



Project
e-Roma Resource

CURRENT STATE OF ART AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT

NATIONAL REPORT

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1 INTRODUCTION

The National Report is summary of the – Research of current state of the art (Situation analysis) and needs assessment. The research have been conducted in Poland and other EU countries by The Union of Associations MULTIKULTURA in order to determine the current situation (State of the art) in the field of Roma education and the key needs of different professional groups like teachers, adult educators, professionals in the area of education, Roma activists, employment and social policy, representatives at all levels of decision-making who will instigate the development of an innovative, valuable and useful on-line platform. The current research have been conducted on a national as well as European level.

The Research of current state of the art (Situation analysis) and needs assessment is the most important part of the project which is related to all work packages but mainly associated with the implementation of an online platform. The findings of situation analysis and the assessment of needs by partner countries will serve as the basis and the reference framework for the development of a better structured online platform with a cross-border core, valid for all project partners, as well as a possible regional core based on national particularities which will be put into place in respective partner countries. The conclusions from WP2 will provide information for proposing the structure as well as the content of the platform.

2 RESULTS OF THE SITUATION ANALYSIS

2.1 Description of the current status of the Roma in the country

Demographics of Roma in Poland

According to the Polish Government Act on National and Ethnic Minorities,

“Roma are among ethnic minorities in the country, as people who „do not identify with the nation organized in their own country.” Despite their importance in the Polish public culture. The actual number of Polish Roma is relatively small. In the census of 2002, less than 13,000 people identified themselves as Roma.

2002 – 12855 Roma

2011 (1 stated) – 12000 Roma

2011 (2 stated) – 16000 Roma

It is estimated by some experts, however, that between 25,000 and 30,000 Roma live in Poland, which has a total population of 38,500,000th. The Roma are scattered and live all over the country, although their concentrations are more numerous in southern Poland.

Settled Roma were given the name „Carpathians”, „Highlander” or „Mountain Gypsies. „They live in the southern mountain regions in Poland, where they were forced to settle at the end of the 18th century. Roma are a group of roving more settled Roma designated as „Bergitka Roma” (Mountain Gypsies). They live in generally poor village near the village, which have, until recently, often shared Characteristics of random scheduling, poor construction, and lack of basic facilities such as electricity and running water. Significant number of Roma moved to Settlements after 1950.

Most Roma settlements are small, and consists of a collection of poorly built houses and other structures built in clusters on the outskirts of unplanned more established Polish village. Some of these settlements of Bergitka Roma (Gypsies), date from 19th century, when craftsmen Roma (usually metal blacksmiths) were invited to settle in the vicinity Village. Most of the settlements, but they are more up to date, and the date on 1960, when the Roma were obliged by law to settle.”

Quotation from: Wikipedia – National Demographics.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethnic_minorities_in_Poland

Legislation of Roma in Poland

“While the long expected Law on Ethnic and National Minorities is still being prepared in the parliament, the Cashubian-Pomeranian Association (founded in 1956) asked the Commission for

National and Ethnic Minorities of the Polish parliament for the legal official recognition of this community as a national minority.

According to the report on the realization of the provisions of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities submitted by the Polish government to the Secretary of the Council of Europe, Belorussians, Czechs, Karaites, Lithuanians, Lemks, Germans, Armenians, Gypsies, Slovaks, Tatars, Ukrainians and Jews are the officially recognized national or ethnic groups in the country.

Legislation: Legislation dealing with the use of languages

The Constitution of Poland, adopted on April 2, 1997”

“Polish Language Act adopted on October 7, 1999, which came into force on May 9, 2000, establishes the obligation to use the Polish language in legal trade conducted on the territory of the Republic of Poland between Polish entities, as well as in cases where one of the parties is a Polish entity. In particular, the requirement applies to names describing goods and services, offers, advertisements and commercials, user manuals, information on the features of goods or services, warranty terms and conditions, invoices, bills and receipts (Article 7.1). Although minorities are permitted by law to establish schools and classes for maintaining their identity and culture, the Roma minority has not benefited from these provisions. Article 13 (1) of the Polish Act of September 7, 1991 on the Educational System states that "public schools shall enable pupils to retain their sense of national, ethnic, linguistic and religious identity, and in particular, shall make it possible for them to learn their own language, history and culture." Minority classes and schools are supported in Article 13 (2) of the Act stipulating that "at the request of parents, the educational instruction may be conducted in separate groups, sections or schools." Classes may also be held with additional lessons on the history and culture of the respective minority.”

Quotation from: EUROPA > Summaries of EU legislation > Justice, freedom and security > Judicial cooperation in civil matters 2014

http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/justice_freedom_security/judicial_cooperation_in_civil_matters/jl0006_en.htm

Medical conditions of Roma in Poland

“Medical conditions are rather out of control in general after the big change of the socialist government in 1980's. It specially applies to the Roma minority. As it shows below a large percentage of Roma is not registered with the governments statistics and official evidence. Many of Roma are not insured, therefore cannot use the general medicare. On the other hand they are quite vulnerable to diabetics, obesity, and immunological problems.

The Roma community is rather distant and sceptical to the medicare system, they rather keep separate from the Polish population.” Below we present the statistics representative for the whole

Roma population in Poland, that describe in numbers the situation of Roma medical situation in Poland.

“During a mass immunisation campaign following an outbreak of measles in a Roma community settled in the town of Pulawy, Poland, we performed an estimation of the size of this Roma population and an assessment of its vaccination uptake. We obtained a list of Roma residing in Pulawy from the local municipality and estimated using a simple capture-recapture formula that Pulawy had 377 Roma residents (43% under 20 years old), which was 27% more than the 295 registered at the municipality. During the vaccination campaign, demographic information was recorded that could be linked to information from the municipality list as well as to prior immunisation status. Among the people whose data were recorded during the vaccination campaign, 14% were not registered at the primary healthcare centres, and were therefore deprived of access to healthcare. Among 102 screened subjects under the age of 20 years, 51% were vaccinated according to schedule. Vaccine uptake for the first dose of measles-containing vaccine was 56% (54/96) and for the second dose 37% (18/49). The present study indicates the need to get a better demographic overview of Roma communities living in Poland and to understand the barriers limiting their access to healthcare and social services. Organisation of catch-up immunisations of this vulnerable population is necessary.

