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Project  
e-Roma Resource

# CURRENT STATE OF ART AND NEEDS ASSEEMENT

## NATIONAL REPORT



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## 1 INTRODUCTION

The main objective of the e-RR project is to stimulate, disseminate and exchange the results and materials in the field of the inclusion of Roma into various spheres of social life. The consortium of partners builds an international web education and information platform which will provide information for educators, teachers, adult educators, social workers, health care providers, project designers, experts in particular fields, adult Roma, and Roma pupils.

The National Report on the implementation of the research on the needs of the e-RR Platform contents in Slovenia is a document which serves as a basis for the preparation of a transnational report, i.e. the joint report which will be drawn up according to national reports of individual partner countries participating in the project (Slovenia, Croatia, France, Poland and Slovakia).

The first part of the national report introduces the results of the state-of-the-art in Slovenia and includes the description of the current situation of Roma in the country, the review of source availability and the review of useful contacts. The second section represents the results of the needs assessment analysis, i.e. the results gathered on the basis of controlled interviews with experts working with the Roma target group. The last part of the report states the main findings of the research of the current situation and needs assessment as well as recommendations for the content of the web platform on the basis of the acquired information.

The research of the current situation and needs assessment is the most important part of the project which refers to all work sets, with the main focus on the implementation of the web platform. The national report represents the basis and reference framework for the development of a better structured web platform with the transnational role for all project partners, while it could also be used as a support for the regional approach, based on the specifics of Slovenia.

## 2 RESULTS OF THE SITUATION ANALYSIS

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

The Roma community in the Republic of Slovenia is a constitutionally recognised minority. Despite not having the status of a classic national minority, it is specifically referred to as a minority in the Constitution and is provided with special legislative protection. It is recognised as a minority with its own ethnic and cultural characteristics (own language, culture and history) which it preserves pursuant to the constitutional provisions. In this regard, their expressed needs are observed.

The legal basis for regulating the situation of the Roma community in the Republic of Slovenia is Article 65 of the Constitution which lays down that the position and special rights of the Roma community living in Slovenia are being governed by the law. Thus, the legal bases were established for the protective measures. The adoption of the Roma Community Act in the Republic of Slovenia caused the consistent implementation of the constitutional provision (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 33/2007). In addition, the protection of the Roma community is also integrated into other acts. Apart from the acts, the care for implementation of special rights of the Roma community and improvement of the situation of the Roma community is integrated into numerous programmes, strategies and resolutions in individual social areas.

At the European and national level, the Roma community is considered as an ethnical group, a minority which is facing the most severe existential problems and is for this reason given special status. The Roma community is as minority in all environments most frequently a victim of social exclusion, discrimination, segregation and poverty. The special status is also based on the fact that this is a minority without its own country which would take care for it as it is the case in the case of Italian and Hungarian national minority in the Republic of Slovenia or the Slovenians abroad. The Republic of Slovenia is one those European countries which integrates Roma into the administration of public matters at the local level. Apart from the general right to vote as being the Slovenian citizen, the members of the Roma community in twenty municipalities where Roma are historically present also have a special right to vote at the local elections which provides them to elect the Roma councillor from the special list of eligible Roma voters. Today, Roma exercise the right to elect representatives in the municipal councils of the municipalities in the area of which they traditionally reside in 19 out of 20 municipalities laid down by law.

#### Demographic data

Pursuant to the applicable legislation in the field of the protection of personal data, the ministries and governmental offices and competent institutions do not keep special personal registers on the basis of ethnicity or nationality. Thus, the data on their number is acquired only from the official census registers regulated by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia.

In the census in 2002, 3,246 citizens declared themselves as the members of the Roma community, while 3,834 persons stated the Roma language as their mother tongue. Compared to the census data from 1991, where the data indicates that 2,259 citizens declared themselves as

Roma, i.e. 30.5% less than in the 2002 census, while 2,752 persons stated the Roma language as their mother tongue, i.e. 28.2% less than in 2002 (General information on the Roma ethnic community in the Republic of Slovenia, 2006, p. 1).

According to the Centers for Social Work for I. 2008 (Urh, 2009, p. 85) and the 2002 Census regarding the number of Roma in Ljubljana (Hrženjak et al., 2008, p. 30), there is 10.961 of Roma people in Slovenia, in the following municipalities: 61 in Brežice, 707 in Črnomelj, 210 in Grosuplje, 505 in Kočevje, 350 in Krško, 449 in Lendava, 218 in Ljubljana, 3.000 in Maribor, 285 in Metlika, 3500 in Murska Sobota, 1.250 in Novo Mesto, 126 in Ribnica and 300 in Trebnje.

Despite the official census data, it is estimated that between 7,000 and 10,000 Roma people live in the Republic of Slovenia; the majority in Prekmurje, Dolenjska region, Bela Krajina and Posavje.

The general display of the unemployment of Roma indicate the Roma concentration in several areas, especially in Prekmurje and Dolenjska, which is also considered as the regional issue.

Due the historical destiny and other circumstance, there are differences between Roma in Slovenia which are based on the tradition, specific way of living as well as the level of socialisation and integration into the environment. In terms of the issues it is confronted with in Slovenia especially in relation to some essential existential areas, the Roma community in Slovenia could be given the category of the most exposed group to discrimination on the basis of national and ethnic origin.

The historical sources mention Roma in the territory of the present Slovenia already in the 15th century. From the 17<sup>th</sup> century on, the data related to the Romani people occur more often and are also found in the civil register. The studies show that the settlement of Roma in Slovenian territory took three different routes: The Roma ancestors, who live in the Prekmurje region (NE Slovenia), arrived through the Hungarian territory, the group of Roma from the Dolenjska region (SE Slovenia) came through Croatia, while small groups of Sinti coming from the north through the current Austria settled in the Gorenjska region. Despite initially being a predominantly nomadic community, often moving from one settlement to the other, today we recognise rounded areas of settlement in Prekmurje, the Dolenjska region, Bela Krajina and Posavje. In these areas, the Roma people are considered as a traditionally settled population which is still preserved in a more or less permanent settlement.

### **Educational structure and integration into the education programmes**

The data on the educational structure of the members of Roma community indicate low educational structure of the Roma community members, since the majority of them have not finished the elementary school (more than 65 percent of the Roma community members, out of which 60 percent of men and 70 percent of women (data of the Population Census 2002 and General information on the Roma ethnic community in the Republic of Slovenia, 2006).

In the 2007/08 school year, there were 1,658 Roma pupils attending the elementary schools. There are no homogenous departments with only Roma children.

In the scope of the PISR project (Vocational information and guidance for Roma) the extensive study on the educational and vocational interests of Roma was carried out in 2006. The surveyed population included the economically active Roma from the areas of Dolenjska, Bela Krajina, Posavje, Kočevje and Grosuplje. The study was conducted on the sample of 774 Roma between 15 and 45 years of age.

It showed that 80 percent of respondents did not finish the elementary education and only 0.6 percent has completed vocational or secondary education. Over 90 percent of the respondents were unemployed, 45 percent of them expressed their willingness to integrate into the vocational education, although they saw several obstacles and problems in this respect.

The PISR study showed that 60 percent of Roma in the area of survey are satisfied with their situation and do not wish to get educated or employed. This represents a true challenge for Roma and the experts in their efforts to provide better integration of Roma in the educational programmes as a mandatory prerequisite for their successful integration and solving of their marginal status in the society.

In 2004, Slovenia adopted the document Strategy of the Education of the Roma Population in the Republic of Slovenia (hereinafter referred to as: Strategy), which lays down the starting-points, principles, objectives and basic solutions for the successful integration of Roma into the education and schooling at all levels.

