

***EU instruments to combat ethnic
discrimination:
The situation of Roma in the EU***

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EU Fundamental Rights

Equality & Citizens Rights Department

The EU Agency for Fundamental Rights

Its **objective** is to provide EU institutions and Member States with assistance and expertise relating to fundamental rights in order to support them when they take measures or formulate courses of action to fully respect fundamental rights.

Its tasks are to:

- ❖ carry out **scientific research** and surveys
- ❖ **collect, record, analyse and disseminate relevant objective, reliable and comparable information and data**
- ❖ **develop methods and standards to improve the comparability, objectivity and reliability of data at European level**

*The Union “shall combat **social exclusion** and **discrimination**, and shall promote social justice and protection, equality between women and men, solidarity between generations and protection of the rights of the child” - **Art. 3 Para. 3 (TEU)***

*“In defining and implementing its policies and activities, the Union shall aim to **combat discrimination** based on sex, **racial or ethnic origin**, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation” - **Art. 10 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)***

Article 19 (TFEU)

*“Without prejudice to the other provisions of the Treaties and within the limits of the powers conferred by them upon the Union, the Council, acting unanimously in accordance with a special legislative procedure and after obtaining the consent of the European Parliament, may take appropriate action to **combat discrimination** based on sex, **racial or ethnic origin**, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation”.*

EU Charter Fundamental Rights

Article 21 - Non-discrimination

*“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.**”*

EU Antidiscrimination legislation

The **Racial Equality Directive** (RED) 2000/43/EC:

- Implements the principle of equal treatment between people irrespective of **racial or ethnic origin**;
- Gives protection against discrimination in **employment** and **training, education, social security, healthcare** and access to **goods** and **services** including **housing**;
- Gives victims of discrimination a **right to make a complaint** through a judicial or administrative procedure, associated with appropriate penalties for those who discriminate.
- Provides for the establishment in each Member State of an organisation - **National Equality Body**

Communication COM (2011) 173 on an EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020

- Sets EU Roma integration goals in four areas: access to **education, employment, healthcare** and **housing**
- Member States were requested to prepare or revise their national **Roma integration strategies** and present them to the Commission by the end of December 2011

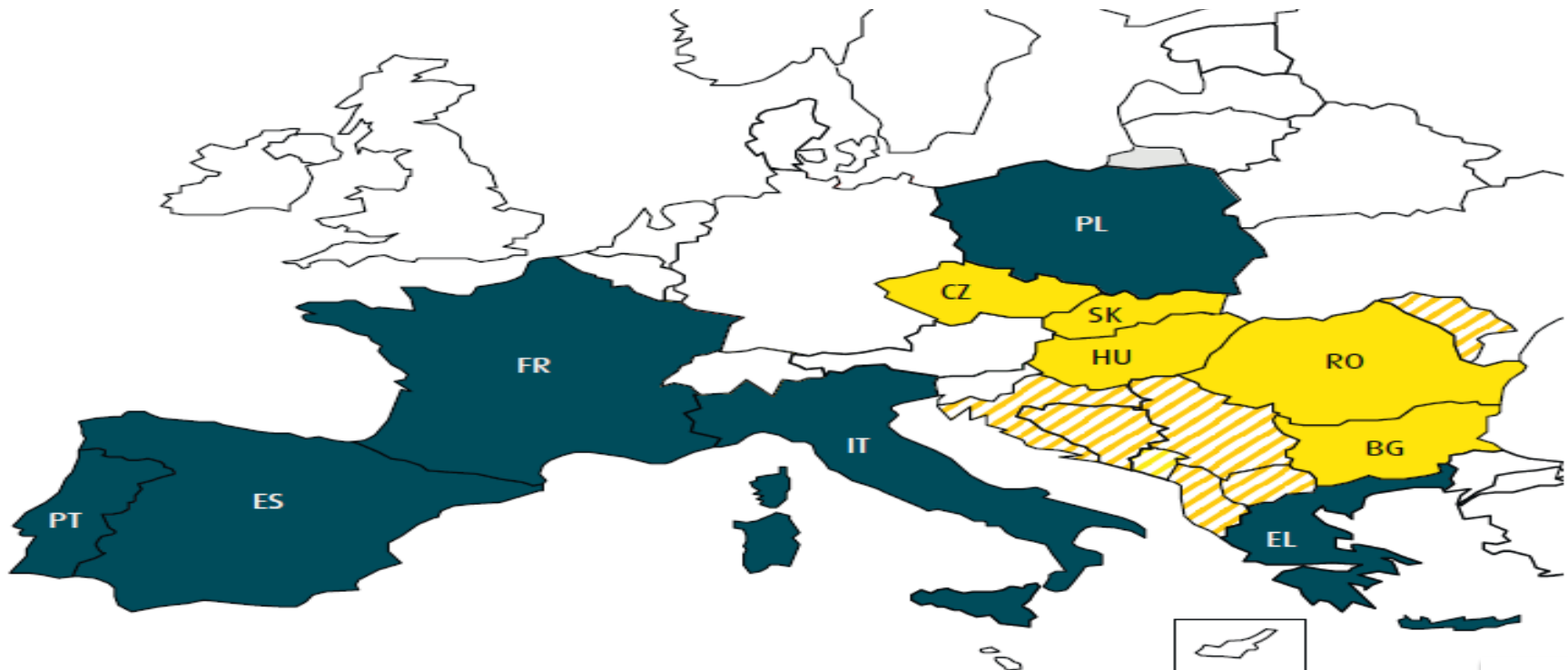
EC Communication mandated FRA to:

- **Expand research to all MSs** and run it regularly to measure progress on the ground
- **Collect data** on the situation of Roma with respect to access to employment, education, healthcare and housing
- **Work with MSs** to develop monitoring methods

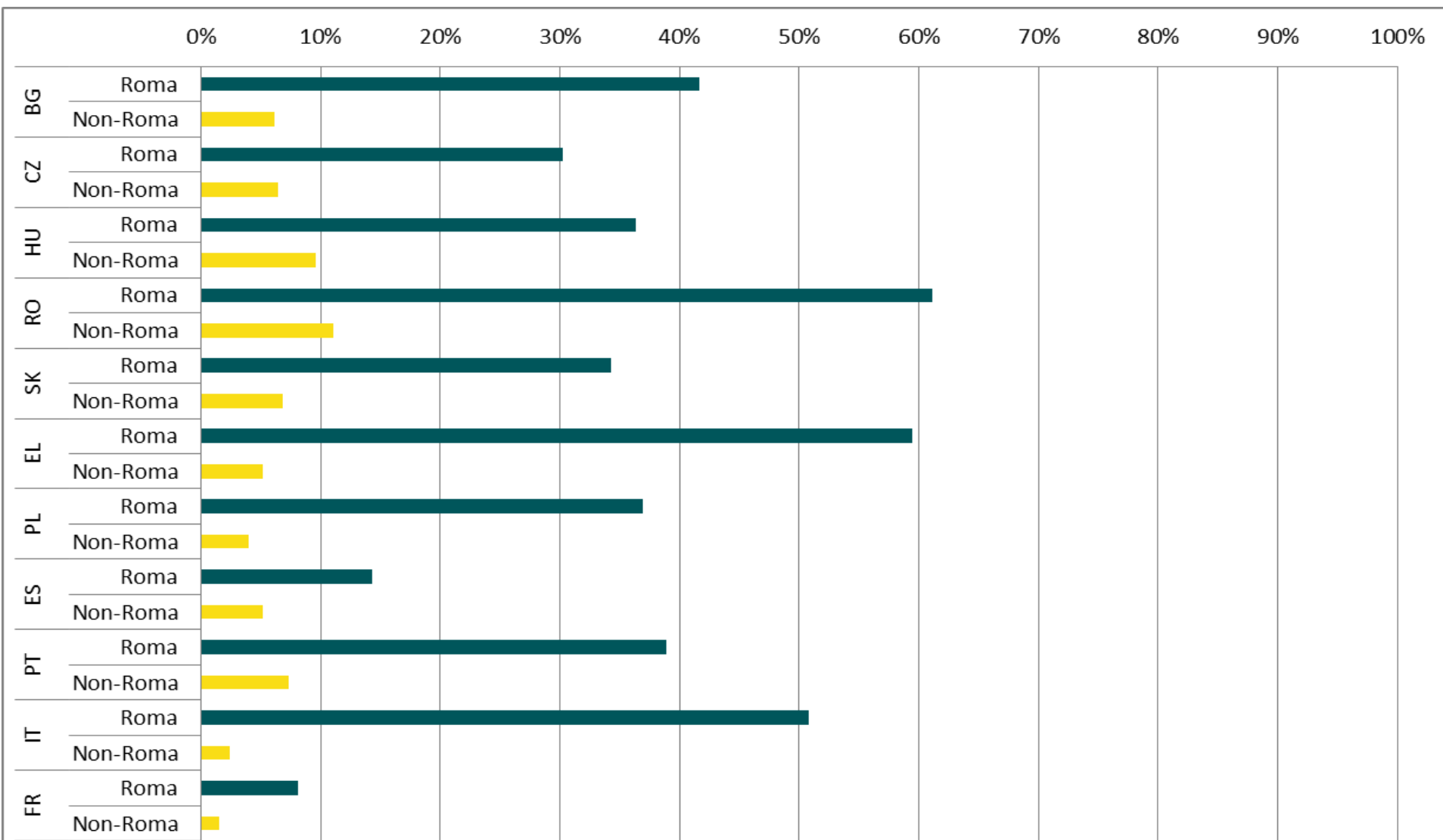
The survey



