

Roma health newsletter

Published by the WHO Regional Office for Europe in cooperation with the European Commission – Directorate-General for Health and Consumers and the Interuniversity Institute of Social Development and Peace at the University of Alicante, Spain (WHO Collaborating Centre on Social Inclusion and Health)



Issue 8 – September 2014

Welcome to the eighth issue of the Roma health newsletter. The newsletter is divided into:

- events
- resources and reports
- professional opportunities
- issues in focus/feature
- research

EVENTS

[Integrating migrant and ethnic minority users' perspectives in health care governance: strategies, measurement and impact](#)

8–9 May 2014, Lisbon, Portugal

The meeting, held at the University Institute of Lisbon (ISCTE-IUL), discussed strategies to include migrants and ethnic minorities in health participatory fora. It was organized in the context of the European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST) action “Adapting European health systems to diversity”.

[European Forum for Primary Care working group on Roma health](#)

1–2 September 2014, Barcelona, Spain

The working group provides a platform for regular exchange between health providers on the health of Roma, develops information material and training of practitioners in a Roma sensitive approach to health services provision, and contributes to the agenda for further studies on Roma health. A [position paper](#) provided guidance for the meeting discussion.

[Annual meeting of the Gypsy Lore Society and Conference on Romani Studies](#)

11–13 September 2014, Bratislava, Slovakia

The Institute of Ethnology at the Slovak Academy of Sciences held this annual meeting, including a session on social welfare and social policies addressing health policy and Roma participation.

[Decade of Roma Inclusion 27th International Steering Committee meeting](#)

29–30 September 2014, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

This meeting will present the priority areas of the Decade Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, including the security and health of Roma women. It will also continue the discussions on the future of the Decade after 2015 and introduce the revised Terms of Reference, drafted by the Decade of Roma Inclusion Secretariat Foundation (Decade Secretariat) after consultations with participating governments and key stakeholders. The meeting will conclude with a field trip to a Roma settlement in Sarajevo.

[High-level conference on Roma inclusion on the ground – the ROMACT experience](#)

2–3 October 2014, Brussels, Belgium

The European Commission – in cooperation with the Council of Europe – has convened a high-level international conference to take stock of progress and lessons learnt in integrating Roma at the local level with the support of the ROMACT programme. This event will bring together more than 400 participants from more than 30 countries representing public authorities at the European Union (EU), national and local levels, international institutions and other stakeholders. Mayors and elected representatives from Roma communities can exchange information about successes and challenges in integrating marginalized Roma.

[19th annual Grantmakers East Forum \(GEF\)](#)

8–10 October 2014, Palermo, Italy

This interactive event brings together grantmakers to promote development of civil society. This year's topic on migration and mobility will feature a session dedicated to [Roma migration – an option of last](#)

[resort](#) in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Regional Service Centre, Istanbul, Turkey. GEF provides a platform to discuss grantmaking efforts, and to inspire and encourage new donor activity.

[Symposium on healthy ageing of Roma communities](#)

27–29 October, Pécs, Hungary

The University of Pécs Medical School in partnership with the WHO Regional Office for Europe and in coordination with the WHO Country Office, Hungary will organize and host a European-level symposium, entitled Healthy Ageing of Roma Communities: Endowers – Realities – Perspectives. It will provide a scientific forum to exchange experience in promoting the health of Roma populations at community level, in accordance with [Health 2020](#) and the new strategic goal of the European Commission concerning healthy ageing.

[Workshop on how to improve health of the Roma at the 7th European Public Health Conference](#)

19–22 November 2014, Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom

During the European Public Health Conference on “Mind the gap: Reducing inequalities in health and health care”, the Open Society Institute is organizing a workshop on “How to improve health of the Roma? Challenges and interdisciplinary promises”. Results from research initiatives, such as [SOPHIE](#) (part of the European Commission’s Seventh Framework Programme for Research) and [HepaMeta](#), will be presented.