The following activities were conducted in the past years:

- The optional subject the Roman culture was adopted;
- The vocational standard - Roma assistant was adopted;
- Programmes of intercultural co-existence were annually prepared and carried out (The Roma Union of Slovenia);
- The materials were published in the Roma language;
- Expert consultations on the topic of successful integration of Roma pupils into the system of education and schooling were carried out;
- Seminars for teachers in the scope of the advanced professional education are carried out on the annual basis;
- The network of schools is established which includes the Roma pupils with the purpose of exchanging experience, good practices, etc. (The National Education Institute of the Republic of Slovenia, Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Vocational Education and Training”.

### **The unemployment issue of the members of Roma community in Slovenia**

Among the fundamental issues of the integral social integration of Roma, there is the question of their employment which is not only a mandatory condition for providing the basic existential possibilities, but also one of the basic conditions for improving their entire socio-economic position.

The problems in the field of employment of Roma and their role in the labour market have certain specifics in Slovenia:

1. there are no accurate registers on the number of the unemployed Roma, since they are not entered in the unemployment register as members of the Roma community. This type of data can be acquired only with the assistance of typical Roma surnames and personal acquaintance of clients which distorts the data accuracy;
2. in September 2009, the Slovenian Employment Service (hereinafter referred to as: Service) had 2,193 registered entries of Roma, i.e. 2.5 percent of all registered unemployed persons in the Republic of Slovenia. The number of Roma is an estimate, since the Service registers only those who so approve;
3. certain types of social aids, which could be attained by the citizens of Slovenia, are legally bound to the status of the unemployment of the recipients of these aids, which is proved with the registry at the Service. Thus, the persons are also registered at the Service who are not necessarily looking for a job, but are registered only to exercise social rights; there is a significant share of Roma in this group.
4. the general display of the unemployment of Roma indicate the Roma concentration in several areas, especially in Prekmurje and Dolenjska, which is also considered as the regional issue. The educational structure of Roma is actually really poor – the 98.2 percent of Roma in the area of Dolenjska did not finish the elementary education, while this value in the Prekmurje is around 90 percent. The number of registered unemployed Roma is over the years increasing in the absolute and relative number. According to the information of regional offices and labour services where the unemployed Roma are registered, some employers actually have negative attitude towards Roma. Nevertheless, the main reason of a high unemployment rate of Roma remains their very low educational structure. Such educational structure offers relatively small possibilities of the acquisition or keeping a job.

Also among Roma themselves there are differences. A small part is already very well integrated into the environment of the majority population and at the same time preserves their cultural, language characteristics (Roma who mainly live in the north-east part of Slovenia, where the projects of social partnership are being successfully developed), while a larger part still lives segregated in the scope of their communities and have more problems in integrating into the other environment. The exclusion from the equal competitiveness options in the labour market is constantly pushing them to the social periphery.

In the past years, the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs conducted numerous programmes in the field of labour market and employment. These were aimed at the target population of the unemployed Roma (National Programme of Measures for Roma of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the period 2010-2015, p. 18):

- “Roma and unemployment in Pomurje”;
- “Equal employment opportunities for Roma – Our common challenge” (2012);

- The project "Development of models for educating and training of Roma with the purpose to increase the regular employments";
- The Phare programmes for Roma;
- Two development partnerships were financed in the scope of the EQUAL Community Initiative: The development partnership Roma Employment Centre and the development partnership Roma Education-Information Centre;
- Transboundary social partnership MEDIATOR – the Interreg III A programme;
- Programmes of active employment policy which also included the programmes of employment of Roma (still conducted);
- National programmes of community work (still conducted).

The measures of the employment policy adopted for every calendar year of planning period separately, define the types of programmes and target groups of the unemployed (also Roma) who can join in.

### **Living conditions and arrangement of the Roma settlements**

The majority of Roma is still living in the settlements which are isolated from the rest of the population or on the outskirts of the populated areas in the conditions below minimum living standards. Some of them live in the constructed residential houses, apartments, while the majority dwells in temporary lodgings, huts, residential containers, caravans, etc. Only a small part of Roma lives together with the majority population (mainly in Prekmurje) and has reached a sufficient level of socialisation and integrated into the environment and society.

Nevertheless, the Roma families have problems with socialisation and integration into the environment due to the unregulated living conditions. In many cases, they have no right of residence, which causes some settlements to be illegal, built on the property of others.

Unregulated living conditions represent the starting point for several other issued or problems with which the Roma community is faced with, especially in terms of achieving sufficient level of education, vocational qualifications, level of information, access to health and social care services, employment and participation in various spheres of public life.

On the basis of different analyses, the assessment of the situation of the Roma settlements in the area of the Republic of Slovenia is as follows:

- only a fourth of the Roma settlements has the opportunity of a relatively quick integration and further organisation of the infrastructure and establishment of legal statuses;
- approximately one third of the settlements have a solid opportunity to be legally regulated at the existing locations after the execution of formal actions (e.g. change in the use of land);
- according to the available data, approximately one third will be facing considerable problems in legalising their residential conditions;
- relocation is an optimum and even the only solutions for about 10% of the settlements according to their location.

In terms of the location, external appearance, architecture, sanitation and equipment, the Roma population is faced with the following problems:

- inappropriate, limited or very poor sanitary and infrastructural equipment;
- lack of living space due to the limited possibilities for the expansion of settlements;
- lack of space for some forms of commercial activities.

Note: Detailed data on the Roma settlements in terms of the spatial aspect are included in the Report of the expert group for solving spatial issues in Roma settlements entitled Spatial issued in the Roma settlements in Slovenia which was drawn up in Autumn 2007.

### Health status of the Roma population in Slovenia

The Roma population is considered a socially disadvantaged group of population or a group with the increased health risks. Socio-economic factors (living environment, social networks, education, employment) and factors related to the healthy lifestyle (smoking, drug abuse, unhealthy diet, physical activity) have an impact on the health and inequality determinants in the health of the Roma population. All factors are interwoven and affect the health of the Roma population (Roma and health: National conference publications, 2010).

The characteristics of the majority of the Roma population are the shorter life period (10 years shorter than the majority population in average), a great number of diseases and infections caused by poor residential and economic conditions, frequent pregnancies and miscarriages, chronic pulmonary diseases of small children and a noticeably higher level of physical and intellectual handicaps.

According to the Institutes of Public Health Ljubljana and Novo Mesto, which cover the areas of the Municipality of Kočevje and the Municipality of Novo Mesto, and on the basis of the statistical data of institutions and offices operating in the scope of the health care system (community health centres, home care services) it is established that the Roma population still does not participate in or insufficiently joins in the various prevention forms of health care and is using the health care too often, especially during the health duty services.

The health of Roma, due to the specifics of the Roma population, depends only from the public health care, as compared to other groups of population. In addition to the particularities of the Roma culture and tradition, which is occasionally still following old practices of natural and magic healing, their health also depends on the improvement of residential and living conditions, hygiene conditions, employment and higher social security, as well as education and schooling. Thus, it would be necessary to also always observe the impact on the health of the Roma population in their planning and implementation. Institutions and office which operate at the local/regional level, municipalities and Roma representatives have to also participate in the planning and implementation of measures.

The Ministry of Health expects the increase of relevant activities for raising the awareness of the public on the necessity of solving the problems which the Roma are faced with in all segments of a society.

### **Awareness-raising and anti-discrimination campaign**

The discrimination is still very much present in the society, and the members of the Roma community are also their victims. The most frequent reasons for the discrimination are stereotypes and prejudices, poor information on the social groups exposed to discriminations, fear of the unknown, and aspirations for exceeding the feeling of self-inferiority. Marginalisation and social exclusion of individual groups, which can be passed from the generation to generation, are the results of the discrimination. Not only that it has a negative impact on the discriminated person or group, but also affects the whole society by causing inequalities and weakening its integral structure.

The experience in the work with the members of the Roma society has shown that the endeavours of state authorities and municipalities are not successful enough, if Roma themselves are not actively integrated in these activities.

