

# FRA Roma Survey 2021 & FRA Roma and Travellers Survey 2019: Surveying hard to reach groups

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## FRA's mandate

Council Regulation (EC) 168/2007

- to provide **assistance and expertise on fundamental rights issues** to the European Union institutions and the Member States, when they implement European Union law
- to collect, record, analyse and disseminate relevant, **objective, reliable and comparable information and data** on fundamental rights issues in the EU
- to promote **dialogue with civil society**, in order to **raise public awareness** of fundamental rights and actively **disseminate information about its work**

# FRA surveys collecting data on Roma in EU-Member States

	EU-MIDIS I	Roma pilot	EU-MIDIS II	Roma and Travellers survey 2019	Roma survey 2021
Year:	2008	2011	2015-16	2018-2019	2020-2021
Belgium				X	
Bulgaria	X	X	X		*
Croatia			X		X
Czech Republic	X	X	X		X
France		X		X	
Greece	X	X	X		X
Hungary	X	X	X		X
Ireland				X	
Italy		X			X
Netherlands				X	
Poland	X	X			
Portugal		X	X		X
Romania	X	X	X		X
Slovakia	X	X	X		*
Spain		X	X		X
Sweden				X	
United Kingdom				X	
Serbia					X
North Macedonia					X

## Objectives of the FRA Roma & Travellers' surveys

- A. Collect EU-wide comparable data on Roma & Travellers for relevant indicators
  - As a baseline for the EU Roma strategic framework for equality, inclusion and participation until 2030
  - To assess progress of the national Roma strategies 2020-2030
  - On non-discrimination and equality
  - To monitor the Sustainable Development Goals
- B. Refine survey methodologies for hard-to-reach populations
- C. Compare with the general population in EU-27
- D. Provide evidence based policy advise

## Hard-to-reach groups: Definitions

- 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: „leave no one behind“
- The term ‘hard-to-reach’, also refers to elusive populations, meaning populations for which – by virtue of their characteristics, or of the lack of suitable sampling frames, or difficulties in obtaining the required information – adequate data collections cannot be defined, drawn or implemented using the normal procedures of general population data collections. (Verma, 2013)

## Hard-to-reach groups: Challenges

Is the target population....

- hard to identify?
- hard to sample?
- hard to find or to contact?
- hard to persuade to take part?
- hard to interview?

Source: Tourangeau, R., Johnson, T., Bates, N. and Wolter, K. (Ed.) (2014).  
Hard-to-Survey Populations. Cambridge University Press

## ‘Roma & Travellers’ Council of Europe definition

The term “Roma & Travellers” encompasses the wide diversity of the groups covered by the work of the CoE :

- a) Roma, Sinti/Manush, Calé, Kaale, Romanichals, Boyash/Rudari;
- b) Balkan Egyptians (Egyptians and Ashkali);
- c) Eastern groups (Dom, Lom and Abdal); and,
- d) groups such as Travellers, Yenish, and the populations designated under the administrative term “Gens du voyage”, as well as persons who identify themselves as Gypsies.

For the purpose of the survey, the term ‘Roma & Travellers’ refers to persons who self-identify as such.

## A human rights based approach to data

**Doing no harm:** no data collection activity should create or reinforce existing discrimination, bias or stereotypes. Collected data should be used for the benefit of the groups they describe and society as a whole

### UN-OHCHR principles for data collection:

- Participation
- Disaggregation
- Self-identification
- Transparency
- Privacy
- Accountability





## Background research

- To establish contact with the communities and their representatives
- Which groups of target population can be surveyed and which not? (coverage)
- Which mode of data collection is possible/appropriate?
- To establish sampling frame and selection criteria
- Defines core elements for the questionnaire, including the appropriate name for the target population
- Collects necessary information for training, data collection and monitoring (eg. Incentives, supporting materials, interviewer)
- Identifies gaps and challenges
- Provides information on representativity and potential bias
- What can be reached with the budget available?