[“Health Mediation and the Roma”, second workshop and study visit](#)

November 2014, Belgium and France

The second workshop and study visit in the context of the Regional Pilot Intervention on “Health Mediation and the Roma” will take place in Belgium and France. The event is part of the EQUI HEALTH action, co-funded by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the European Commission (EC)

RESOURCES AND REPORTS

[Roma health report](#)

This report, commissioned by the European Commission, provides an evidence-based review of literature (2008–2013) on the health of the Roma population in Europe, including lifestyle attributes and access and use of health services, with a particular focus on countries with large Roma populations and on the health status of the migrant Roma. It also provides an overview on Member States’ activities in data collection and development of specific surveys that monitor the progress in implementing the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies.

[Health in the 2014 national Roma integration strategies](#)

The European Public Health Alliance summarized information about the health component of the national Roma integration strategies of each of the EU Member States and published them in this report.

[Diagnostics and policy advice for supporting Roma inclusion in Romania](#)

This World Bank report assesses the exclusion faced by Romanian Roma families and identifies policy recommendations that focus on the most effective areas of intervention. The most important recommendation for health is to ensure adequate early child and maternal health standards (chapter 5).

[Decade of Roma Inclusion intelligence report](#)

With the support of the Open Society Foundations and UNDP, the Decade Secretariat implemented the Decade Intelligence project to understand what does and does not work for Roma inclusion. [Information](#) was collected on 314 projects implemented during the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005–2015. Then, 42 projects were analyzed to provide lessons on how to continue Roma inclusion more successfully.

[New civil society monitoring reports published](#)

Between 2013 and 2014, the Decade Secretariat and OSF supported reports from civil society organizations on the implementation of national Roma integration strategies and Decade action plans in eight countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, France, Germany, Italy, Montenegro, Serbia and the United Kingdom. Each report devotes a chapter to the impact of targeted and mainstream policies on the health of Romani citizens. In this programme’s pilot year, 2012, [reports](#) from Albania, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Spain and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia were supported. These reports provide additional data to official ones, proxy data where no official data exist, or alternative interpretations of published data.

[Launch of the UNDP analytical paper: “Roma Poverty from Human Development Perspective”](#)

The paper, authored by Andrey Ivanov and Justin Kagin, to be launched on 1 October 2014 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, is the latest analytical paper from the UNDP’s Roma Inclusion Working Papers series. It builds on the collective work of many researchers, policy-makers and activists involved in UNDP Regional Centre interventions, promoting an integrated approach to the realization of the human development potential of Roma. This paper departs from the standard approach to poverty (focusing solely on poverty rates) by proposing a multidimensional poverty index as a measure that better reflects the challenges Roma are facing.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

[OSF grants, scholarships and fellowships](#)

The Open Society Foundations (OSF) supports a range of projects and programmes around the world, including initiatives to counter xenophobia and other projects to promote the social inclusion of Roma in central and eastern Europe. Grants, scholarships and fellowships are awarded throughout the year.

[Grants for Romani studies available](#)

Early career researchers are invited to apply for grants to attend scientific events including conferences, seminars and workshops. Applicants must be members of the European Academic Network on Romani Studies. Applications should be submitted at least six weeks prior to the event.

ISSUES IN FOCUS/FEATURE

[Regional support facility for greater Roma inclusion](#)

This project provides governments, civil society and other stakeholders with the operational support needed to build capacity for Roma inclusion, and ensures that activities are aligned with the EU’s [10 Common Basic Principles on Roma Inclusion](#). It is implemented by UNDP, with the support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, in the western Balkan candidate and potential candidate countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

RESEARCH

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[Central European Journal of Public Health 2014 Supplement on Roma Health](#)

This journal issued a supplement in March 2014 on “HepaMeta – Prevalence of Hepatitis B/C and Metabolic Syndrome in Population Living in Separated and Segregated Roma settlements”, which finds a link between socioeconomic status and morbidity in Roma people of eastern Slovakia. The issue contains 13 research papers and one editorial.

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