

Joint Equinet-EPHA-OHCHR Roundtable

Monitoring Effective Access to Quality Healthcare

Panel I: Assessing equal access to health for Roma



ERGO Network

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ERGO Network's recent work on monitoring Roma Access to Healthcare

Inter alia:

- Snapshots on Healthcare, Inclusion, and Long-term Care (2021)
- Roma Access to adequate Healthcare and long-term care in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, and Spain (2022)
- Roma Civil Monitor 2021-2025 (Country Monitoring Reports)

The EU Roma Strategic Framework 2020-2030

- Reducing Health Gaps: Aim to halve the life expectancy gap by 2030.
- Improving Access: Ensure 95% of Roma have tap water; improve access to quality healthcare.
- Addressing Discrimination: Combat unequal treatment in healthcare settings.
- Promoting Preventive Care: Enhance health literacy and focus on preventive measures.
- Data Collection: Monitor health outcomes and refine interventions.

ERGO Snapshots on Healthcare, Inclusion, and Long-term Care (2021)

THE SITUATION OF ROMA IN EUROPE

ERGO NETWORK SNAPSHOT OF..

**Health care,
Inclusion of people
with disabilities,
Long-term care**



- 💡 One in four (26%) Roma is not covered by national health insurance and/or private insurance.
- 💡 28% of Roma feel limited in their activities by their state of health.
- 💡 22% of Roma have a longstanding illness or health problem.
- 💡 There is a 10-year difference in life expectancy between Roma (64 years) and non-Roma (74 years), as well as a tenfold higher vulnerability to tuberculosis.
- 💡 One in 10 Roma and Travellers felt discriminated against when accessing healthcare in six countries, while almost all report worse health and more limitations than the general population.

The umbrella term "Roma" encompasses diverse groups, including Roma, Sinti, Kale, Romanichels, Boyash/Rudan, Ashkali, Egyptians, Yenish, Dom, Lom, Rom and Abdal, as well as Traveller populations (gens du voyage, Gypsies, Camminanti, etc.), as defined by the European Commission.

Roma Access to Healthcare and Long-term Care (2022)

- **NRSF Assessments Highlights**
- **Czech Republic:** Focuses on equal access and combating discrimination.
- **Slovakia:** Targets health inequalities in marginalized communities.
- **Bulgaria:** Addresses maternal health but lacks ambition on chronic illnesses and lack of activities against antigypsism.
- **Hungary:** Limited scope, lacks comprehensive healthcare approaches.
- **Romania:** Focuses on infrastructure, has accurate understanding of the issues but lacks specific health measures.
- **Spain:** Addresses health inequalities, missing mental health, access to long-term care and people with disabilities focus.

Roma Civil Monitor 2021-2025

- **Objective:** Strengthening capacity and involvement of Roma and pro-Roma civil society in policy monitoring and review.
- **Initiated by:** European Parliament, managed by the European Commission's Directorate-General Justice and Consumers (DG Just).
- **Consortium:** Democracy Institute of Central European University (CEU), ERGO Network, Fundación Secretariado Gitano (FSG), European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC).

EC Assessment Reports - Key Points

Bulgaria

- **Focus:** Maternal and child health, reducing stigma, vaccination, health mediators.
- **Gaps:** Insufficient anti-discrimination measures, unclear health targets.

Czechia

- **Focus:** Healthcare access, unlawful sterilization, gender-based violence, drug services.
- **Gaps:** Lacks systemic measures for inequalities, digital exclusion.

Greece

- **Focus:** Reducing life expectancy gaps, early detection, preventive care.
- **Gaps:** Lacks outreach and support for vulnerable groups.

Romania

- **Focus:** Health mediators, education, primary care access.
- **Gaps:** Needs targeted measures for chronic disease and mental health.

RCM Report Highlights - Challenges

Bulgaria

- 58% uninsured, limited impact of health mediators, declining vaccinations.

Czechia

- Measures lack ambition; limited consultations; missing digital inclusion efforts.

Greece

- Low healthcare access, inadequate preventive care, Covid-19 impact.

Romania

- Persistent health gaps, low access, widespread discrimination, data issues.

RCM (1)

Key Findings

Monitoring, Implementation, and Challenges:

- **Data Gaps:** Lack of disaggregated Roma health data hinders effective interventions; standardized data needed EU-wide.
- **Funding Shortfalls:** Insufficient funding for Roma-specific health programs leads to poor outcomes.
- **Limited Participation:** Roma are underrepresented in healthcare policy design, weakening health strategies.

RCM (2)

Selected Recommendations

- **Expand the role of Health Mediators:** Boost funding and support to improve access and trust in Roma communities.
- **Targeted Programs:** Invest in programs taking into account the Roma-specific needs and contexts.
- **Improve Data Collection:** Establish strong monitoring systems to track Roma health and guide interventions.
- **Combat antigypsyism:** Combatting antigypsyism in accessing health care.

Addressing Social Determinants and Environmental Justice

Infrastructure and Accessibility:

Roads and Transport: Poor road conditions and lack of public transport limit healthcare access and mobility.

Environmental Hazards:

Pollution Exposure: Proximity to landfills and industrial sites increases health risks.

Air and Water Quality: Poor conditions worsen respiratory and other health issues.

Lack of Water and Sanitation: Limited access to clean water and sanitation facilities increases health risks.

Climate Change Impacts:

Vulnerability to Disasters: Roma communities are highly affected by floods and extreme weather.

Lack of Resilience Measures: Limited investment in protective infrastructure leaves communities exposed.

Limited Access to Energy: Energy poverty affecting their ability to heat homes and maintain a healthy living environment.

RIPE INDEX & MAP

- **Purpose:** Assess rights and progress in 10 countries.
- **Method:** Desk research, interviews, and surveys with Roma civil society.
- **Focus Areas:** Legal frameworks, justice, hate speech, education, employment, healthcare, history & culture.
- **Goals:**
 - **Standardize Data:** Compare progress across countries.
 - **Inform Policy:** Guide national and EU policies.
 - **Promote Inclusion:** Identify rights gaps and advocate for change.
 - **Enhance Engagement:** Boost cooperation with Roma communities.
 - **Target Resources:** Direct investments effectively



Thank you

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