The age-by-sex distribution of the estimated population of Roma residents was compared to the official statistics for the entire population of Poland (Figure 1). Altogether, 39 of 195 (20%) Roma attending the vaccination campaign were not registered in the municipality, including 20 of 102 persons under the age of 20 years (20%). In addition, 27 of 195 Roma (14%), including 20 of 102 under the age of 20 years (20%), were not registered in any of the primary healthcare facilities in Pulawy.”

Figure 1. Age-by-sex distribution of the estimated Roma population of Pulawy (a), compared with the population of Poland as a whole (b), 2009

TABLE 1
Estimation of Roma population size, Pulawy, Poland, July-August 2009

	Age (years)									Total
	0-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	
Registered at municipality	63	67	49	40	43	26	4	4	1	297
Male	21	36	22	17	25	11	1	0	0	133
Female	42	31	27	23	18	15	3	4	1	164
Attending mass vaccination	50	52	26	24	19	24	0	0	0	195
Male	19	30	9	10	9	12	0	0	0	89
% registered	68	87	78	50	78	75	0	0	0	75
Female	31	22	17	14	10	12	0	0	0	106
% registered	84	77	77	93	90	92	0	0	0	84
Estimated Roma population	81	82	63	59	52	31	4	4	1	377
Male	31	42	28	34	32	15	1	0	0	183
Female	50	40	35	25	20	16	3	4	1	194

Quotation from: Eurosurveillance, Volume 15, Issue 17, 29 April 2010 "Mass immunisation campaign in a Roma settled community created an opportunity to estimate its size and measles vaccination uptake", Poland, 2009 Date of submission: 05 March 2010 Eurosurveillance [ISSN] - ©2007-2013 P. 1 available at:
<http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=19552>.

Education of Roma in Poland

Many Roma children are exposed to education in segregated institutions with low quality of education. Therefore, a significant number are discouraged from further education. In the last decade there has been a growing awareness among politicians and various civil society actors that school segregation patterns are a major barrier to access to equal educational opportunities for Roma communities across Europe. The reasons for not enrolling or graduating from high school, they include numerous financial family situation, the lack of adaptation of educational institutions (discrimination) and the lack of support for children to learn school material. For human rights violations committed in a separate study, research shows that this is not a simple moral need to do some separate education, but there is also an economic need. There is a huge potential for Roma students, and a few years at the time of the economies of Central and Eastern European member states will largely depend on those who are now students, many of whom are Roma.

Social problems of the Roma in Poland

Most of the Polish Roma problems are associated with existing, as in many European societies (including in Polish) antycygańskimi stereotypes and the long history of persecution, including the latest (see pogrom Mława and riots in Bielsko Białka). In Poland, the studies on the social relations to other nations Roma found themselves in last place. Measures to integrate with the rest of society taken since 1989 are of limited effect, because the time is too short to bury age-old resentment on both sides. Many Roma do not use this opportunity, choosing exile and integration in the new society in other EU countries. Mostly U.K. and France.

Negative experiences and prejudices so often inhibit the desire to acquire non-traditional education or involvement in the affairs of society as a whole and entail a large distrust of the „non-Roma” (gadjo). Of great importance is the fact that in many groups of Roma possibility of vocational retraining is limited to the traditional professions that were once niche activities, but today the demand for such services is small (eg. Blacksmithing, horse trading, etc.), which combined with limited access to education, many people condemned to marginalization and choose the criminal way of life.

Just to mention that only 0.13 per cent. Roma have higher education (the average in Poland amounts to 10 per cent.), More than 90 percent of Roma are out of work and their standard of living is much lower than the standard of living in Poland. With Programmes for the Roma community in Poland from the very beginning of their implementation the problems are related to

the implementation of concrete tasks. Above all it is due to the fact that the Roma Program is a program of the social nature which concerns cases in which the so-called human factor plays a very important role.

Furthermore, it is directed to those who for many years have been forgotten and very little has been done to improve their difficult situation. It should also be noted that among the Roma there still exist strong injunctions or cultural or customary prohibitions, which also must be taken into account to minimize the risk of project failure.

The local government units are of great importance for the realization of the Objectives of Programmes for the Roma community, some small tasks for example only be implemented by Local Governments (eg. Educational projects, renovations).

The second condition for the success of the Programme is to convince the Roma themselves to participate in the program. It turned out that of course it is easier when it is about housing repairs, but much more difficult it is in the case of the educational tasks and obligations. The elementary education is compulsory in Poland. Often this law is broken by Roma parents. The benefits of sending children to summer camp or from achieving their best results in school still for Roma parents are not too obvious, but it has to be noted that, thanks to the Programme for the Roma also evident here are positive changes.

The biggest problems, however, are associated with the renovation of housing of Roma and may be a potential source of conflict. Already at the application stage, it happens that some offices do not consult with representatives of the Roma minority in the scope of work or for whom in the first place they are to be carried out. It may seem understandable that the authorities, guided by the expertise, they can determine what houses must be renovated first, but the lack of any discussion of this matter and clarify situation makes the program in their assumptions for Roma quickly turns in the program for officials, resulting in a further lack of confidence. It should be noted that renovations are for the Roma regarded as the most specific – measurable and material – evidence of state aid, bringing them a real advantage.