Despite the fact that the Republic of Slovenia stimulates and financially supports the activities directed into the awareness-raising of the public on the Roma culture and language with the purpose of encouraging the information and publishing activities of the Roma society, it has not formed clear and efficient measures which would be devised for the majority as well as the Roma population with the aim of bringing these two groups together and eliminating the prejudices and stereotypes in both respective groups.

In this regard, the Republic of Slovenia pursues the respective objectives through the media and also via the public calls for tenders of the Government Office for Nationalities.

The Roma programmes are a regularity the national radio and television scheme („ the Roma radio show “Naše poti – Amare droma” and the “So vakeres? - Kaj govoriš?” on the television), while the Roma information centre ROMIC, which acquired the radio frequency, is also operating successfully.

Through the public call for tenders, the Government Office for Nationalities of the Republic of Slovenia supports the operation of the Roma associations in the field of the preservation and strengthening of the identity of the members of the community, mutual integration and cooperation of various parts of the community, awareness-raising and campaign against discrimination and intolerance, and in the area of information activities, and also stimulates the preparation and broadcasting of the Roma radio shows in terms of a balanced presentation of the Roma issues from the various aspects (from the aspect of Roma, majority population, national organisations, the state, local communities, international public, expert public), consolidation and preservation of national, language and cultural identity of Roma, integration of Roma into the preparation and broadcasting of shows, influence on the majority population in terms of (higher) tolerance towards Roma and their values and stimulation of Roma to respect the values of the majority population (Third Report of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia on the situation

of the Roma community in Slovenia —Report on the Implementation of the Roma Community Act in the Republic of Slovenia (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 33/2007) and the National Measures Programme for the Roma of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the 2010-2015 period, p. 14).

For many years now, the Slovenian Police carries out the training of police officers for work in the multicultural communities under the verified programme “Awareness of stereotypes, dealing with the prejudices and preventing the discrimination in a multicultural community with the special focus laid on the work with the members of the Roma community. The upgrade of the basic training is the learning the basics of the language and culture, in this case the language of two Roma dialects. In the scope of the programme, workshops of prevention content are also conducted with the aim to familiarise the community with the positive legislation. The good practice of the Police was also carried over to other civil servants whose work includes dealing with the members of the Roma community; thus, a series of trainings for employees in the elementary schools, social care centres, employment services was implemented in the 2010-2013 period. These activities will be expanded in the upcoming years (Third Report of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia on the situation of the Roma community in Slovenia —Report on the Implementation of the Roma Community Act in the Republic of Slovenia (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 33/2007) and the National Measures Programme for the Roma of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the 2010-2015 period, p. 14).

In 2013, the Police started to implement activities related to the “SKUPA-K” project which is focusing on the support of national activities in the discrimination campaign and spurring the equality. The main objective of the “SKUPA-J” project is to raise the awareness of the public servants, Roma and wider public in order to overcome obstacles and improve the quality of co-existence (Third Report of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia on the situation of the Roma community in Slovenia —Report on the Implementation of the Roma Community Act in the Republic of Slovenia (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 33/2007) and the National Measures Programme for the Roma of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the 2010-2015 period, p. 15).

### **Options of integration and cultural activities of Roma**

Through its special programme, the Ministry of Culture supports cultural activities of the Roma community in Slovenia. The Roma projects have been a part of the special programme of the Ministry of Culture since 1993. First, they were drawn up by the Association of Cultural Organisations of Slovenia), joined in by the Roma Association of Slovenia in 1997. Individual Roma societies registered Roma projects since 2000 (if they meet the criteria), while from 2006 also the individual artists may apply - members of the Roma ethnic minority.

Since the relatively small number of professional workers and artists is constantly considered as a problem of the minorities, i.e. also the Roma minority, the opportunity offered by the European structural funds also for the training and employment (also self-employment) of Roma in the cultural sector and the people who want to get trained and employed in preservation and development of the Roma culture is very much welcomed.

## 2.2 Overview of the resources availability

This chapter presents the basic review of the existing web pages, programmes, initiatives and activities of the project for preparation of the support environment for professional workers dealing with Roma on the daily bases, and also the review of the foundations, associations, governmental and non-governmental institutions with the aim to deal with the Roma issue in Slovenia.

All the above-mentioned information has to be collected at the Slovenian level. Reliable sources of information are as follows:

- reports on the current situation in the field of the Roma issues prepared by the local authorities, national and international institutions, governmental and non-governmental organisations;
- policies, acts and legislation;
- available literature, web projects, institutions, foundations, associations;
- grey literature.

The search by electronic sources was simplified through the application of key words and search engines, such as Google, Bing, Yahoo and data bases, such as PUMBED; MEDLINE, etc.

A special tool (Excel data base) was developed for a more efficient and systematic collection and cataloguing of data which facilitates the assessment of the current situation in the field of work with Roma. The data was entered into individual lines according to the defined specifications. This resulted in the improvement of the efficiency of results of our project. All the entered data can be filtered by using the preliminary set Excel filters. The Excel data base is attached to this report (Annex 1).

We have managed to collect 320 different forms of media (project results, publications, movies, reports, contributions, diploma papers, articles, shows, regulations, etc.) at the local, regional, national and international level.

The of diploma papers are in the majority since we have found links to 75 papers, published on the web pages; the majority of them (58) deals with the situation of Roma in Europe and Slovenia in all areas of social life, in the field of the education of Roma and establishes the solutions. Methods for improving the success rate in finishing the mandatory education was being scientifically studied by 17 students. One specialist' and one master's thesis and two dissertations can also be added to the above-mentioned papers.

Even 27 links to the web pages are also available. They were prepared in the scope of the implementation of various projects, mainly funded through the European Structural Fund and

competent ministries. The web pages mostly present results of the implemented and still running projects. The majority of the web pages relates to the field of education and better integration of the Roma children and Roma adults into the process of education and the increase of social capital.

There even 31 published reports available related to the regional as well as national level (the latter prevail) which summarise the information on the situation of the Roma population in all areas of life in Slovenia. The published reports are mainly the results of obligatory reports which the Human Right Ombudsman and the Government Office for Nationalities of the Republic of Slovenia have to issue annually.

When analysing of the situation of the existing sources or information and all materials related to the work and life of Roma in Slovenia, it was established that it is possible to access the grammar of the Roma language, one curriculum, one scientific article, one e-book (electronic source) and several other types published and accessible publications, such as: 7 movies (5 of them depicts the life of Roma), 4 project presentations, 5 video lectures, 4 recommendation, which relate only the areas of education, culture, life conditions and health.

In general it was established that web pages mainly contain the information of various types of publications from all areas of Roma life. There prevail the information at the national level, while 23 relate to the international, 19 to the regional and 2 to the local level.

Furthermore, it was established that the majority of the published and available information of all types is from the field of education. Out of these, 41 sources pertain to the national level (mainly diploma papers), the international level includes 10 sources, the regional level 4 publications and 1 local web page.

The lowest level of accessibility and information is detected in the areas which importantly influence the better integration of Roma and improvement of communication between the Roma and non-Roma community: This refers to the inaccessibility of information related to the employment, elimination of stereotypes, racism, Roma community, Roma societies, Roma literature. The access to the only Roma radio station – Radio Romic is enabled. What is lacking is the access to the known programmes and TV reports which present the life of Roma.

There is certainly a possibility in the process of the project implementation to invite all the known radio and TV stations, as well as all the exiting Roma societies in Slovenia to send us desired links to the information.

## 2.3 Overview of practical contacts

The research workers of the Developmental and Educational Centre Novo Mesto (Partner 1-P1) and the People's University of Kočevje (Partner – P2) conducted guided interviews (in person or on the telephone) with the total of 54 candidates from 15 October to including 5 November 2014. The collected answers, i.e. the acquired information from various competent vocational groups are a basis for the preparation of recommendations for the contents of the e-RR web platform. Summary of contacts with the addresses, e-mail addresses and telephone numbers for each organization and professional is available and saved by project partner and coordinator. Due to the protection of personal data, this information is not published in the national report.

