the [European Pillar of Social Rights](#), and in light of the United Nations SDGs.

This report presents data on Roma and Travellers at the midpoint of the [EU Roma framework](#)'s timeline, collected through FRA's 2024 Roma Survey in ten Member States and three accession countries. It is structured based on the objectives of this policy framework.

Data from the Roma Survey 2024 suggest that, on average for the 10 Member States studied, there have been improvements in Roma/Travellers' access to fundamental rights since 2016 (2019 for France and Ireland) with regard to 10 out of the 16 headline indicators used for monitoring in the [EU Roma framework](#). This means that Roma and Travellers had greater access to certain rights in 2024 than in the past. These include the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of individuals and their families (partial improvement), the right to education (partial improvement), the right to work (partial improvement) and the right to access preventative healthcare and to benefit from medical treatment.

The situation has worsened with regard to the reporting of discrimination, despite increased awareness of human rights institutions and increased trust in the legal system and the police. No change has been observed with regard to five indicators, which relate to targets regarding discrimination (overall and in individual areas of life), segregation in education, gender equality in employment and overcrowding. The first four are directly linked to rights guaranteed by aforementioned EU human rights law. The data also suggest that COVID-19 has had a large impact on Roma across the countries surveyed.

The report presents a number of positive developments, all of which are linked to the aforementioned rights. They include fewer Roma/Travellers experiencing poverty, material deprivation and housing deprivation, more Roma/Travellers trusting the police or the legal system in their country, more Roma/Traveller children participating in early childhood education, more Roma being engaged in paid work and a decrease in the gap between Roma/Travellers and the general population with regard to life expectancy at birth.

However, there are still areas showing negative developments in terms of Roma/Travellers' access to fundamental rights. Over the past decade, Roma/Travellers in all countries surveyed have faced increasing levels of discrimination. This is true overall, but especially with respect to their access to specific socioeconomic rights (education, employment, health and housing). Roma/Traveller children are still predominantly educated in segregated facilities and Roma/Travellers still frequently live in overcrowded dwellings.

The data suggest that most of the EU-level goals set by the [EU Roma framework](#) for increasing effective equal access to quality and sustainable employment are likely to be achieved by 2030. However, the remaining six EU-level objectives are not likely to be achieved by then. No country is likely to achieve the EU-level goals set for antigypsyism and discrimination, participation or health. Two countries each are likely to achieve the EU-level objectives on poverty and social exclusion (Bulgaria and Hungary) and education (Bulgaria and Italy). Four countries each are likely to achieve the objectives on employment (Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy and Romania) and housing (Czechia, Greece, Italy and Spain). A closer look at the individual goals shows that all of the countries have the most difficulty with those related to closing the gap between Roma/Travellers and the general population.

This report would not be able to present trends in Roma/Travellers' access to fundamental rights if statistical data on Roma/Travellers were not collected by FRA on a regular basis. FRA encourages the Member States to take ownership of data collection on Roma/Travellers and stands ready to provide technical assistance to advance this goal.

Endnotes

- (¹) [Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union](#) (OJ C 326, 26.10.2012, p. 13), Articles 2 and 6.
- (²) [Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union](#) (OJ C 326, 26.10.2012, p. 47), Articles 8, 9, 10 and 19.
- (³) [Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union](#) (OJ C 326, 26.10.2012, p. 391).
- (⁴) Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council – [A union of equality: EU Roma strategic framework for equality, inclusion and participation](#), COM(2020) 620 final of 7 October 2020.
- (⁵) FRA, [EU-MIDIS – Data in focus report 1: The Roma](#), Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2009.
- (⁶) FRA, [The situation of Roma in 11 EU Member States – Survey results at a glance](#), Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2012.
- (⁷) FRA, [Second European Union Minorities and Discrimination Survey – Main results](#), Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2017.
- (⁸) FRA, [Roma and Travellers in Six Countries – Roma and Travellers Survey](#), Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2020.
- (⁹) FRA, [Roma in 10 European Countries – Main results – Roma Survey 2021](#), Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2022.
- (¹⁰) Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council – [A union of equality: EU Roma strategic framework for equality, inclusion and participation](#), COM(2020) 620 final of 7 October 2020.
- (¹¹) [Council recommendation of 12 March 2021 on Roma equality, inclusion and participation](#) (OJ C 93, 19.3.2021, p. 1).
- (¹²) Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council – [A union of equality: EU Roma strategic framework for equality, inclusion and participation](#), COM(2020) 620 final of 7 October 2020, Annex 2.
- (¹³) Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council – [A union of equality: EU Roma strategic framework for equality, inclusion and participation](#), COM(2020) 620 final of 7 October 2020.
- (¹⁴) [Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union](#) (OJ C 326, 26.10.2012, p. 13), Articles 2 and 6; [Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union](#) (OJ C 326, 26.10.2012, p. 47), Articles 8, 9, 10 and 19; [Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union](#) (OJ C 326, 26.10.2012, p. 391).
- (¹⁵) [Council Directive 2000/43/EC of 29 June 2000 implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin](#) (OJ L 180, 19.7.2000, p. 22).

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- (¹⁶) [Interinstitutional proclamation on the European Pillar of Social Rights](#) (OJ C 428, 13.12.2017, p. 10).
- (¹⁷) United Nations, [Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015 – Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), p. 3.
- (¹⁸) Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council – [A union of equality: EU Roma strategic framework for equality, inclusion and participation](#), COM(2020) 620 final of 7 October 2020.
- (¹⁹) Council of Europe, [Descriptive Glossary of Terms Relating to Roma Issues](#), Strasbourg, 2012.
- (²⁰) [Council Regulation \(EU\) 2022/555 of 5 April 2022 amending Regulation \(EC\) No 168/2027 establishing a European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights](#) (OJ L 108, 7.4.2022, p. 1).
- (²¹) Support Team of the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe for Roma Issues, '[Estimates and official numbers of Roma in Europe](#)', spreadsheet, last updated 2 July 2012.
- (²²) [Analytical document accompanying the communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council – A union of equality: EU Roma strategic framework for equality, inclusion and participation](#), SWD(2020) 530 final of 7 October 2020, Annex 2.
- (²³) FRA, [Coronavirus Pandemic in the EU – Impact on Roma and Travellers](#), Bulletin No 5, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2020.