Offices cities and municipalities, in accordance with the ministerial schedule and mode of adoption of the budget, receive money in May each year. To join the task most often after the holidays and try to catch the disbursement of grants before the end of the year. This is reflected sadly on the quality and causes resentment on the part of the Roma, who complain in local offices and to attorney. The complaints relate both to the quality of work, as well as their scope. It gives also seen from the offices of unauthorized attempts to use a disproportionate large funds for repairs of common areas, which of course also makes a complaint Roma, who feel cheated.

All situations are reported by social workers at the date clarified by mail, phone and in meetings with representatives in the field offices and meetings with Roma themselves.

On the implementation of the Programme of Roma held in Legnica, Wałbrzych, Kłodzk, Przemków, Kowary Świebodzice and Strzelino. In justified cases, Agent also agrees to change the

terms of reference, as well as requests reports on the implementation of tasks (partial and final) of all entities taking participation in the Program. On a regular basis are also solved problems and provided answers to questions that arise during the implementation of the tasks of the participants of the Program more complicated cases – are consulted with the Department of National Minorities and Ethnic Interior Ministry.

It is very significant that in the towns of Lower Silesia authors of the proposals submitted are mostly the Roma associations. On the one hand, it proves the powers of the Roma minority in the towns, which is a very positive phenomenon, on the other hand, it shows a certain inertia of governments to take action in favor of Roma. It is of a great importance for improvement of the situation of the Roma minority also the existence and activities of Romani associations.

They should not only apply and perform tasks within the government program, but also to be representatives of their community to government offices and government. They should also create among themselves the local leaders, which is often so much missing. Roma associations were created in almost every city of Lower Silesia, where Roma live. It turned out, however, that some of them eventually stopped activity, or does not report applications to the Programme. Without the help of local or independent organizations it is often so difficult to prepare proposals, and then perform tasks and deal with their projects. The activity of the Roma minority, however, indicates that despite the setbacks they are still creating new associations. In September 2013, the court in Wrocław registered national Roma Education Assistants Association, having its establishment in Kamienna Góra, which lately implement three tasks under the government program.

Education of Roma children

About 30% of Roma children do not satisfy the obligation of the school, which is due to both the recognition by parents only traditional values of Roma culture, lack of knowledge of the Polish language among children, as well as significant social fear of harassment at school. This percentage, however, varies greatly among different groups, for example in Suwalki in Poland operates the only school in the Roma language learning, which was founded by Jacek Zawadzki and Jacek Milewski. In 2007 in Gorzow Wielkopolski they released the first textbook for school children, who speak a dialect of Polish Roma, intitled. „Miri school – Romano elementaro” developed by Charles Parno Gierliński. In 2008 appeared a second, expanded and revised edition of this book and its adaptation for children using dialect Bergitka Roma intitled „Miri school – Romano elementaris”.

Measures for the education of Roma children are a priority, so to make it possible for permanent improvement of the situation of Roma in Poland. A major role in the educational process of the Roma education play Roma assistants, employed in primary and secondary schools. Their tasks include guarding attendance, regular contact with parents and teachers to help to

learn and to prevent discrimination. In the province of Lower Silesia there are employed 20 Roma education assistants.

The program Romani held training on drug abuse with representatives of the police and social meetings to discuss the issues related to education. In addition, for the last 6 years there are weekly workshops for assistants, dedicated to the Roma assistant's contacts with the local media.

However the monitoring of spending money for the education of Roma children remains to be the problem. The local authorities have to carefully control division of the increased educational subsidies for the institution performing tasks for the Romani children. Due to classification of these funds as a subsidy rather than a grant (in case of the grant, it would be possible for a legal complaint against the spending) the only form of influence on the offices to disburse small subsidy for education of the Roma, are discussions and suggestions. The final decision belongs however, to the institution. These measures should be used, among other, for employment of the Roma education assistants, teachers or support for remedial of additional classes. According to the published every year a ministerial regulation on distribution of subsidies for education, the subsidy is intended – and here is a quote from the regulation – „For pupils of Roma origin, for which the school takes additional educational tasks. „ The actual situation is now so that municipalities very often do not emit subsidy from the funds received from the Ministry of Education and spend the money on a voluntary educational activities where they consider it appropriate.

There is therefore in this case, a clear need for additional, unambiguous legislation that will, first regulate separation of subsidies earmarked for Roma children, and secondly its strict adherence specific spending.

The appropriate use of educational subsidies is important primarily so that, in accordance with the opinions of all who deal with Roma issues (not only in Poland) essential for improving the situation of Roma in society is just education. Without appropriate action in the field of education program for the community Roma in Poland might be, contrary to the intentions of its creators, inefficient and ad-hoc.

To sum up the issues of Roma Program and education of Roma children, it is worth paying more attention to the issue of overcrowding of houses occupied by Roma. It is often the case that in one- or two-room apartment there live two or three large families. In such conditions it is both integration and education that appear to be impossible. It may also turn out that the state action implemented in the public sphere do not have adequate support to the private sphere, particularly the field of education. The local attorney often report the persons asking to support their efforts to obtain new housing. This support is of course provided to them, but the housing economy is in exclusive competence of local governments. Flats everywhere are a commodity scarce and local governments are very reluctant to agree to the issue of new units for Roma, especially since it is very often the case that governments themselves must then pay the rent for those flats from benefits provided to Roma as cash welfare. It seems that the solution to this problem will be very difficult and there are small chances for a lasting improvement of the situation of Roma in Poland.

Scientific conferences and cultural gatherings for Roma

In Poland there are five major minority groups, which organize their own cultural gatherings or anniversaries: Roma, Germans, Ukrainians, Lemko and Jews. Representatives of other, very little number of minorities (Karaites, Tatars) join a multicultural events. Culture is a fundamental and very important area of activity of all national and ethnic minorities. Cultural events are maintaining their identity, language and traditions, they also have important integrative. Regional Offices do not have the ability to finance the minority parties with the exception of the Roma minority, for the program which is designed for the Roma community. All other minorities request the funds directly to the Interior Ministry, which each year announces competition for the tasks financed from the state budget, and some of the projects are supported. The role of the local Roma assistant is to support the efforts of minorities in obtaining financing for cultural events with budgets of cities and municipalities. Efforts are also made for a greater share of the local government financial support of the provinces in favor of minorities. An important task is the participation of a representative of the Governor in events cultural activities organized by the minority.

