Participation and enjoyment of fundamental rights

The case of Roma in EU Member States

TransMonEE Network Meeting of National Statistical Offices In Europe and Central Asia

26-27 November 2019, Vienna
Political participation – a fundamental right

Ensuring responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels is enshrined in the EU Charter of Fundamental rights

• Article 39 - Right to vote and to stand as a candidate at elections to the European Parliament
  – Every citizen of the Union has the right to vote and to stand as a candidate at elections to the European Parliament in the Member State in which he or she resides, under the same conditions as nationals of that State.

• Article 40 - Right to vote and to stand as a candidate at municipal elections
  – Every citizen of the Union has the right to vote and to stand as a candidate at municipal elections in the Member State in which he or she resides under the same conditions as nationals of that State.
Are Roma exercising their fundamental right to political participation?

Voted in the last municipal elections (%)

- 25+, n=6434: Yes 68%, No 31%
- 20-24, n=868: Yes 54%, No 45%
- 16-19, n=401: Yes 24%, No 71%

Weighted data for 9 EUMS. Response option "not eligible to vote" excluded. Source: FRA, EU-MIDIS II 2016
Are Roma exercising their fundamental right to political participation?

Weighted data for 9 EUMS. Response option "not eligible to vote" excluded. Source: FRA, EU-MIDIS II 2016
Are Roma interested in politics?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Range</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Not interested</th>
<th>Interested</th>
<th>Don't know/Refused</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25+, n=6434</td>
<td>6434</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-24, n=879</td>
<td>879</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>16-19, n=605</td>
<td>605</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Weighted data for 9 EUMS by age (%). Source: FRA, EU-MIDIS II 2016
Why Roma youth doesn’t see the benefits of political participation?

Participation in political action

- Have taken part in a public demonstration: 95%
- Signed a petition on paper or online: 93%
- ‘Liked’ or ‘followed’ a political campaign on the internet: 93%

Weighted data for 9 EUMS (%), respondents aged 16+ (n=7946). Source: FRA, EU-MIDIS II 2016
Interest in politics and political participation is related to socio-economic deprivation, discrimination and marginalization.
Awareness of rights is critical...

82% of Roma are not aware of the existence of equality bodies, laws and campaigns addressing discrimination

Picture: FRA, LERI project locality (Finland)
...as well as opportunities for genuine – and not ritualistic - participation
For more information and data:

FRA 2018. **A persisting concern: Anti-Gypsyism as a barrier to Roma inclusion**

FRA 2018. **Working with Roma: Participation and empowerment of local communities**

The pictures used are from:

FRA ‘Local Engagement in Roma Inclusion’ project localities

Thank you for your attention!