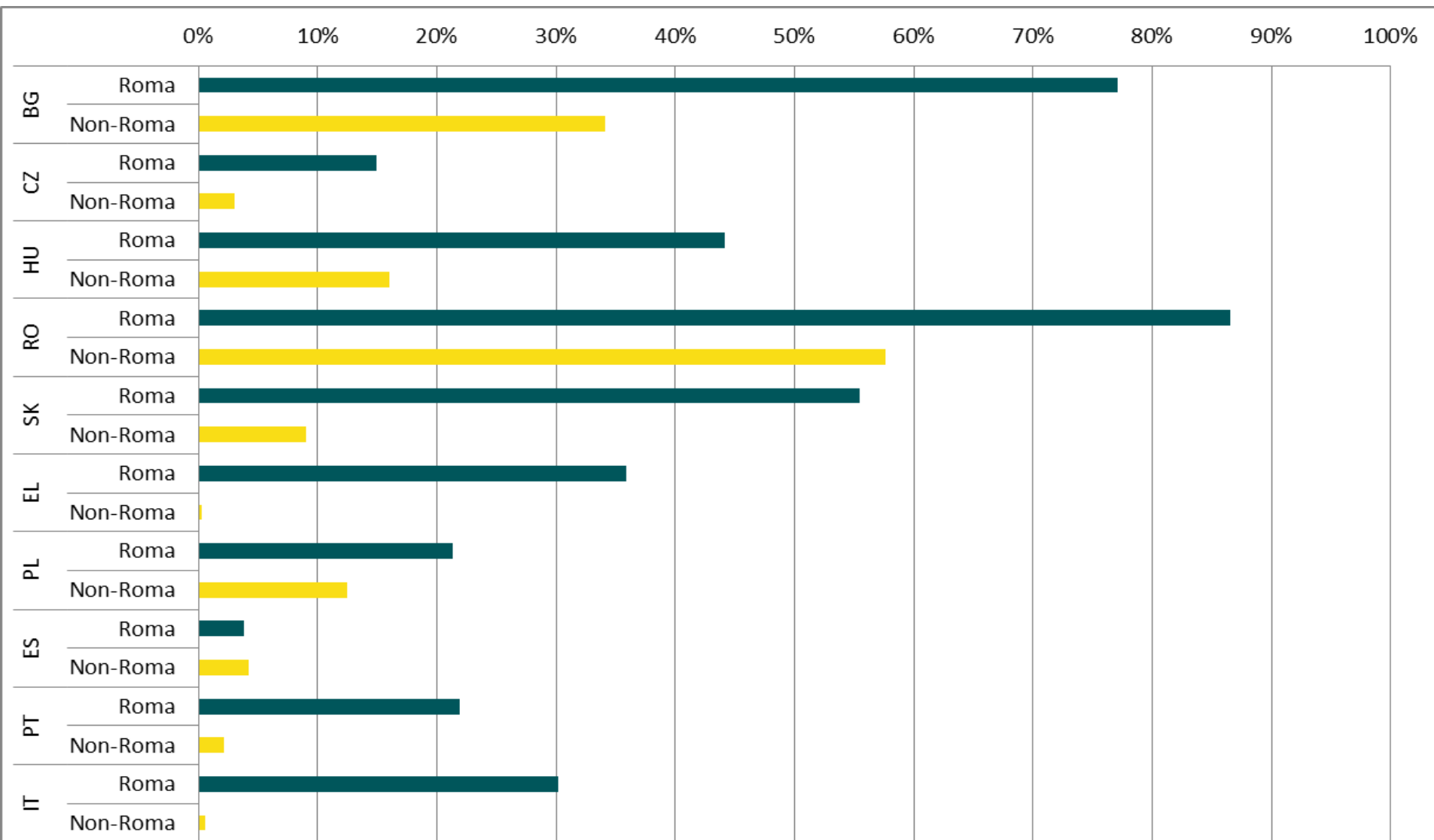
Common FRA/UNDP/WB sampling + core questionnaire for **5 MSs**
14,925 Roma respondents informing on **64,263** household members
7,278 non-Roma respondents informing on **20,024** household members
→ Non-Roma sampled in same neighbourhood or in close vicinity