Discrimination

1. In February 2008, the Governor of Lower Silesia informed the prosecution of suspected offence involving the posting on You Tube the anti Roma film, containing formulation racist, degrading Roma. The Prosecutor's Office initiated proceedings in this case, and police determined the offender. It turned out to be a resident of Wrocław. The first trial was held on February 5, 2009 year in the District Court in Wrocław.

2. In July 2010, the Lower Silesia Regional Office notified the family complaint on the conduct of the Municipal Office in Kowary.

During their absence in Poland due to work abroad, it was devoid of lease and administrative decision-out of their apartment in Kowary despite the fact that they regularly paid the rent. At the same time, the mother Mrs. Danuta – Eve Lolo was evicted on the basis of the decision of the court occupied by herself an apartment and check out the social housing that does not meet the elementary conditions for residence. While in Kowary attorney talked about this the Roma and representatives of the Town Hall, as well as attorney State Lolo, who said that the activities of the municipal government is likely to be discriminatory. After reviewing the documents received from the state and Lolo Municipal Office in Kowary Agent governor sent a letter to the Department of Supervision and Control of the Lower Silesia Regional Office for a legal opinion on this case. The legal opinion stated on a number of irregularities in the proceedings of the Municipal Office in Kowary. In this situation, the state attorney Lolo took legal action to challenge the decision of the Medical University of Kowary. under the influence of these actions mayor Kowary annulled its decision Danuta Lolo and also admitted her new apartment. Moreover, in this case a proxy of the Governor sent a letter to Wrocław Delegation of the Ombudsman and informed up to date on the steps taken by the Ombudsman.

3. In September 2008, the Foundation for the Preservation of Jewish Property and the Ministry of Interior received Mrs. Jennifer Rench, a citizen of the United States, complaint the devastation of a tombstone of a family member Mrs. Rench located in the Jewish cemetery in Kłodzk. Proxy took up the case and sent the information on the action to the Ministry of Interior. Unable to determine when it came to the devastation of the tombstone. According to the volunteers from the „Cross”, dealing with cleaning up the cemetery, the devastation could happen many years ago (before 2005) when there were not carried out any work Renovation and cemetery served as the wild landfill. In view of the situation attorney directed letter with information about the devastation of the tombstone and the decision in accordance with the powers appropriate action to the Board of Jewish Communities (legal owner cemetery), the Municipality of Kłodzk, the District Police Headquarters in Kłodzk, Regional Conservation and Prison Kłodzk (which is adjacent to the cemetery and it would take an increased monitoring). In response to the letter Agent kłodzka police launched an investigation into the devastation of the tombstone, and Provincial Conservator undertook County Office Kłodzk to placing information boards at the cemetery, it is a historical site and therefore this is legally protected.

Other measures in favour of minorities

In Poland there are not too many minorities, and besides, they live in considerable dispersion. So important are actions that are designed to integrate different minorities and the common occurrence of financial resources and participation in multicultural events. In Wroclaw and Krakow for example there were created special teams for minorities. It aims to integrate national and ethnic minorities in the city taking joint actions in favour of minorities.

There are also created informal teams Municipal Affairs for National and Ethnic Minorities, including representatives of the Roma minority and Lemko, as well as school principals and teachers. Meetings are held with local government officials and documentation of activities aimed at promoting the idea of a multicultural community informed about the rights of minorities, but mainly deals with the activities in the field of education (use of educational subsidies, recruitment for colonies integration activities for minority students).

More and more often are also organized international meetings of study in Slovakia. The local government officials dealing with Roma take part in these meetings with representatives of independent organizations working for Roma, principals of schools in which Roma children are studying, as well as representatives of the Roma minority. The meetings are intended to familiarize participants among themselves with the situation of the Roma minority in Slovakia and Poland.

The Roma minority present in the Polish media – Media contacts

Public knowledge of national and ethnic minorities is still insufficient, and the lack of this knowledge may affect the discriminatory attitudes towards minorities. This is especially valid for the Roma minority – it happens that even the teachers or directors of the schools where they

teach the Roma, have very little knowledge about their culture. The local Proxy contact with the media in average of once every 2-3 weeks. This applies to all media – television, radio, websites, newspapers. Meeting with the media held both in the office and during events organized by the minorities. It must be observed, however, that the issue of minority is not too often taken. The journalists largest interest is always in case of the Roma and it must be observe, that the vast majority of materials on them has a positive connotation and contributes thus to a better perception of minorities in society. Although Poland national and ethnic minorities are not too many (officially, according to the census, 8.5 thousand, unofficially approx. 25 thousand.), for the government is important to promote multiculturalism and regions of minority groups is not only because it brings cognitive values, but it also contributes to a better understanding of other cultures and have an impact on increasing the tolerance. It is also an important issue for the future – because we have to count with the fact that our country will become a more attractive place to residence for foreigners. Since the treatment of the minority and their presence in the media depends on better cooperation with representatives of other nationalities in the future. Polish Television SA Program 2 of 1997. Until now transmits International Song Festivals and Culture of the Roma, which is the creator and originator of Don Vasył Smidt, President of the European Association for Education and Culture of the Roma based in Ciechocinku. TVP Białystok gives a monthly program on topics related to the Roma minority Fri. We are Roma (formerly in the program of all national and ethnic minorities in the Podlasie in title: “ROMA themselves about themselves”).

