



Stepping up Roma Health in Europe: the EU Framework for National Roma integration Strategies

Skopje, 24 January 2012

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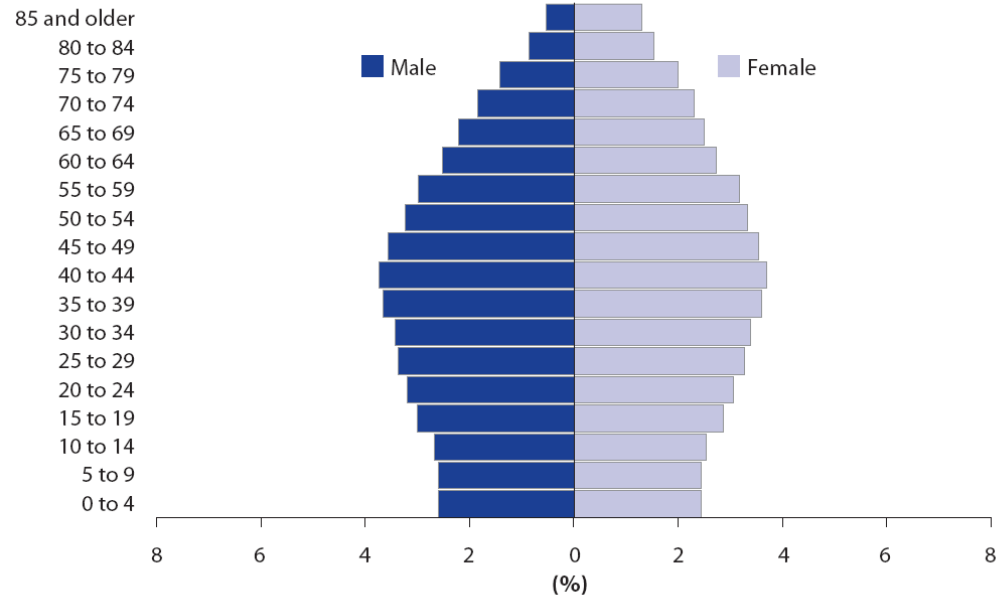


European Commission
Justice

The issue at stake: Health inequalities of Roma in Europe

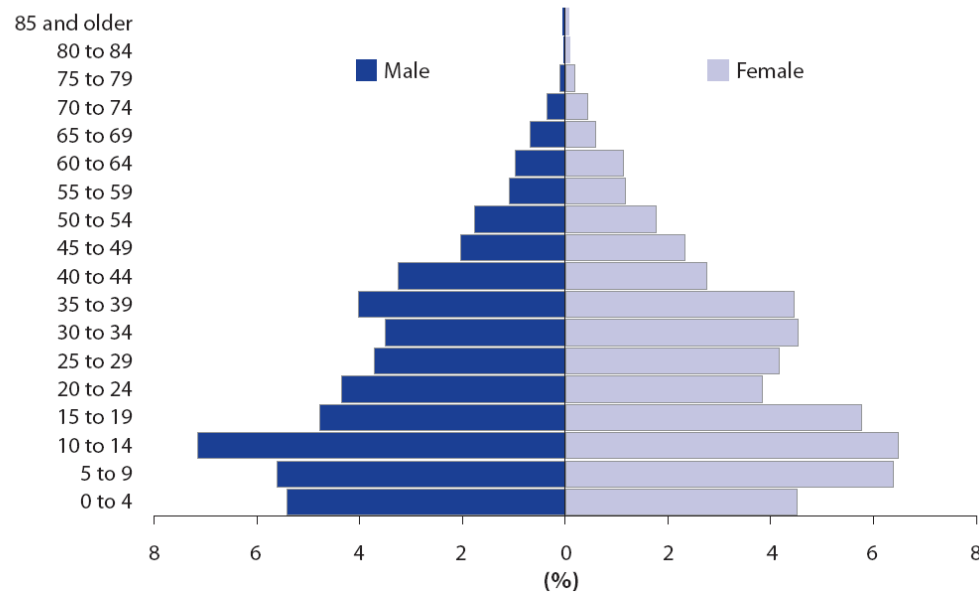
- Higher perinatal and infant mortality
- Lower vaccination rates
- Higher level of chronic disease and disability
- Women particularly disadvantaged
- Inequalities in access to high quality healthcare services
- Life expectancy gap

B) Population EU-27



Source: EDIS S.A. based on Eurostat data of 1 January 2008.