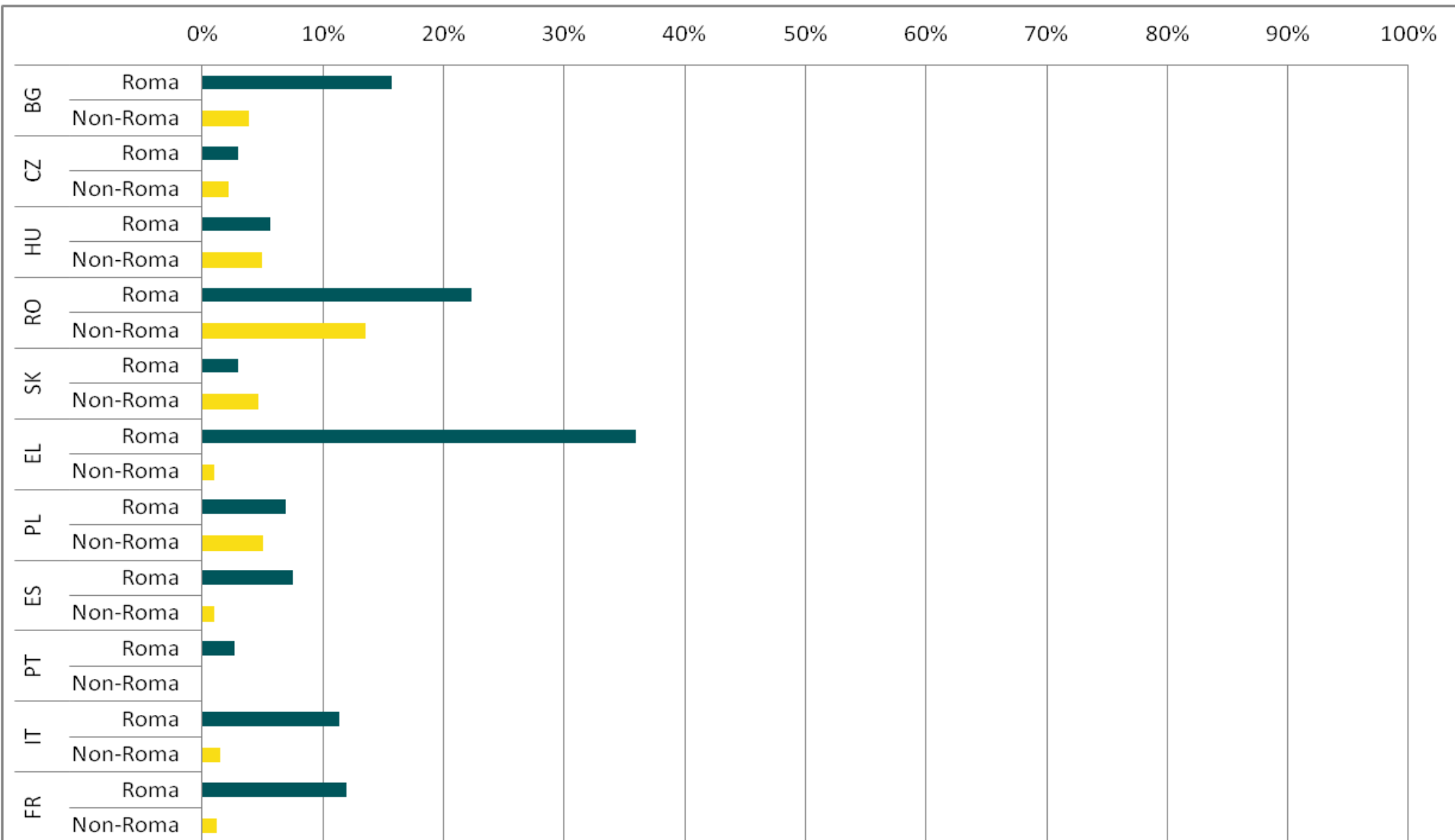
Someone in the household was hungry at least once in the past last month