2.2 Overview of the resources availability

Summary of the situation analysis (State of the art)

The resources are more and more available. Especially in comparison with the previous periods of previous government before 1990's. MULTIKULTURA provides the list of publications relating to the Roma in Poland and the list of organizations working with Roma. For searching the data we used the search engine Google. The result of our search is a database with around 100 entries containing available data on individual persons working with Roma, publications, projects, legislation and Roma organizations.

Overall we included 18 projects on Roma issues in the database. These projects are mainly implemented by the local administration offices, Roma NGOs and the civic association at national and local levels. Very few of the Roma NGO's are capable of preparing the application for the EU or even the national projects. Without the help of local or independent organizations they find it difficult to prepare proposals, and then perform tasks and deal with their projects. Therefore most of the projects are the ones financed by the Polish Ministry and they are run directly by the office of municipality or other local official institutions. The local government units are of great importance for the realization of the objectives of Programmes for the Roma community, some tasks for example may be implemented only by local governments (eg. educational projects,

renovations). The reports on the projects are available on the internet. Some of them are nationwide including mass-media like for example the “ROMA – Jedni z wielu”.

Further, it has been included in the database of about 60 publications, reports, social events with Roma, exhibitions, festivals, and social debates. Most of the links are on the Roma issues, like health, education, employment, housing and living conditions, Roma scholarship, methods of work with Roma.

To the database, we also included data on existing Roma NGO's, community centers in Poland. There we noticed significant rotation in the Roma NGO's. Many of them are not reachable and apparently non active. However there some new organizations registering in quite a large numbers lately. In Poland the Roma minority is not too large, and besides, they live in considerable dispersion. So important are actions that are designed to integrate different minorities and the common occurrence of financial resources and participation in multicultural events. For example in Wroclaw and Krakow were created special organizations for all minorities. It aims to integrate national and ethnic minorities in the city and taking joint actions for minorities. We have also included international actions and meetings of Roma associations and institutions who are working with Roma. Most of those actions are organized with the Slovakian Roma institutions along the Polish-Slovakian border. They include the exchange of experiences but also a cultural events with presentation of Roma music and dances. There is one single television station that broadcast the special programme for Roma Białystok.

2.3 Overview of practical contacts

The practical contacts has been quite difficult as most of the potential responders have been reluctant to spend the time and take responsibility of expressing concrete opinion. The official institutions responsible for the relations with Roma feel great responsibility for the official statements. Fortunately MULTIKULTURA has been dealing with the Roma community in the last 10 years therefore we managed to arrange personal meetings with representatives of the local government responsible for the work with Roma community. Finally we contacted the two offices of the ministry of internal affairs and Ministry of Cyfryzation in Warszawa as well as two local government institutions: Plenipotentiary of Malopolska Voivode for National and Ethnic Minorities. They also work with NGOs and government agencies to help members of the Roma community especially to participate in the new project addressed by the local government. The agents help individual Roma to find a job, enroll in the education and increasing the level of integration of the Roma minority in society. We contacted initially about 50 institutions in order to complete the requested number of interviews. Poland managed also to contact 11 civic associations. We also managed to contact the local Roma NGOs. In the database, we included data on existing Roma NGOs, community centers in Poland. There we noticed significant rotation in the Roma NGOs. Many of them are not reachable and apparently non active. However there are some new organizations registering in quite a large numbers lately. In total MULTIKULTURA interviewed 36 people who work with Roma for completing the questionnaire.

3 RESULTS OF THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT ANALYSIS

General information

In the introductory part of the questionnaire (question 1) respondents indicated area or position in which they work. Overall, 38,8% (14) work as a field social worker, 30,55% (11) as staff of NGOs, 5,55% (2) indicated the position of teacher, representative of local government, community worker, employers (job center) and researcher and 2,77% (1) were Roma teacher's assistant (**Table 2**).

Table 2 Job title of respondents

Work of respondents	n	%
Field social worker	14	38,8%
Staff of NGOs working with the Roma	11	30,55%
Teacher	2	5,55%
Roma teacher's assistant	1	2,77%
Medical assistant	0	0%
Managing employer	0	0%
Representative of local government	2	5,55%
Community worker	2	5,55%
Roma mediator	0	0%
Employers (job centre)	2	5,55%
Researcher	2	5,55%

Table 3 shows the ages of individual respondents. The highest number of respondents 38,8% (14) were in the age group > 25 years and ≤ 35 years, 30,55% (11) were in the age group > 35 years and ≤ 45 years and 30,55% (11) were in the age group > 45 years.

Table 3 Age of respondents

Age of respondents	n	%
≤ 25 years	0	0%
> 25 years and ≤ 35 years	14	38,8%
>35 years and ≤ 45 years	11	30,55%
> 45 years	11	30,55%

Overall, 75% (27) of respondents were females and 25% (9) males (**Table 4**).

Table 4 Gender of respondents

Gender of respondents	n	%
Male	9	25%
Female	27	75%

Overall, 75% (27) of respondents have a university education and 25% (9) secondary education (Table 5).

Table 5 Educational level of respondents

Education of respondents	n	%
Primary education	0	0%
Secondary education	9	25%
University education	27	75%

The duration of work on Roma issues is shown in Table 6. Overall, 50% (18) of respondents work in the field of Roma issues > 5 years and ≤ 10 years, 25% (9) work on Roma issues > 1 year and ≤ 5 and also 25% (9) work on Roma issues < 10 years.