The experts or the respondents were selected according to the methodology, namely 16 experts from the field of education. (11 at the local/regional level and 5 at the national level, 18 from the field of employment (15 at the local/regional level and 3 at the national level), 10 from other fields, such as the Roma enterprises and non-governmental organisations (8 at the local/regional level and 2 at the national level), and 10 workers from the Roma community.

Important representatives of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs, and the Slovenian Institute for Adult Education participated in the survey at the national level. The questionnaires were also filled in by 6 municipal representatives actively dealing with the Roma community, 3 representatives of the Centres for Social work also dealing with the similar issues and 4 representatives of the offices of Employment Services of Slovenia and regional development agency. The experts in the field of education throughout the whole system and the public institute which offers the assistance to children and parents during their education were also part of the survey. Thus, the representatives of the pre-school education, several elementary schools, secondary school and the people's university executing the educational programmes with the representatives of the Roma society were part of the survey. The survey also saw the participation of the representatives of the health care sector, i.e. community health centres and services of the National Institute of Public Health. They were joined by the representatives of non-governmental organisations, such as the Slovenian Red Cross, Amnesty International of Slovenia and the Association for Developing Voluntary Work. Also the representatives of the Roma community responded well to the survey. It was implemented at the level of the Roma Association of Slovenia as well as at the regional Roma associations. The survey was filled in by representatives of various Roma societies, Roma councillors at the municipal levels and the Roma working in the field of the public sector (especially education) as the Roma assistants.

### 3 RESULTS OF THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT ANALYSIS

#### General information on the respondents and their organisation

In the introductory part of the questionnaire (question 1) respondents indicated area or position in which they work. The most of respondents, 17 percent (9) work as a representative of the local government, 11 percent (6) as Staff of NGO, 11 percent (6) as head of employees, 7 percent (4) as Roma assistant of a teacher, 7 percent (4) as an organiser of the education of adults and the ISIO (Information and Guidance in Adult Education) counsellor, 6 percent (3) as health care worker, 6 percent (3) as research worker, 6 percent (3) as school counsellor, 4 percent (2) as a teacher, 4 percent (2) as a social worker and nearly 15 percent (8) has chosen option “other” and indicated the following types of professions: the president of the Roma society, president of the Roma Association for Dolenjska, Kočevje Red Cross secretary, Roma journalist, president of the Roma Community Council of the Republic of Slovenia, social pedagogue, headmaster assistant of the Kočevje kindergarten – coordinator of the projects for the work with Roma children and their parents, ministry official (**Table 2**).

**Table 1 Job title of respondents**

<i>Working as:</i>	Number	Percentage (%)
a) Field social worker	0	0
b) Staff of NGOs working with Roma	6	11
c) Teacher	2	4
d) Roma assistant of a teacher	4	7
e) Health care worker	3	6
f) Head of employees	6	11
g) Representative of the local government	9	17
h) Social worker	2	4
i) Roma mediator	0	0
j) Employer (Employment Service)	4	7
k) Research worker	3	6
l) Other (school counsellor)	3	6
m) Other	8	15
n) Organiser of the education of adults and the ISIO (Information and Guidance in Adult Education) counsellor	4	7
Total	54	100

**Table 2** shows the ages of individual respondents. The highest number of respondents, 54 percent (29) is in the age group over 45 years, 22 percent (12) in the age group from 25 years to 35 years, 20 percent (11) in the age group from 35 to 45 years and only 4 percent (2) are in the age group under 25 years.

**Table 2 The age of the respondents**

Age	Number	Percentage (%)
a) Under 25 years	2	4
b) From 25 to 35 years	12	22
c) From 35 to 45 years	11	20
d) Over 45 years	29	54
Total	54	100

78 percent (42) of respondents were females and 22 (12) males (**Table 3**).

**Table 3 Classification of the respondents by gender**

Gender	Number	Percentage (%)
Male	12	22
Female	42	78
Total	54	100

The education level of respondents is shown in **Table 4**. Overall, 82 percent (44) of respondents has a university education level, 9 percent (5) has a primary education and the same proportion – 9 percent (5) has a secondary education.

**Table 4 Educational level of the respondents**

Education	Number	Percentage (%)
a) primary	5	9
b) secondary	5	9
c) university	44	82
Total	54	100

Note: The university education level includes also the old university study programmes and the new master's study programme

Overall, 44 percent (24) of respondents works in the field of Roma issues for 10 years or more, 28 percent (15) between 5 and 10 years, 22 percent (12) between 1 and 5 years, 4 percent (2) doesn't work in the field of the Roma issues and 2 percent (1) works up to 1 year in the field of Roma issues (**Table 5**).

**Table 5 Duration of work on Roma issues**

<i>How long do you work in the field of the Roma issues?</i>	Number	Percentage (%)
a) 0-1 year	1	2
b) 1-5 years	12	22
c) 5-10 years	15	28
d) 10 years or more	24	44
e) Other (social activity; research of the educational needs and development of educational programmes, in which also the Roma participate)	2	4
Total	54	100

The main areas related to the Roma community respondent's organization is dealing with are shown in **Table 6**. The respondents have indicated several areas of work. The most frequent areas are education of children (21 answers) and promotion of integration (21 answers), then education of adults (17 answers), field of employment (12 answers), socio-economic field (10 answers), other areas (president of the Roma society, counselling services, municipal councillor, culture, public administration, residential issues, field of politics at the national level, international counselling, arrangement of residential conditions – 10 answers), field of health (6 answers), advice and consulting for projects (6 answers) and the least frequent area is socio-legal field (guardianship, correctional facility).

**Table 6 Areas related to the Roma community organization of the respondents (association, club, company, institute, etc.) is dealing with**

<i>Which area related to the Roma community is your organisation (association, club, company, institute, etc.) dealing with?</i>	Number	Percentage (%)
a) Field of health	6	11
b) Socio-economic field	10	19
c) Socio-legal field (guardianship, correctional facility)	4	7
d) Education of children	21	39
e) Education of adults	17	31
f) Field of employment	12	22
g) Promotion of integration	21	39
h) Advice and consulting for projects	6	11
i) Other	10	19

A summary of contacts data – answers to question number 7: “Please, state your contact data or the data of your organisation (address of the institution, e-mail, telephone number)” is collected in the special table, which is not attached to this report, for the protection of personal data.

All of respondents are a part of the organization. 37 percent (20) of respondents indicated that their organization has under 5 employees working in direct contact with the Roma population, the same proportion has over 10 employees, 19 percent (10) 5 to 10 employees and 7 percent (4) of respondents didn’t answer (**Table 7**).

**Table 7 The number of employees working in the organization**

<i>How many employees in your organisation (association, club, company, institute) has direct contact with the Roma population?</i>	Number	Percentage (%)
a) Under 5	20	37
b) 5 - 10	10	19
c) Over 10	20	37
d) No answer	4	7
Total	54	100

In terms of length of action of organizations in the field of the Roma issue, 72 percent (39) of organizations has been active over 10 years, 11 percent (6) between 5 and 10 years, 9 percent (5) between 1 and 5 years and 8 percent (4) didn’t reply (no answer) (**Table 8**).

**Table 8 Number of years the organization has been active in the field of the Roma issue**

<i>How long is your organisation (association, club, company, institute) active in the field of the Roma issues?</i>	Number	Percentage (%)
a) 0-1 year	0	0
b) 1 – 5 years	5	9
c) 5-10 years	6	11
d) Over 10 years	39	72
e) No answer	4	8
Total	54	100

The level the organizations works at is presented in **Table 9**. 74 percent (40) of organizations is active at national level, 6 percent (3) at international level, 15 percent (8) at both levels and 6 percent (3) didn’t reply (no answer).