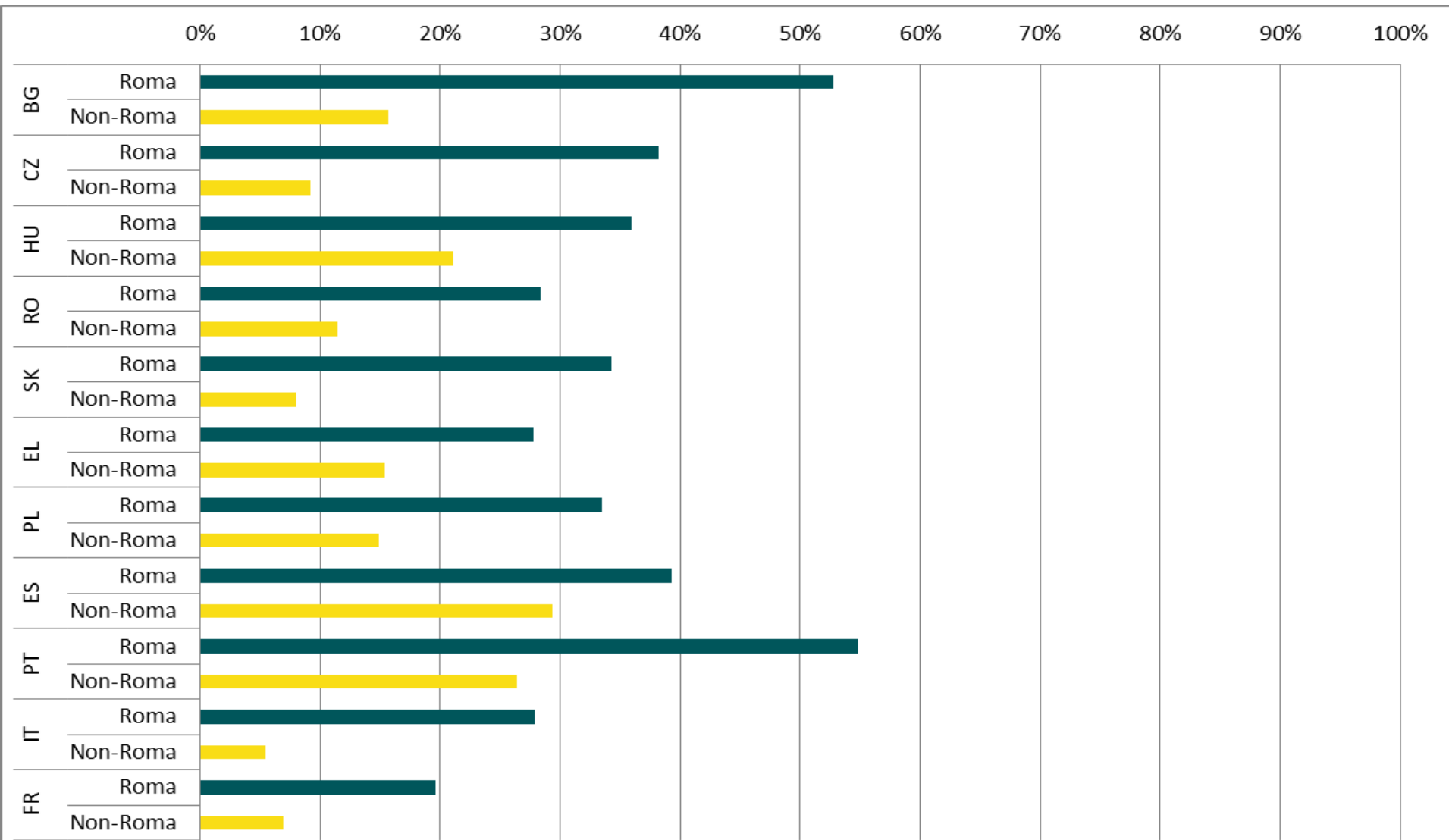
Households without indoor kitchen, toilet, shower/bath, electricity