Table 6 Duration of work on Roma issues

How long respondents have been working in the field of the Roma issue?	n	%
0-1 year	0	0%
> 1 year and ≤ 5 years	9	25%
> 5 year and ≤ 10 years	18	50%
> 10 years	9	25%

The main topics related to the Roma community the respondent's organization deals with are shown in Table 7. The most frequent areas of action have been socio - economic area 25% (9), education of children 25% (9) and adult education 16,66% (6). Health was the object of respondents interest in 11,11% (4), employment in 11,11% (4), promoting integration in 8,33% (3) and 5,55% (2) of respondents deal with advice and consultancy for projects

Table 7 Main topics related to the Roma community is dealt with by respondent's organization

What topic related to the Roma community is dealt with by respondent's organization (association, club, subject, institution...)?	n	%
Health	4	11,11%
Socio - economic issues	9	25%
Socio - legal issues (guardianship, correctional facility)	0	0%
Education of children	9	25%
Adult Education	6	16,66%
Employment	4	11,11%
Promoting integration	3	8,33%
Advice and consultancy for projects	2	5,55%

Overall, 38,8% (14) of respondents indicated that their organization ≤ 5 employees, 35% (13) of respondents work in organization with > 10 employees working in direct contact with the Roma population, 25 % (9) indicated that the organization has a number of employees in the range > 5 and ≤ 10 employees (**Table 8**).

Table 8 The number of employees working in the organization

How many employees work in respondents organization who are in direct contact with the Roma population(association, club, entity, institution, ...)	n	%
≤ 5 employees	14	38,8%
> 5 employees and ≤ 10 employees	9	25%
> 10 employees	13	35%

In terms of length of action of organizations in the field of the Roma issue, 44,44% (16) of organizations has been active > 1 year and ≤ 5 years, 19,44% (7) has been active > 5 years and ≤ 10 , 19,44% (7) has been active > 10 years and reported 13,88% (5) that their organization has been active in the range 0 -1 year (**Table 9**).

Table 9 Number of years has the organization been active in the field of the Roma issue

How long has respondent's organization (association, club, entity, institution ...) been active in the field of the Roma issue?	n	%
0 -1 year	5	13,88%
>1 year and ≤ 5 years	16	44,44%
> 5 years and ≤ 10 years	7	19,44%
> 10 years	7	19,44%

The level does the organizations work at is presented in **Table 10**. Overall, 75% (27) of organizations is active at national level and 25% (9) at the local level.

Table 10 The level does the organization work at

What level does your organization work (association, club, subject, institution) at?	n	%
International level	9	25%
National level	27	75%

Respondents were asked to indicate which data sources they use. The most respondents 36,11% (13) use online information, 25% (9) use books and publications 16,66% (6) receives data through individual consultations, 11,11% (4) use the data through contacts with partners and professionals, and from other resources (**Table 11**).

Table 11 Sources of secondary data available at work

If respondents use secondary data during work, which sources do they obtain them from?	n	%
Contacts (networking) with partners and professionals	4	11,11%
Individual consultations	6	16,66%
Online information	13	36,11%
Books and publications	9	25%
Other	4	11,11%

Needs identification

Overall, 75% (27) of respondents considered the quality of the available data insufficient, 25% (9) indicated that the data are sufficient (**Table 12**).

Table 12 Quality of available data on Roma communities in general

What do respondents think about the quality of available data on Roma communities in general:	N	%
Sufficient	9	25%
Insufficient	27	75%
I cannot tell (I do not know)	0	0%

Respondents were asked to identify the availability of individual information at national and European level. Information about potential partners in their activities considered unavailable at the national level 88,88% (32) of respondents and at the European level 94,44% (34) of respondents. Contact details of community outreach workers found as available 94,44% (34) at national level, but at European level, 83,33% (30) found them as unavailable. Contact details of NGOs working with Roma communities considered available at the national level 83,33% (30) and at European level 94,44% (34) of respondents found them as unavailable. New legislation and the application of the rights of the Roma ethnic group considered unavailable 94,44% of respondents at national level and 77,77% (28) of respondents at European level. Unavailability of information about the activities of community workers at European level reported 94,44% (34) of respondents. The list of potential employers for the Roma population at the national level deemed unavailable 88,88% (32) and at European level 77,77% (28) of respondents. Lack of information about the possibilities of voluntary work with the Roma community at European level reported 69,44% (25) of respondents. Teaching materials and didactical tools at the national level deemed available 83,33% (30) but at European level, the same number of respondents found them unavailable. Lack of information on ongoing projects and programs focused on Roma at the national level reported 94,44% (34) of respondents and the lack of information at European level 83,33% (30) of respondents. Lack of information on completed projects and their effectiveness reported 83,33% (30) of respondents at European level. Unavailable information about examples of good practice at national level reported 88,88% (32) and at European level 77,77% (28) of respondents. Overview of all answers about the availability of information is presented in **Table 13**.

Table 13 Availability of information in terms of legislation, research, good practice and projects at national and European level

Respondents indicate which of the following information is available in terms of legislation, research, good practice and projects at national and European level.				
INFORMATION	National level		European level	
	YES	NO	YES	NO
Information about potential partners in your activities	4 (11,11%)	32 (88,88%)	2 (5,55%)	34 (94,44%)
Contact details of community outreach workers	34 (94,44%)	2 (5,55%)	6 (16,66%)	30 (83,33%)
Contact details of NGOs working with Roma communities	30 (83,33%)	6 (16,66%)	2 (5,55%)	34 (94,44%)
New legislation and the application of the rights of the Roma ethnic group	2 (5,55%)	34 (94,44%)	8 (22,22%)	28 (77,77%)
Contact details of the local representative of the Roma ethnic group	30 (83,33%)	6 (16,66%)	6 (16,66%)	30 (83,33%)
Information about the activities of community workers	34 (94,44%)	2 (5,55%)	2 (5,55%)	34 (94,44%)
List of potential employers for the Roma population	4 (11,11%)	32 (88,88%)	8 (22,22%)	28 (77,77%)
Information on the possibilities of improving conditions for residents in material distress	30 (83,33%)	6 (16,66%)	34 (94,44%)	2 (5,55%)
Information about the possibilities of voluntary work with the Roma community	34 (94,44%)	2 (5,55%)	6 (16,66%)	30 (83,33%)
Methods of work with the Roma community	30 (83,33%)	6 (16,66%)	11 (30,55%)	25 (69,44%)
Teaching materials and didactical tools	30 (83,33%)	6 (16,66%)	6 (16,66%)	30 (83,33%)
Information about the possibilities of coping with stressful situations while working with the Roma	2 (5,55%)	34 (94,44%)	11 (30,55%)	25 (69,44%)
Information on current legislation	30 (83,33%)	6 (16,66%)	11 (30,55%)	25 (69,44%)
Information on ongoing projects and programs focused on Roma	2 (5,55%)	34 (94,44%)	6 (16,66%)	30 (83,33%)
Information on obtaining financial support for the creation of projects and programs	30 (83,33%)	6 (16,66%)	8 (22,22%)	28 (77,77%)