**Table 9 The level the organization works at**

<i>Which level does your organisation (association, club, company, institute) work at?</i>	Number	Percentage (%)
a) International level	3	6
b) National level	40	74
c) At both levels	8	15
d) No answer	3	6
Total	54	100

Note: 8 respondents answered that they work at both levels and are indicated separately in the above Table. Their answers can be included under a) and b) in the final processing.

Respondents were asked to indicate, in case that during work they use secondary data on Roma, which sources do they obtain them from. Mostly (43 answers) they use the data through contacts with partners and professionals, then from the internet (34 answers), through individual consultations (32 answers), from available books and publications (23 answers), 4 respondents reported obtaining data from other sources and 1 person has no needs for the sources (**Table 10**).

**Table 10 Sources of secondary data available at work**

<i>Which are the sources of the secondary data needed for your work (if they exist)?</i>	Number	Percentage (%)
a) Contacts (networking)	43	80
b) Individual consultations	32	59
c) Web information	34	63
d) Books and publications	23	43
e) other (educational seminars, from the local environment)	4	7
e) No needs	1	2

Note: The respondents gave several answers.

### Identification of needs

In the second part of the questionnaire the questions aimed at identifying needs, through an evaluation of the level of availability of individual data about the Roma population.

Respondents looking at the overall quality of available data on the Roma population answered as follows. Most of them, 52 percent (28) considered the quality of the available data insufficient, 26

percent (14) indicated that the data are sufficient and 22 percent (12) of respondents don't have any opinion or they don't know (**Table 11**).

**Table 11 Quality of available data on Roma communities in general**

<i>How would you assess the quality of the available data on Roma communities in general:</i>	Number	Percentage (%)
a) Sufficient	14	26
b) Insufficient	28	52
c) Without any opinion (I do not know)	12	22
Total	54	100

Note: The respondents also stressed the following in the interviews:

- they decided for the answer c (without any opinion - I do not know) since they did not know how to assess the actual quantity of available information and the quality of their information;
- the quantity of the acquired information depends on the level of engagement of the information seeker.

In the table where the respondents had to evaluate the availability of individual information (*Indicate the level of individual information available in the field of legislation, research, goods practises and projects at national and European level. Answers are required for all items*), the replies were as follows (national level) – see **Table 12**:

**Table 12 Availability of information in terms of legislation, research, good practice and projects at national level**

<i>INFORMATION (national level)</i>	YES number	NO number	DON'T KNOW
<i>Arte the following information available?</i>			
Information about potential partners in your activities	39 (72%)	15 (28%)	
Contact information of field workers	25 (46%)	28 (52%)	1 (2%)
Contacts with NGOs working with Roma communities	41 (76%)	13 (24%)	
New legislation and application of the rights of the Roma ethnic group	33 (61%)	21 (39%)	
Contact information of the local representative of the Roma ethnic group	44 (81%)	10 (19%)	
Information about the activities of community workers	16 (30%)	37 (69%)	1 (2%)
The list of potential employers for the Roma population	13 (24%)	40 (74%)	1 (2%)
Information on the possibilities of improving conditions for persons in material distress	33 (61%)	20 (37%)	1 (2%)
Information about the possibilities of voluntary work with the Roma community	28 (52%)	25 (46%)	1 (2%)

Methods of work with the Roma community	28 (52%)	26 (48%)	
Teaching materials and didactical tools	19 (35%)	35 (65%)	
Information about the possibilities of coping with stressful situations while working with Roma	31 (57%)	21 (39%)	2 (4%)
Information on the applicable legislation	37 (69%)	17 (31%)	
Information about the ongoing projects and programs focused on Roma	35 (65%)	19 (35%)	
Information about the obtaining of financial support for the preparation of projects and programs	28 (52%)	26 (48%)	
Information about the possibilities of participation in international projects	23 (43%)	30 (56%)	1 (2%)
Information about implemented projects and their impacts	29 (54%)	24 (44%)	1 (2%)
Examples of good practices	30 (56%)	23 (43%)	1 (2%)
List of the most effective interventions in the field of Roma issues	13 (24%)	41 (76%)	

Note: If the respondents had not yet searched for individual data or information listed in the table above, they did not want to decide for the answer “yes” or “no”. Undefined cases in the table were listed in a special column “Don’t know”.

The table below shows the answers (European level) about the evaluation of the availability of individual information (**Table 13**):

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

<i>INFORMATION (European level)</i>	<i>YES number</i>	<i>NO number</i>	<i>NO NEED - number</i>
<i>Arte the following information available?</i>			
Information about potential partners in your activities	10 (19%)	25 (46%)	19 (35%)
Contact information of field workers	5 (9%)	30 (56%)	19 (35%)
Contacts with NGOs working with Roma communities	10 (19%)	25 (46%)	19 (35%)
New legislation and application of the rights of the Roma ethnic group	11 (20%)	24 (44%)	19 (35%)
Contact information of the local representative of the Roma ethnic group	5 (9%)	30 (56%)	19 (35%)
Information about the activities of community workers	4 (7%)	31 (57%)	19 (35%)
The list of potential employers for the Roma population	3 (6%)	32 (59%)	19 (35%)
Information on the possibilities of improving conditions for persons in	6 (11%)	29 (54%)	19 (35%)

material distress			
Information about the possibilities of voluntary work with the Roma community	9 (17%)	26 (48%)	19 (35%)
Methods of work with the Roma community	6 (11%)	29 (54%)	19 (35%)
Teaching materials and didactical tools	6 (11%)	29 (54%)	19 (35%)
Information about the possibilities of coping with stressful situations while working with Roma	5 (9%)	30 (56%)	19 (35%)
Information on the applicable legislation	11 (20%)	24 (44%)	19 (35%)
Information about the ongoing projects and programs focused on Roma	8 (15%)	27 (50%)	19 (35%)
Information about the obtaining of financial support for the preparation of projects and programs	8 (15%)	27 (50%)	19 (35%)
Information about the possibilities of participation in international projects	11 (20%)	24 (44%)	19 (35%)
Information about implemented projects and their impacts	8 (15%)	27 (50%)	19 (35%)
Examples of good practices	9 (17%)	26 (48%)	19 (35%)
List of the most effective interventions in the field of Roma issues	4 (7%)	31 (57%)	19 (35%)

Note: 19 respondents had already before the survey stated that their institution did not work at the international level and that they had no need for this information. These were listed in the special column “No need”.

To question about lacking information about Roma population, most of respondents (31 answers) indicated unavailable information about current situation (implemented projects, programmes and other), than about socio-economic indicators (29 answers) and about health status (24 answers). Unavailability of demographic information reported 18 respondents and 4 of respondents indicated unavailability other information, like employment options and didactical material for learning assistance. 2 respondents have no need for information (**Table 14**).

**Table 14 Lacking of information about Roma population**

<i>Which information is insufficient in your work with the Roma population (You can select more than one option).</i>	Number	Percentage (%)
a) Demographics	18	33
b) Health status	24	44

c) Environmental and living conditions	22	41
d) Socio-economic indicators (education, income, employment)	29	54
e) Current situation (implemented projects, programmes and other)	31	57
f) Other information: Employment options, didactical material for learning assistance	4	7
g) No need for information	2	4

Note: The respondents gave several answers.

It was established that the majority of the respondents' answers to the question number 15 *"Which is the biggest problem in your work with the Roma issue in your opinion"* can be summed up in the related areas. The replies also mention the problems (from the point of view of the respondent) as well as proposals for solutions (as understood by the respondents).

If the answers are summed up, the following 11 areas can be related to the biggest problems in working with the members of the Roma. The areas are written in capitals (points 1 to 11), followed by the typical replies of the respondents:

1. ORGANISATION OF THE ROMA COMMUNITY AND THEIR INTERNAL DIVISION, WORKING CONDITIONS

"Organisation of the Roma community by settlements; there is no connection, network between them."

"The problem is in the organisation of the Roma community by settlements; there is no connection, network between them."

"Conflict situations in the settlements."

"Roma have no community premises."

"Division within the Roma community."

"Disunity among Roma."