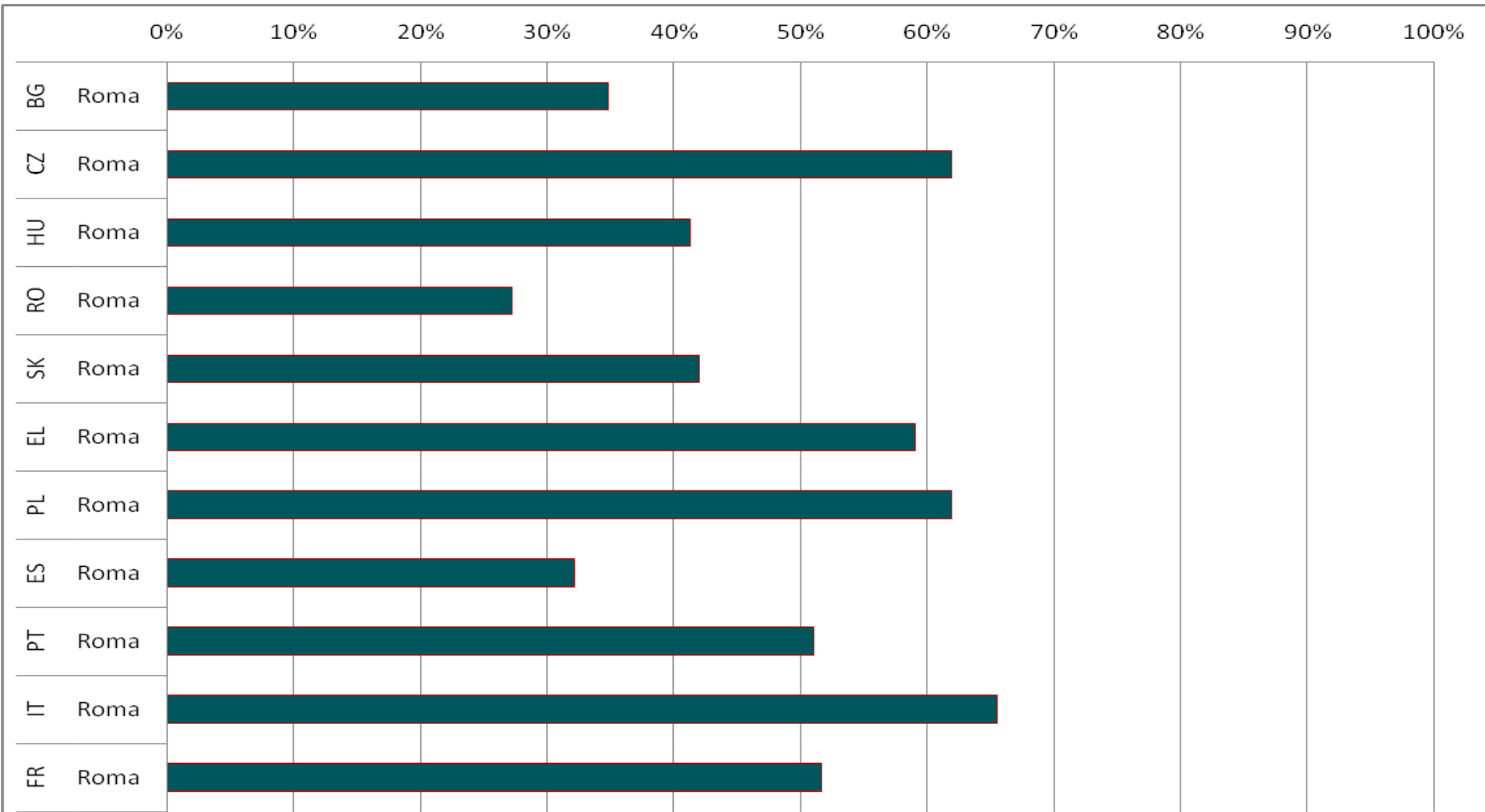
Children aged 7 to 15 not in school