# Methods to include hard to reach groups in surveys

- Create trust **Participation is key!**
  - Get consent from the communities
  - Work with mediators and peer interviewers
  - Prepare survey and fieldwork materials with the respective groups (e.g. terminology!)
  - Introduce cultural and ethical awareness training
  - Research with the communities not about the communities
- Use proxy information when necessary, e.g. settlements, country of birth, minority language etc.
- Include question on self- and multiple identification

## Interviewer training on hard-to reach groups

Standard training plus training on how to:

- avoid judgemental and stereotyped thinking
- build trust, ensure confidentiality
- deal with suspicious respondents
- work with mediators
- interview about sensitive topics
- provide support to the respondents in case of emotional distress
- ensure safety of respondents and interviewers
- increase cultural awareness, e.g. Travellers training in Ireland

## Roma and Travellers Survey 2019

- *~ 4,700 face to face interviews in 6 Western European countries*
- *~ 12,900 household members*
- *Based on self identification*
- *Sample size: between 400 and 1500 interviews per country*
- *Participatory approach throughout the survey*
- *Probability and non-probability sampling*

Fieldwork implemented by Ipsos Mori

Scientific support: University of Siena



# Roma Survey 2021

- Coverage: Countries account for 87 % of Roma in the EU (CoE estimates)
- ~ 8,500 F2F interviews in 10 South and East European countries
- ~ 28,700 household members
- Based on self identification
- Participatory approach throughout the survey
- Probability sampling
- Fieldwork implemented by Kantar Brussels
- Implementation during COVID-19
- Scientific support: University of Siena

Country	Number of respondents
Croatia	519
Czechia	769
Greece	649
Hungary	1409
Italy	541
North Macedonia	519
Portugal	568
Romania	1695
Serbia	660
Spain	1132
TOTAL	8461

+ BG\* (BNSI)  
+ SK\*\* (SUSR)