Information on the possibilities of participation in international projects	32 (88,88%)	4 (11,11%)	11 (30,55%)	25 (69,44%)
Information on completed projects and their effectiveness	30 (83,33%)	6 (16,66%)	6 (16,66%)	30 (83,33%)
Examples of good practice	4 (11,11%)	32 (88,88%)	8 (22,22%)	28 (77,77%)
List of the most effective interventions in the field of Roma issues	2 (5,55%)	34 (94,44%)	11 (30,55%)	25 (69,44%)

Totally, 47,22% (17) of respondents indicated unavailable information about health status and 27,77% (10) indicated unavailable information about environment and housing conditions. Lack of information on socio-economic indicators such as education, income, employment consider unavailable 19,44% (7) of respondents and 5,55% of respondents reported unavailability of ongoing activities such as projects and programs. (**Table 14**).

Table 14 Lacking of information about Roma population

Which information is lacking in respondents work with the Roma population.	N	%
Demographics	0	0%
State of health	17	47,22%
Environment and housing conditions	10	27,77%
Socio-economic indicators (education, income, employment)	7	19,44%
Ongoing activities (implemented projects, programs and other)	2	5,55%

The **table 15** presents the areas that respondents defined as the biggest problems in terms of working with Roma issue. The most respondents, 77,77% (28) considered as the biggest problem problems in legislation, 69,44% (25) considered social acceptance problems and also Roma parents in school. The fact, that Roma have difficulties in finding the real causes of their problems reported 58,33% (21) of respondents, housing problems – crowded apartments consider as the problem 52,77% (19) of respondents and 50% (18) define as the problem problems in elementary school education and also lack of willingness to get out of poverty. Education of Roma children by their parents at home and breaking of law by the Romany found as a problem 41,66% of respondents and 27,77% (10) of respondents considered as the biggest problem education issue.

Table 15 The biggest problem in terms of working with Roma issue

The biggest problem in terms of working with Roma issue.	n	%
Problems in elementary school education	18	50%
Problems education	10	27,77%
Problems in legislation	28	77,77%
Social acceptance problems	25	69,44%
Housing problems – crowded apartments	19	52,77%
Roma parents in school	25	69,44%
Education of Roma children by their parents at home	15	41,66%
Braking of law by the Romany	15	41,66%
The Roma have difficulties in finding the real causes of their problems	21	58,33%
Lack of willingness to get out of poverty	18	50%

Requirements for the content and form of the online platform

In **Table 16**, there are presented projects, programs and strategies with the specification of area and focus, definition of specific groups and presentation of procedure, methods and tools, which respondents consider as examples of good practice and should be part of e-RR platform.

Table 16 The list of projects, programs and strategies as examples of good practice

Name of project / program / strategy	Focus / Area	Specific group	Procedure /Method /Tool
Roma rising Jedni z wielu www.facebook.com/jednizwielu	Roma in society	All Roma	Publication plus follow up Social campaign
Romowie w Polsce <a ,5"="" href="http://www.tolerancja.pl/?romowie-w-polsce,283">http://www.tolerancja.pl/?romowie-w-polsce,283",5	Social Tolerance	All Roma	Publication
Kalendarium http://jednizwielu.pl/romowie-w-polsce/artykuly-3/romowie-w-polsce-kalendarium	Roma in society	All Roma	Social campaign
http://mosplock.eu/portal/pl/etno-ferie-w-muzeum-mazowiec-kim-w-plocku.html	Roma Museum	Roma History	Event
Projekt Asystent edukacji romskiej http://mosplock.eu/portal/pl/projekt-asystent-edukacji-romskiej.html	Roma Education	Roma Adults	Social Action
Projekt Podręczniki i przybory szkolne dla uczniów romskich	Roma Education	Roma Children Education	Social Action

<p>przełamaniem bariery finansowej dla ukończenia szkoły http://mosplock.eu/portal/pl/projekt_asystent_edukacji_romskie_j.html</p>			
<p>Międzynarodowy Dzień Romów http://mosplock.eu/portal/pl/międzynarodowy_dzien_romow.html</p>	Kultural event	All Roma	Cultural Action
<p>Spotkania z kulturą romską – projekt socjalny http://mosplock.eu/portal/pl/spotkania_z_kultura_romska_pr_ojekt_socjalny.html</p>	Education	All people	Education and Culture
<p>ETNO FERIE w Muzeum Mazowieckim w Płocku http://mosplock.eu/portal/pl/etno_ferie_w_muzeum_mazowieckim_w_plocku.html</p>	Roma History in Poland	All People	Education and Culture
<p>Debata studencka – Lodołamacz Stereotypów http://mosplock.eu/portal/pl/debata_studencka_lodolamacz_stereotypow.html</p>	Social education and culture	All people	University Debate
<p>Romski weekend ze sztuką http://mosplock.eu/portal/pl/romski_weekend_ze_sztuka.html</p>	Culture of Polish Roma	All	
<p>http://mosplock.eu/portal/pl/przedzskole_jako_mozliwosc_zapewnienia_dzieciom_romskim_wlasnych_warunkow_prawidlowego_rozwoju_oraz_przygotowania_do_rozporzeczcia_nauki.html</p>	Roma Child care	Roma Children	Direct help line

Table 17 presents respondents recommendation and suggestions to the platform. Particular attention should be paid according to 83,33% (30) of respondents in ongoing activities (completed projects, programs, and more, 75% (27) reported employment issue, 69,44% (25) considered an important part of the platform information about education and training and also about on-line courses, 58,33% (21) would recommend discrimination issue, 55,55% (20) reported Contact details of institutions, 50% (18) legislation and according to the 41,66% (15) of respondents should be paid attention to demographics (**Table 17**).