"Cooperation of the non-governmental Roma organisations."

"Self-initiative."

2. POOR INTERINSTITUTIONAL CONNECTIONS, (NON)FLOW OF INFORMATION

"The cooperation of social work centres with other institutions dealing with the Roma issues is not good enough."

"Precaution in presenting of socio-economic transfers. Sensible topic among Roma themselves."

"Poor cooperation between various conductors."

“Lack of connection of social players at the regional and national level. This results in no collected information on the examples of good practice. Someone should take up the role of the holder of shareholders.”

“One-sided communication.”

“Non-cooperation of local institutions dealing with this issue.”

“Connecting of different organisations from various areas at the local level.”

“The contacts of NGOs and international organisations dealing with Roma at one location.”

“Ignorance of the motivation increasing strategies for the attendance at school and performing the obligations. Also lack of connections with the Roma parents, joint planning and cooperation.”

“Lack of statistical data, information on the examples of goods practice, effects. No initiatives for improving negative effects of individual activities.”

“Accessibility to the examples of the excellent, not only good, practices, methods of Roma education.”

### 3. WEAKNESSES AND PROBLEMS STEMMING FROM THE EXISTING POLICY

“Too much financial aid for Roma, too many projects, programmes for Roma, too many privileged Roma (e.g.: They get school slippers, books free of charge).”

“Excessive role of the social transfers (there will be less problems without them).”

“Social aids stimulate the Roma birth rate.”

“Manners of solving the Roma issues by individual competent offices.”

“Disproportion of the social rights of Roma.”

“The policy of work with Roma in local communities.”

“Training and employment of Roma takes time, effort and work. Frequently, the social status is put in the focus due to the financial aid at the social work centres.”

“Employment of Roma to include them in the public network. Adult Roma and their children should have their obligations, duties; children should attend the educational programmes, the adults should be integrated into the work scheme. Social aid should be given only to those families which fulfil their obligations.”

“The attention of the local government and the state is insufficient.”

“Roma are often found among the most vulnerable groups, while their poor image in the society and low socio-economic position or too slow or even no integration into the society call for a complex, and interrelated operation of various sectoral policies (health, social, employment, education, residential, etc.) which requires even more effort and political will of all players at all levels, national and local, and spheres, public and civil. Where there are experts, good

management and the will, there the problems are not so numerous and can be easily overcome, while the progress is more evident and lasting.”

“Inadequate system framework in terms of the majority as well as the Roma minority itself.”

“Systematic planning and wrongly set solutions regarding the obligations and duties of Roma.”

“The Roma issues are not observed at the national level.”

“Integration into the community works programmes (the obstacle is the one-year registered unemployment at the Employment Service of Slovenia as a condition).”

“Low number of the Roma employed in the public institutions.”

“The Roma issues should be tackled at the European level.”

“The state has given Roma the rights but no obligations.”

“Inadequate legislation which will force Roma to cooperate and set the preconditions to acquire social aids by integrating into the work schemes.”

#### 4. ISSUES RELATED TO EMPLOYMENT

“Lack of jobs.”

“Rejecting the works and relying on the social transfers.”

“Inconsistency in employment.”

“Unemployment.”

“Lower employability of Roma.”

“Reservations of the employers to the employing of the Roma population.”

#### 5. ISSUES RELATED TO THE EDUCATION, LOW LEVEL OF EDUCATION

“Roma children attend school infrequently.”

“Lack of interest of Roma to be integrated into the education.”

“The problem is the motivation of Roma for education.”

“Lack of motivation of Roma to be integrated into the education.”

“Low educational structure.”

“Lack of education.”

“Regular attendance and cooperation in classes and doing the homework, care for school utensils.”

“Late inclusion of the children in school and preschool education.”

“Lack of education of the parents.”

“Low level of education; they do not see any affirmation in the education; no need to make the statement in this regard.”

“Low level of education of Roma.”

“Low educational level.”

“Poor general knowledge.”

#### 6. INTERCULTURAL DIFFERENCES, COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE BARRIERS

“Communication problems, especially in reaching an agreement.”

“Communication problems.”

“Different culture and different responses of Roma representatives.”

“They do not understand the Slovenian language.”

“Language barriers.”

“They do not understand the Slovenian language.”

“Cultural and spiritual heritage of Roma.”

“The problem is in the up-bringing of the Roma children. ”

“The problem is in early motherhood, they do not manage maternity. The role of mother is taken over by the grandmother.”

#### 7. INTERCULTURAL GAP

“There is a gap between the Roma and the majority population. Roma are not equally accepted. They have a feeling of inequality and do not want to cooperate. ”

“Specificity of the Roma population.”

“Stereotypes in Roma and non-Roma population; we are not trying to break them down with direct work with the Roma children, adults and other residents of settlements and the cooperation with Roma assistants.”

“Problem of tolerance, respect, relationship, continuous work and fulfilment of tasks.”

“Double standards set by the society. The system of values is not solid; especially the system should be solid in people working with Roma.”

“The problem is that all members of the minority do not declare themselves as Roma; we do not know the precise number of Roma in our area. The problem is also that Roma are privileged, often violent and do not pay the rents.”

“The violence of Roma and intolerance of the majority population.”

“The thresholds of our tolerance are too high.”

#### 8. (IN)ACTIVITY OF MEMBERS OF THE ROMA COMMUNITY

“Roma are a specifically difficult target group. The problem is in their non-responsiveness, inactivity, irresponsibility.”

“General lack of interest seen as a problem in communication, lack of understanding of their personal problems and problems in their home environment.”

“The biggest problem is in the relationship of Roma towards the state. Roma are nomads, often without own property. They cannot develop their own responsibility without the property, land.”

“Insufficient engagement, no initiative also in arranging their property ownership. They feel that the municipality and the state should take care of them. They realise that they are put into the position of “the vulnerable”.”

“Their instability.”

“Non-cooperation of Roma representatives.”

“Non-responsiveness, lack of interest of Roma, their way of life.”

“Lack of motivation.”

“Insufficient active integration of Roma.”

“Lack of interest and motivation for the integration into various programmes for increasing the social inclusion of the respective target group.”

“Their expectations that their problems will be solved on their own and that a municipality is obliged to unconditionally provide them all residential conditions, expectations for the financial aid.”

“Lack of their interest that the things could go better. They live without a proper long-term strategy which would systematically solve their situation.”

“They do not strive for education and employment.”

“Activation of members of the Roma community and non-governmental organisations.”

“Upon entering their settlement, Roma often withdraw or give the impression of non-interest. They are not prepared for the group work. The individual approach is more successful.”

#### 9. RESIDENTIAL CONDITIONS, SOCI-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

“Unsuitable residential conditions and unemployment of Roma.”

“Non-motivational home environment.”

“Great social and residential problems, despite their efforts for a better life.”

“Disorderly residential conditions.”

“Hygiene.”

“Bad hygienic habits.”

“Disorderly home environment.”

“Socio-economic conditions.”

“The problem is in the environmental and accommodation conditions.”

#### 10. DISCRIMINATION

“Discrimination of Roma. Roma have difficulties in improving their well-fare and are constantly targets of discrimination. Also the criminal activities of Roma in the Dolenjska region is mostly the result of discrimination and culture of the local people who get involved into fights at the public events (festivities).”

“Low self-esteem.”

“Political representation.”

“Undefined status; they are still not recognised as a national minority.”

#### 11. CONSTANCY OF WORK

“Financing of programmes and projects.”

“Insufficient financial support for implementing the projects.”

“The problems in searching for people to be included into the community works "Assisting Roma in socialisation".”

“Lack of interest of the founder for additional staff who will work in this field.”