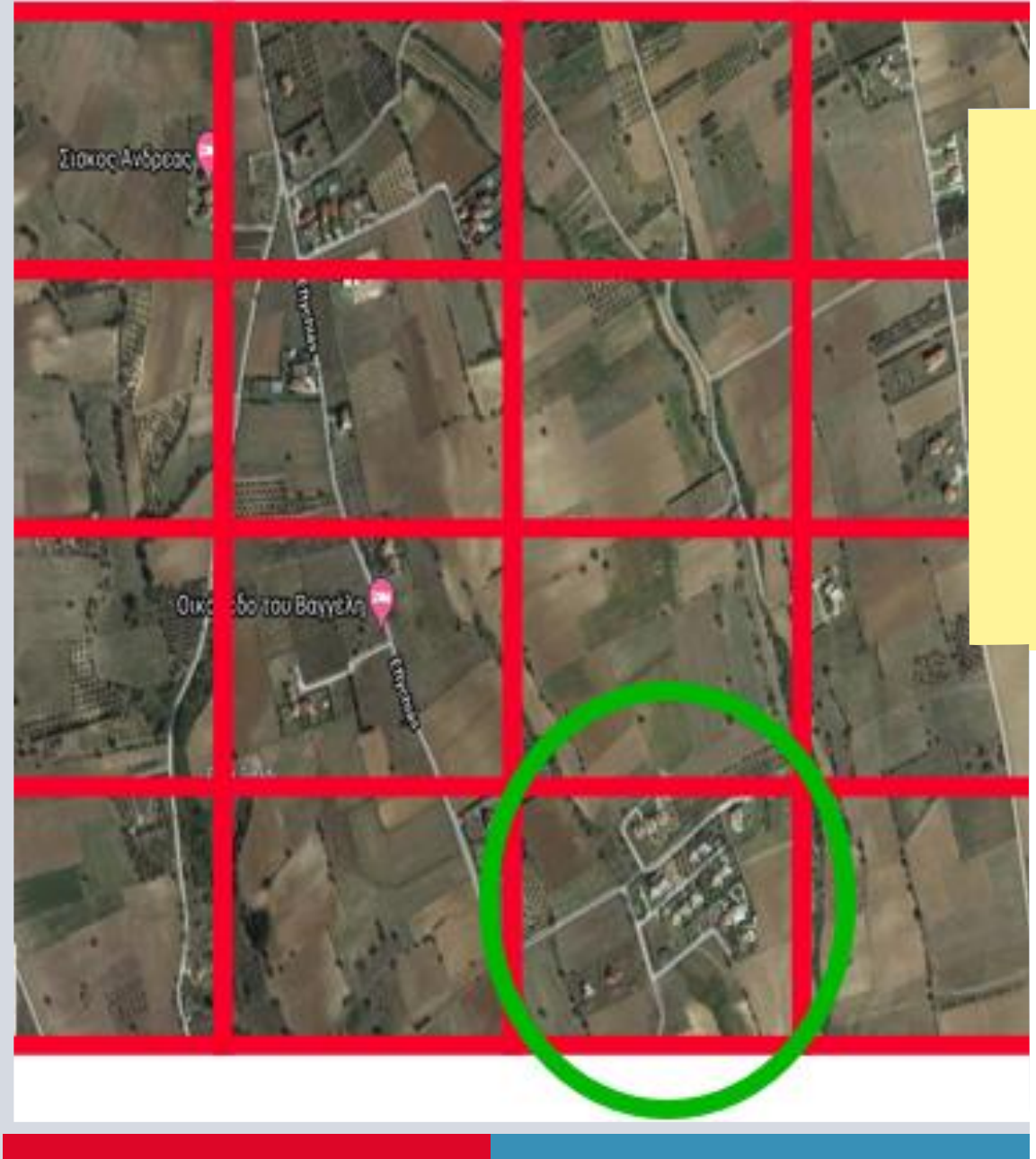
# Sampling Roma survey 2021

Sampling frame:

- Census 2011 – ethnicity question(s) – BG, CZ, HR, HU, RO updated by recent expert estimates/research
- National Roma mappings – SK, ES
- Expert estimates – EL, PT

Multi-stage sampling approach

- 1) Random selection of PSUs -> identification of area populated by TG ->
- 2) Random selection of SSUs
- 3) Selection of household: Random walk / Modified Adaptive Cluster Sampling
- 4) Within household selection of respondent  
-> **Self-identification**



# Sampling Roma and Travellers Survey 2019

Lack of or incomplete sampling frames:

- Mapping of halting sites for Travellers
- Mapping of municipalities for Roma

Multi-stage sampling approach

1) Random selection of PSUs -> identification of area populated by TG ->

2) Selection of household: Random walk

OR

Identification of municipalities and entry points with quota sampling and selection rules (IE random selection of PSUs first)