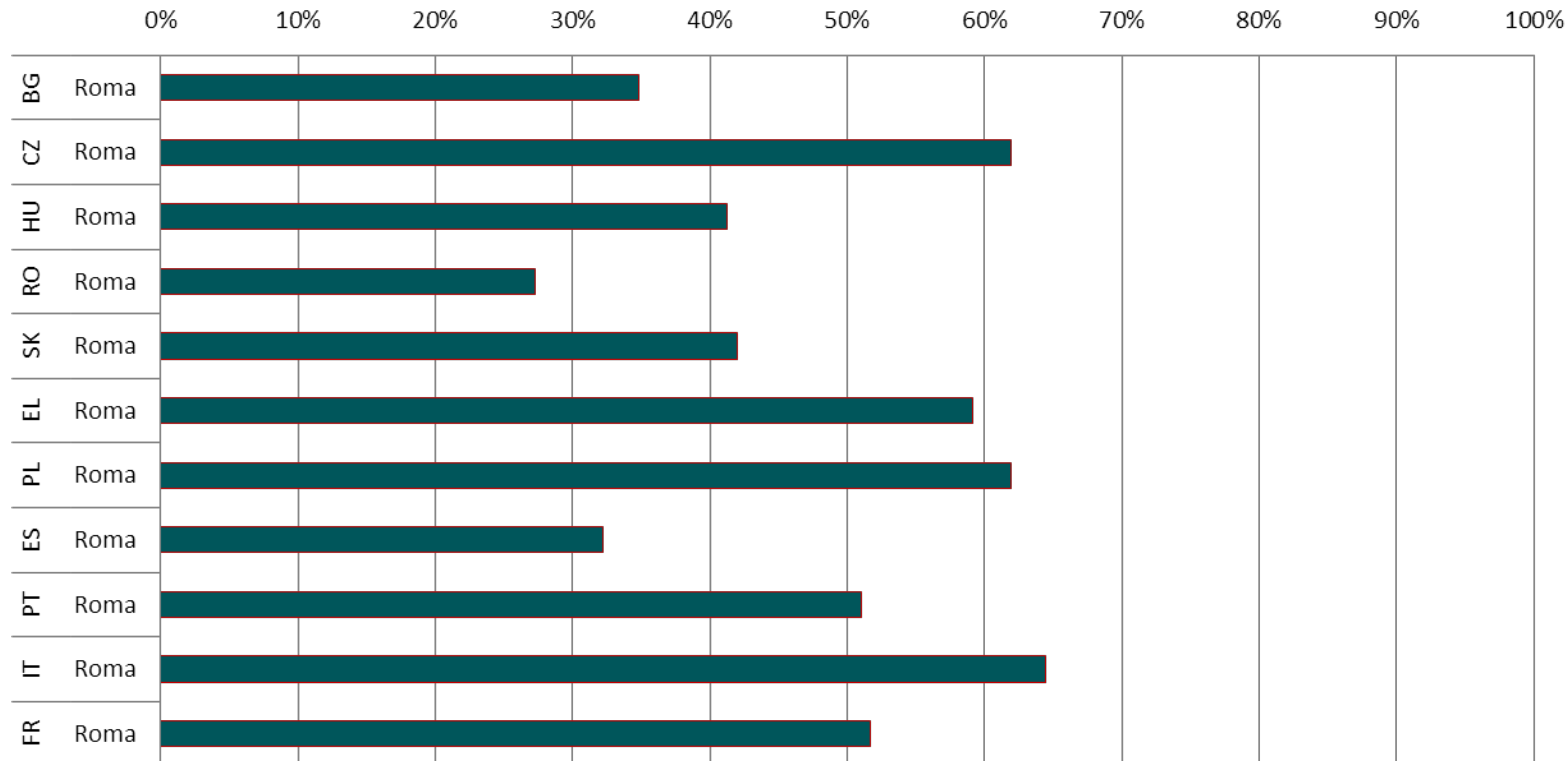
Respondents aged 20 to 64 who considered themselves as unemployed