### Requirements for the content and form of the platform

The last part of the questionnaire focused on requirements for the content and form of platform. Respondents were asked in question 16 to indicate strategies, projects or materials which they consider as examples of good practice and should be part of e-RR platform. 7 respondents did not answer this question; i.e. they did not state any example, one stressed out that all activities conducted in the Roma settlements bring positive experience and results and that the work should be focusing on the continuity of work and its upgrade. The respondents did not mention all necessary information on the individual strategy, project, programme. Where the references repeated themselves, also the number of references was stated. Respondents were encouraged to remember precise titles of programmes and projects, their providers, target groups and methods; nevertheless only few respondents stated full data. The listed activities were compared with the Excel table and complemented it with the data stated by the respondents.

In **Table 15** are presented these projects, programs and strategies with the specification of area and focus, definition of specific groups and presentation of procedure, methods and tools.

**Table 15 List of projects, programs and strategies as examples of good practice**

Name of project/program/strategy	Focus / Area	Specific group	Procedure /Method /Tool	Number of references
Brezje and Šmihel day-care centre (conductor DRPD)	Education	School-age children and their parents	movie	4
Preschool children programme in Šmihel	Preparation before attending the school; socialisation	School-age children and their parents	<i>no answer</i>	3
Picture books Mojca Pokrajculja and Učimo se pisati in brati	<i>no answer</i>	School-age children	<i>no answer</i>	1
Literary workshops	Culture (Roma songs, Roma poet)	Adult Roma	<i>no answer</i>	1
Culture days – culture week	Culture (Roma songs)	Adult Roma	<i>no answer</i>	1
Intercultural dialogue	<i>no answer</i>	<i>no answer</i>	<i>no answer</i>	1
Records of round tables	<i>no answer</i>	<i>no answer</i>	<i>no answer</i>	1
MS4ROW (conductor CIK Trebnje)	Assistance to Roma girls and women	Roma women, girls	mentorship	3
EXP-ROM (conductor CIK Trebnje)	Training of experts	experts	<i>no answer</i>	3

EQUAL	employment	<i>no answer</i>	<i>no answer</i>	6
Raising the social and cultural capital in the Roma living environments (conductors Trebnje kindergarten and PI Ljubljana)	<i>no answer</i>	<i>no answer</i>	<i>no answer</i>	1
UVRVII	<i>no answer</i>	<i>no answer</i>	<i>no answer</i>	1
UVRVI II (conductor LU Kočevje and RIC NM)	Education of Roma assistants	education	<i>no answer</i>	10
Strategy of tackling the Roma issues in the MONM (conductor MO NM)	strategy	<i>no answer</i>	<i>no answer</i>	6
Action for prevention domestic violence for Roma women (conductor CSD NM)	social area	Roma women	Leaflet in the Roma language	1
Youth workshops for the Roma minors (conductor CSD NM)	social area	Roma youth	<i>no answer</i>	1
Operation of the Brezje Roma kindergarten with the emphasis on the Roma assistant speaking the Roma language (conductor MO NM)	Preschool education	Preschool children	<i>no answer</i>	1
Presentation of the project Construction of the Roma settlement in Brezje (conductor ŠC NM)	<i>no answer</i>	<i>no answer</i>	<i>no answer</i>	2
Operation of the day-care centre in the Trebnje Roma centre - Kher Šu Beši (conductor CSD Trebnje)	<i>no answer</i>	<i>no answer</i>	<i>no answer</i>	3
NFM project – Eco-ethnic Roma fashion (conductor Roma veseli Association)	Social entrepreneurship	Employment of Roma women	<i>no answer</i>	2
Presentations of the social entrepreneurship	<i>no answer</i>	<i>no answer</i>	<i>no answer</i>	2
Presentation of successful Roma	<i>no answer</i>	<i>no answer</i>	<i>no answer</i>	1
Introduction of additional Roma shows on radio and TV	<i>no answer</i>	<i>no answer</i>	<i>no answer</i>	1
Project Skupaj (conductors Police, Municipality of Škocjan, ZD NM)	Socialisation, health care	Roma	Execution of operation in the settlement	1

School for parents	<i>no answer</i>	<i>no answer</i>	<i>no answer</i>	2
Craft skills (making and renovation of musical instruments and self-sufficiency; conductor IPA in cooperation with the Hungarians)	Social entrepreneurship	employment	<i>no answer</i>	1
Roma restaurant in Maribor	Social entrepreneurship	employment	<i>no answer</i>	1
Renovation of common Roma premises in Kočevje	<i>no answer</i>	<i>no answer</i>	<i>no answer</i>	
Project Finally (conductor RIC NM)	education	<i>no answer</i>	<i>no answer</i>	2
SRAP project (conductor RIC NM)	Health	Roma youth	<i>no answer</i>	2
Mobile counselling service for Roma (conductor RIC NM)	Education, counselling	<i>no answer</i>	<i>no answer</i>	4
Learning Prisoner project	<i>no answer</i>	<i>no answer</i>	<i>no answer</i>	1
Activities in Šentjernej, construction of pavements, lighting, electricity and water installations in the Roma settlement (conductors Municipality and the Roma community)	Infrastructure	<i>no answer</i>	<i>no answer</i>	1
Cooking workshops in the settlement (conductor RIC NM)	<i>no answer</i>	<i>no answer</i>	<i>no answer</i>	1
Projects of ZIK Črnomelj	<i>no answer</i>	<i>no answer</i>	<i>no answer</i>	2
Report on the health of Roma in the municipality for the Ministry of Health (conductor National institute for public health)	Health	<i>no answer</i>	<i>no answer</i>	1
Specialist paper of Brigita Tisovec Zupančič "Improvement of accessibility of health care services for Roma" (conductor Brigita Tisovec Zupančič)	Health	<i>no answer</i>	<i>no answer</i>	1
Roma conferences on health	Health	<i>no answer</i>	<i>no answer</i>	1
Works of the lecturer at the Faculty of Social Work -	<i>no answer</i>	<i>no answer</i>	<i>no answer</i>	1

Špela Urh				
Report on the diseases of the Roma – ZD Krško	Health	<i>no answer</i>	<i>no answer</i>	1
Water installations in the Roma settlements with no legalised houses (conductor Municipality of Novo Mesto)	Infrastructure	<i>no answer</i>	<i>no answer</i>	1
Employment actions (conductor Municipality of Novo Mesto, Revoz)	employment	<i>no answer</i>	<i>no answer</i>	1
Social and cultural projects in the field of culture, power of attorney	<i>no answer</i>	<i>no answer</i>	<i>no answer</i>	1
Project in Kamenice	Tourism, employment	<i>no answer</i>	<i>no answer</i>	1
Romano kher/Roma house	employment	Unemployed Roma	Training and employment of Roma	3
Project Skupaj do znanja (conductor CŠOD)	Education of Roma assistants	Education	<i>no answer</i>	1
ESS programmes (conductor MIZŠ)	<i>no answer</i>	<i>no answer</i>	<i>no answer</i>	1
Author of the programme, Angela Kocze in the scope of the International Policy Fellowship, Central European University, 2000 (conductor ACS)	Education of Roma	Roma with finished secondary school in Hungary	Provision of mentors – Roma for Roma to enrol at the university	1
Integration of Roma	Social integration	Young adults	Interactive workshops with concrete cases and obligations of the participants in the programme	1
Workshops in the Roma settlements (conductor Kočevje kindergarten)	Education and schooling	Preschool children and their parents	Cooperation with Roma assistant, direct work with children and parents	1
Strategy of development of Roma community in Pomurje, from 2014 to 2020	Areas projected by the national programme of measures for Roma	Roma in Pomurje	Analysis of the situation, proposals of programmes and projects by priority fields	2
Ozara (conductor Romano Kher)	Employment centre	Disabled, Roma	Social integration	1
Romani kafenava (conductor Romano Kher)	Social enterprise	Roma	Social integration	1

Association for development of voluntary works Novo Mesto: Day-care centre for Roma children (conductor MDDSZ)	Preschool education, education, social area, power of attorney	Roma children, minors	Individual treatment, group work	1
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In question 17 respondents had an opportunity to indicate areas which they consider as the most important part of the platform. Particular attention should be paid according to 44 respondents to employment, according to 39 respondents to education and training, 33 respondents to social inclusion and equally opportunities, 30 respondents considered an important part of the platform information about environmental and living conditions of Roma, 28 reported contact information of institutions, 27 current activities, like implemented projects, programmes and other, according to 24 respondents information on legislation should be included, 22 of them think information on discrimination should be on the platform, 18 respondents would like to have information on health status of Roma people, the same number would like to have information on Roma culture and history, 16 respondents would include demographic data and 3 respondents indicated other - options of cooperating with other institutions, new opportunities for Roma (**Table 16**).