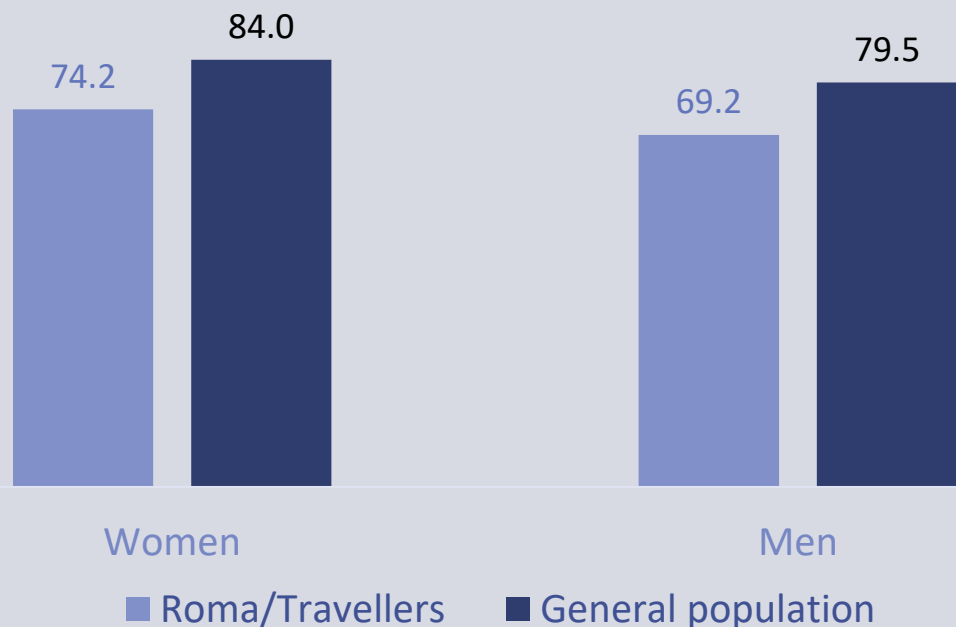
Target group	Household and respondent selection within the sampling units
BE Roma	Non-random (quota)
BE Travellers (Caravan dwellers)	Non-random (quota)
FR Travellers (Gens du voyage)	Random probability
IE Travellers	Non-random (quota)
NL Roma	Non-random (quota)
NL Travellers and Sinti	Random probability
SE Roma and Travellers	Non-random (quota)
UK Gypsies and Travellers	Random probability



## HEALTH

Life expectancy of Roma and Travellers is ~10 years lower than among the general population

Average life expectancy at birth in years, in six countries 2019



Luy, M. , Orphanhood method estimating mortality in FRA (2021), Roma and Travellers in six countries – Technical report, Luxembourg, Publications Office, Annex 3.

The EU Roma framework calls on Member States:

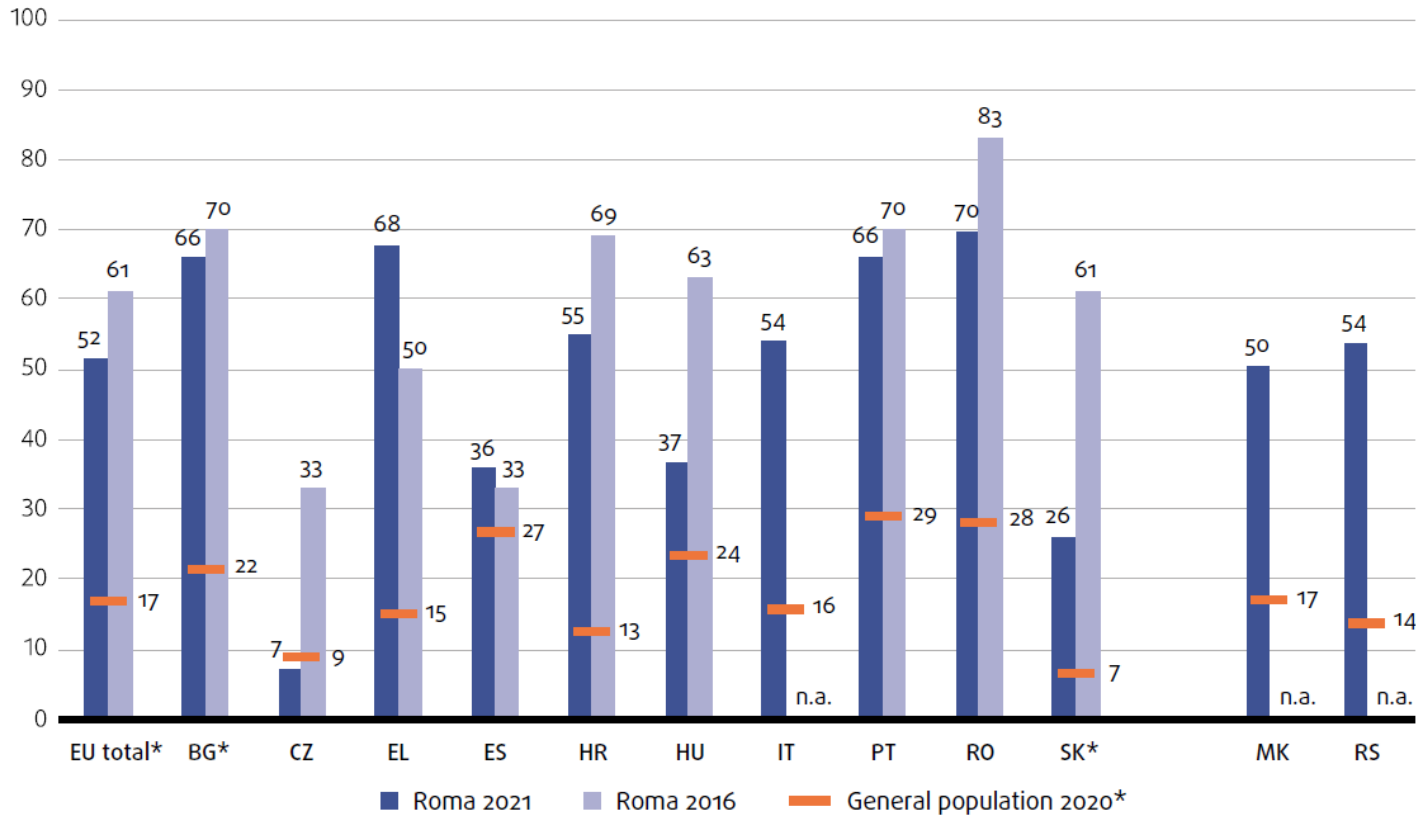
- cutting the life expectancy gap by at least half and for ensuring that by 2030 Roma women and men live 5 years longer.