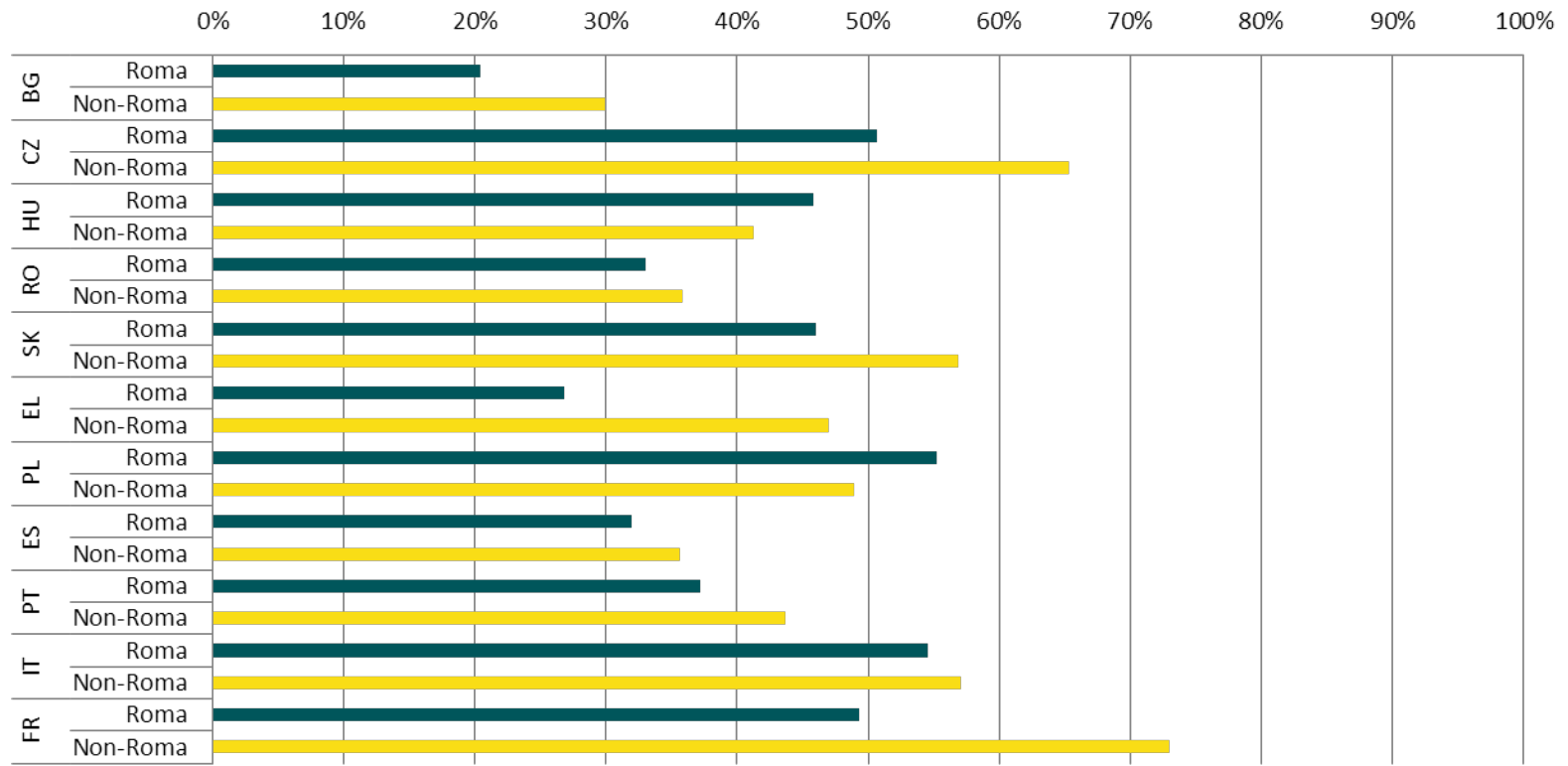
Roma aged 16 and above who experienced discrimination because of their Roma background in the past 12 months



Roma respondents aged 16 and above looking for work during the past 5 years, who said that they experienced discrimination because of their Roma



Respondents aged 16 and above who knew about a law forbidding discrimination against ethnic minority people when applying for a job (pooled data) (%)



Member States need to:

- guarantee proper implementation of the EU legislation in national level (RED)
- take dissuasive and appropriate sanctions
- intensify their efforts to raise awareness and disseminate information regarding anti-discrimination legislation among the Roma
- ensure that the specialised bodies, e.g. equality bodies, are properly resourced so as to be able to perform their important function effectively ensuring that they have the mandate and resources
- Include non-discrimination policies within their national Roma integration strategies

...helping to make a tangible difference to Roma people's lives...



For more information

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