Table 17 The areas to be included in e-RR platforms

Respondents recommendations and suggestions for making the platform	n	%
Demographics	15	41,66%
State of health	0	0%
Culture and History	0	0%
Social inclusion and equal opportunities	0	0%
Environment and living conditions	0	0%
Education and training	25	69,44%
Employment	27	75%
Discrimination	21	58,33%
Legislation	18	50%
Ongoing activities (completed projects, programs, and more)	30	83,33%
Contact details of institutions	20	55,55%
Other		
On-line courses	25	69,44%

In terms of form of the available information and presentence of platform, 69,44% (25) reported the form as interactive database, 58,33% (21) prefer documents and reports and also database of contact details of individual institutions, 41,66% (15) recommended videos, illustration, photography and also teaching aids. Press release report 27,77% (10) and 13,88% (5) prefer audio recording (**Table 18**).

Table 18 The form of the available information at e-RR platform

Form of the available information	n	%
Interactive database	25	69,44%
Videos	15	41,66%
Audio recording	5	13,88%
Documents (reports)	21	58,33%
Illustration, Photography	15	41,66%
Database of contact details of individual institutions	21	58,33%
Calendar of important activities	0	0%
Teaching aids	25	41,66%
Press Release	10	27,77%
Other Relate the data to other publications, data, reports, analysis.		

In the **Table 19**, there is respondents answer to usefulness of newly created platform through of scale (1-not useful at all; 5- very useful). The median was 3.

Table 19 Usefulness a newly created platform e-RR (1-not useful at all; 5- very useful)

Usefulness platform	
Median	Modus
3	3

4 MAIN FINDINGS

With the help of RR-Roma project MULTIKULTURA want to made it possible to document the conducted studies that could help the exchange of experiences and become a contribution to international research of all project partners.

Roma are one of the largest minority groups in Central Europe, at the same time probably the least-known social minority. Therefore, and in view of the still unfavourable situation of the Roma in Europe, it is important to know the Roma current situation with understanding their current economic condition, social, cultural, educational, and also with a reference to their history. The current RR-Roma project study by MULTIKULTURA relates to the economic, social and education of the Roma in Poland and neighbouring countries.

The studies of MULTIKULTURA presented the need that has arisen for continuation and extension of the study on the issue of the economic situation of the Roma in Europe with the application of the project website as a tool for gathering further information. This studies undertaken by Multikultura allows to document the actual state of art, which may help the exchange of experiences and become a contribution to international research or comparative work in all RR-Roma project partners countries. It would be very important to extend the project and continue the research with inclusion of a larger number of participating EU countries, especially to include the U.K. where the Roma greatly immigrate in the last decade. Our studies and actions should lead to the improvement of the knowledge on economic, social and education of the Roma in Europe. The project aims also to present information about the Roma without trying to create any attitudes towards persons belonging to this ethnic minority. Despite the growing number of studies concerning the Roma minority, knowledge about it is still insufficient to overcome stereotypes and prejudices.

Main findings:

MULTIKULTURA can in conclude gathered opinions of responders as following:

The Polish people relation to Roma:

- general fear of people of Roma
- frequent compliance before the actual contact with Roma
- historical prejudice against the Roma

Roma highlighting features such as:

- laziness
- aversion to education and language learning Polish
- arrogance
- high criminality among the Roma population
- life on the social benefits

At the same time there may be observe: discrimination against this ethnic group, often occurring within it unemployment, resentment Poles to support Roma in shops and restaurants, one of the respondents also spoke about attempts to send the Roma to the UK by the Polish government. It is also known that the statistical surveys, are greatly underestimate the number of Roma in Poland. The statistical surveys, are also greatly underestimate the number anti Roma actions in some parts of Poland. It all calls for awareness of the complexity of the problem of coexistence between Polish and Roma.

The latest action of the Polish government

To change the situation of the Roma minorities a special actions are taking place. For example in Gliwice, Nysa, Prudnik County Auschwitz and Tatra a special project „Roma in the labor market” was implemented within CIP EQUAL. A special research is now conducted on the situation of this group by the investigators and coordinators also by Roma associations. The report will be used to help develop educational activities and assistance: training, assistance in employment and self-employment. The action is intended to cover the entire country.

At this time in the context of the Association of Roma in Poland there has been activated employment agency which contacted the unemployed Roma with employment offices. With the increasing popularity there is also Romany Artistic Agency, in Gliwice authorities have promised that in the framework of the project „New Gliwice” Roma company or entrepreneur who would like to give the work to the people of that nationality, will be able to function in a business incubator.

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

According to our survey, the responders expect from the online platform to provide the Interactive information on the current state of the art of the Roma people in Poland.

The priorities for the platform are to include the information that relate to other publications, data, reports and analysis. Especially on the issues like Employment and Legislation. The responders recommend more information on demographics, database of contact details of individual institutions to assist Roma in job searching and information on current projects addressed to the Roma issues. Contact details of institutions Education and training. More access to the media with reports on validation of the rights of Roma, also presenting evidences of discrimination of the Roma. The website should also include the results of other EU projects like audiovisual documentation of the Roma festivals and cultural events. The references for the recommendations come from the implementation of the interviews with professionals and people involved in the work with Roma in Poland and from the following publications.

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