**Table 16 Areas to be included in e-RR platforms**

<i>Please state the recommendations and proposals for preparation of platforms. Do you have and proposals which field should be paid special attention?</i>	Number	Percentage (%)
a) Demographics	16	30
b) Health status	18	33
c) Culture and history	18	33
d) Social inclusion and equally opportunities	33	61
d) Environmental and living conditions	30	56
e) Education and training	39	72
g) Employment	44	81
h) Discrimination	22	41
i) Legislation	24	44
j) Current activities (implemented projects, programmes and other)	27	50
k) Contact information of institutions	28	52
l) Other (options of cooperating with other institutions, new opportunities for Roma)	3	6

In terms of form of the available information on the platform, 35 respondents reported database of contacts of individual institutes, 31 suggest interactive database, 30 teaching accessories, 28 documents or reports, 26 of respondents would like to have a calendar of important activities available, 25 indicated pictures or photos, 24 also video material, 14 respondents suggest audio recordings, the same number materials for media and 3 respondents suggested other things, like quick search option and simplicity of platform form (**Table 17**).

**Table 17 Form of the available information on e-RR platform**

<i>In which form should the information be available?</i>	Number	Percentage (%)
a) Interactive database	31	57
b) Video material	24	44
c) Audio recordings	14	26
d) Documents (reports)	28	52
e) pictures, photos	25	46
f) Database of contacts of individual institutes	35	65
g) Calendar of important activities	26	48
h) Teaching accessories	30	56
i) Materials for media	14	26
j) Other (simplicity of form, quick search option)	3	6

In the last question (**table 18**), respondents were asked to assess the platform applicability with the grade from 1 to 5 (1-not useful at all; 5- very useful). The median is 4.

**Table 18 Usefulness of a newly created platform e-RR**

<b>Usefulness of the platform</b>		
<i>How would you assess the applicability of the newly designed platform?</i>	Number	Percentage (%)
1- useless	0	0
2	1	2
3	12	22

4	16	30
5- very useful	25	46
Total	54	100
<b>Median</b>	<b>Mode</b>	
4	5	

## 4 MAIN FINDINGS

In Slovenia, the information on the Roma issues, which have an important impact on the Roma integration and improvement of communication between Roma and non-Roma community, is the least accessible. It is related to the employment, doing away with stereotypes, racism, Roma community, Roma associations, Roma literature. The access to the only Roma radio station – *Radio Romic* is enabled. What is lacking is the access to the programmes and TV reports which present the life of Roma.

Out of 54 respondents, participating in the research, the majority of them come from the local authorities, representatives of non-governmental organisations working with Roma and the persons employed in the education sector. These are the target group who more or less know the Roma issues in Slovenia.

The majority of respondents, almost 54 percent (29 persons), is over 45 years old, while only 4 percent (2 persons) are under 25. Even 82 percent (44 persons) of respondents has finished high-school or university programme. The majority of the respondents work in the field of the Roma issues for 10 years or more (44 percent or 24 persons) or between 5 to 10 years (28 percent or 15 persons). The organisations employing the respondents mostly deal with the stimulation of integration, education of the adults and children. More than 10 people works with the Roma population in approximately 37 percent of job posts, where the respondents are employed. The majority of respondents (over 72 percent or 39 persons) work at the institutions dealing with the Roma issues for more than 10 years. The majority of institutions, over 74 percent, work at the national level, while almost 15 percent at the national and international level. The respondents acquired the secondary data sources required for their work mainly through personal contacts or networking, through the web and individual consultations.

It can be established from the results on general information on the respondents and their respective organisations that the answers were given by a great majority of educated experts, with a relatively long period of employment in the field of Roma issues. Therefore, it can be said that respondents have the experience and their opinion represents a good basis for the preparation of contents of the e-RR web platform.

The following findings relate to the identification of needs of the respondents by data, information and material related to the Roma population. The majority of persons, 52 percent or 28 persons, thinks that the quality of the available data on the Roma communities is insufficient. At the national as well as the European level, they miss the most the availability of the list of the most efficient interventions in the field of Roma issues and the list of potential employers for the Roma

population; while at the national level they also refer to a lack of information on the activities of the employed in the community. Contact data of the local representative of the Roma ethnic group and non-governmental organisations dealing with the Roma issues are the most accessible pieces of information at the national level. While at the European level they miss the least the availability of new legislation and application of the rights of the Roma ethnic minority, information on the actual legislation and information on the possibilities of cooperation in the international projects. 19 respondents had already before the survey stated that their institution did not work at the international level and that they had no need for this information. When asked about which information is unsatisfactory in dealing with the Roma population, the majority of respondents highlighted the current conditions (implemented projects, programmes, and other) and socio-economic indicators (education, income, employment).

Respondents see the greatest problems in working with the Roma issues in the organisation of Roma community, their own division and working conditions; poor inter-institutional connections, poor information flow; existing policy; employment and preservation of Roma jobs; lack of interest of Roma for education and consequently low level of education of this population; intercultural differences, communication and language barriers; intercultural gap between Roma and the majority population; activity and inactivity of the Roma community; their poor residential and socio-economic conditions and discrimination of Roma.

The majority of respondents see the need for special attention for preparing contents of the platform, mainly in the field of employment, education, training and social integration and equal opportunities. They also wish for additional contact information of institutions and information on current operations (implemented projects, programmes, other).

They proposed that the information is presented mainly in the form of a database of contact data of individual institutions, in the form of the interactive data base; in this regard they also mentioned the accessibility to teaching accessories, documents and reports, calendar of important activities, picture, photos and video material.

The majority, over 46 percent or 25 respondents, assesses the applicability or usefulness of the foreseen platform as very useful. No one rate it as useless.

On the basis of the survey analysis results it is concluded that the e-RR project is necessary, new web platform very much welcome and of a great assistance for a wider group of users. The main step was made in attaining the major e-RR project objective – to stimulate, disseminate and exchange of results and materials in the field of the inclusion of Roma into various spheres of social life.

## 5 RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the acquired information collected in this report, it is recommended that the e-RR web platform includes the following concrete sources:

- Contact information of institutions and detailed information on the Roma societies and other institutions (including the contact person) which are dealing with the Roma community;
- Information related to the employment (current activities, successful programmes, options of acquiring the national vocational qualifications certificate, etc.);
- Information related to the doing away with stereotypes and racism, such as successful actions and the useful materials – also for Roma themselves;
- Information related to the Roma community, e.g. in the successful Roma as a examples of good practice;
- Information related to the Roma culture (presentation of the Roma culture, culture societies, their operations and heads, literature, customs, etc.);
- Information on the most effective interventions in the field of Roma issues;
- List of potential employers for the Roma population
- Information on the current situation (implemented projects, programmes and other);
- Socio-economic indicators (education, income, employment)
- Information in the field of social integration and equal opportunities and social entrepreneurship;
- Information on the current events for Roma at the national level (trainings, cultural events, sport events, raising the awareness and promotions of health in the Roma settlements and elsewhere and other events.

We recommend that the listed information is presented mainly in the form of:

- Radio and TV shows or reports;
- Database of contacts of individual institutes;
- Interactive database;
- Teaching accessories;
- Documents and reports;
- Calendar of important activities;
- Picture, photos; and
- Video material.

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