# HOUSING DEPRIVATION

Some improvements in Roma housing conditions indicate that the EU targets could be reached by 2030. But many Roma still live in overcrowded conditions, making it more difficult to achieve this target.

FIGURE 23: PEOPLE LIVING IN HOUSING DEPRIVATION (%)<sup>a,b,c,d</sup>



The EU Roma framework calls on Member States:

- to reduce the gap in housing deprivation by at least one third and to ensure that the majority of Roma do not face housing deprivation by 2030.

## Data collection on Roma and Travellers - Lessons learned (1)

- **Surveys on very hidden population such as Roma and Travellers in Western European countries are doable!**
- Close **cooperation** with local Roma representatives / civil society plays crucial role in accessing Roma respondents (particularly in pandemic times)
- **Participation** to be expanded: Research teams, field coordination teams and interviewers to systematically include persons from the researched communities
- **National implementations** more flexible for necessary adaptations and robust to the impact of pandemic or other unexpected developments
- **National implementation** is demanding in terms of **balance** between national specificities and cross-country comparability

## Data collection on Roma and Travellers - Lessons learned (2)

- Diverging between sampling frames and reality leads to **large variance in weights** and requires further research – in-fieldwork adjustments, post-fieldwork adjustments
- Surveys are **interventions** beyond research: capacity building in regard to self-representation and empowerment as well as awareness raising
- **Methodology can be expanded** to other groups but requires tailoring to the population of interest.
- **Accountability** for data collection is higher on EU level with scope for improvement on national level

## Reports and links

### RTS 2019 Main results report

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2020/roma-travellers-survey>

### RTS 2019 technical report

[fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra\\_uploads/fra-2020-roma-travellers-six-countries\\_en.pdf](fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2020-roma-travellers-six-countries_en.pdf)

### RS 2021 Main results report

[https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra\\_uploads/fra-2022-roma-survey-2021-main-results2\\_en.pdf](https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2022-roma-survey-2021-main-results2_en.pdf)

### RTS 2021 technical report

[fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra\\_uploads/fra-2020-roma-travellers-six-countries\\_en.pdf](fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2020-roma-travellers-six-countries_en.pdf)

### Commission's guidance notes on equality data collection

[https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/combating-discrimination/equality-data-collection\\_en](https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/combating-discrimination/equality-data-collection_en)

# Thank you!

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