A) European Roma population



Causes for health inequalities

Living conditions

basic needs, warmth,
housing, food, water,
environmental quality

Services

healthcare,
education, social
protection

Work & working conditions

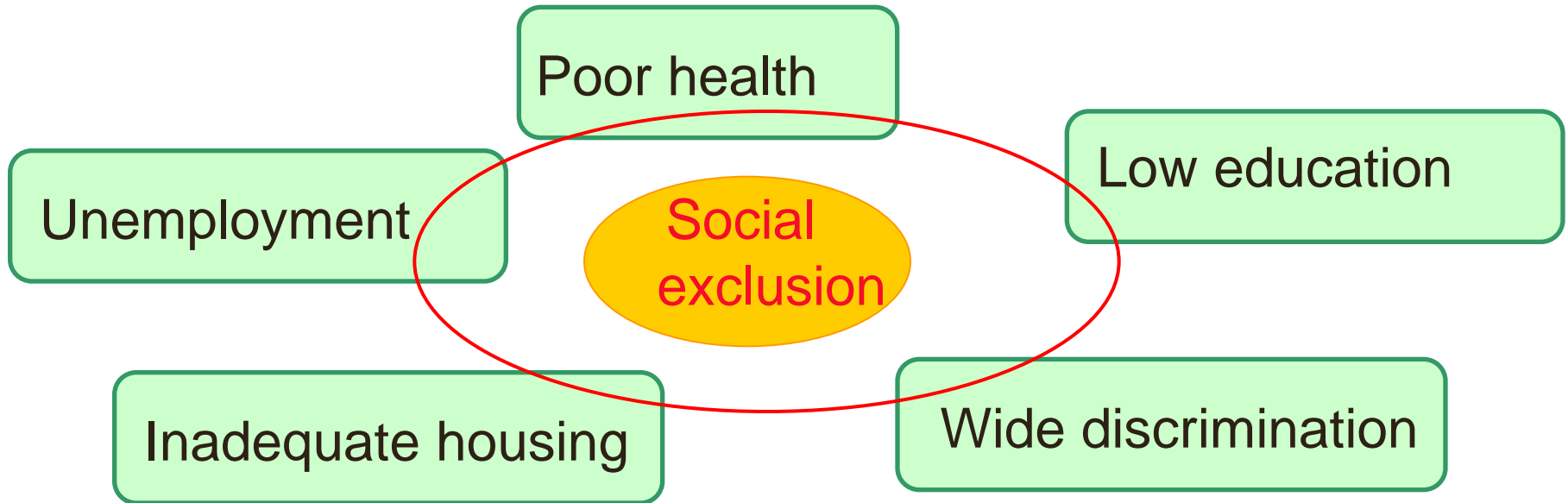
job quality, health &
safety at work

Health related behaviours

lifestyle, smoking,
alcohol, exercise

Cross-fields interrelation

- Social and health problems are interrelated and create a **vicious circle of social exclusion**



➔ Overcoming Roma health inequalities requires integrated inclusion policies

Roma health: not a new concern for the EU

- Commission's Communication COM(2009)567 'solidarity in health: reducing health inequalities in the EU' - explicitly mentions the Roma
- 2nd EU Roma summit (Cordoba, 2010) – focus on health
- Commission's Communication COM(2010) 133 on 'the social and economic integration of the Roma in Europe' – lists EU actions, including on health
- December 2010: report of the Roma Task Force highlighting that strong and appropriate measures are still not in place in the EU Member States

The EU Framework: a new impetus

- 5 April 2011: Commission's Communication on *an EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020* COM(2011)173 – focus on **health**, education, employment, housing

This has been followed up by the EU Member States' commitment in the Council:


- 19 May 2011: **the 27 social affairs Ministers** adopted detailed conclusions on the EU Framework
- 23-24 June 2011: **the 27 Heads of States / Governments** called for the rapid implementation of these conclusions

1) The EU Framework

MS committed to prepare, update or develop **national Roma integration strategies/sets of policy measures**

● Recommended approaches:

- Pay attention to a number of priorities in education, health, employment and housing
- Promote desegregation
- Identify EU funds to support this policy
- Monitor and evaluate the impact



MS committed to present strategies/sets of policy measures that cover access to healthcare 'with particular reference to preventive healthcare and health education', with a transversal attention to the gender dimension

● Horizontal aspects:

- Comply with the 10 Common Basic Principles for Roma Inclusion
- **Involve all stakeholders, including the Roma and the local authorities**
- Follow an integrated approach
- Appoint a national Roma contact point to ensure effective monitoring

2) The EU Framework

MS committed to set or continue working towards their **goals**

EU goals (by 2020) defined in the EU Framework:

- Ensure that all Roma children complete at least primary **school**
- Cut the **employment** gap between Roma and the rest of the population
- Reduce the gap in **health** status between the Roma and the rest of the population
- Close the gap between the share of Roma with access to **housing and to public utilities** (e.g. water, electricity and gas) and that of the rest of the population

3) The EU Framework

MS committed to make a more effective use of **EU funds** to support Roma integration

Under the current programming period, Member States committed to ensuring the effective use of EU funds for the socio-economic integration of the Roma, for example via:

- Modifying their Operational Programmes co-financed by EU funds to better support Roma integrated projects;
- Making greater use of technical assistance for buying expertise of regional, national and international organisations in preparing, implementing and monitoring Roma targeted interventions;
- Improving the predictability of financing by increasing the duration of project and maximising the uptake of funds.

4) The EU Framework

Putting in place a strong **monitoring** mechanism

To make sure that the EU Framework makes a tangible difference the Commission will:

- **report annually to EP and Council on progress made in the MS.**
- use data on the social and economic situation of Roma collected by FRA in cooperation with other organisations.
- take into account ongoing work within the Open Method of Coordination in the field of social policies.
- Use information provided in national reform programmes and peer reviews.
- **In parallel, MS should foresee internal self-monitoring together with stakeholders.**

5) The EU Framework Enlargement countries

- EU goals (including access to quality healthcare) are equally relevant; invitation to enlargement countries to review the existing strategies/action plans in line with these goals
- Improvement of EU financial support for Roma inclusion (via the Instrument of Pre-Accession Assistance)
- Recall the need for supporting civil society involvement
- EU close monitoring of progress

Where are we now?

- To date, 17 strategies/sets of policy measures presented; 8 more are expected
- Assessment by the Commission of the national Roma integration strategies/sets of policy measures
- Extraordinary meeting of the European Platform for Roma Inclusion (Brussels, 22nd March 2012)
- A first step in a sustainable process