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ROMA COMMUNITIES IN ROMANIA

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

COORDINATOR:
PROF.UNIV.DR. ADRIAN GORUN

STUDENT:
RALUCA-GABRIELA ZĂVOEANU

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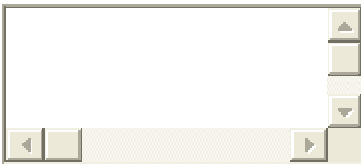
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KEYWORDS:

The issue of Roma inclusion, Roma, Roma, Gypsy, European projects, communities
Roma prejudice.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This thesis entitled "Roma communities in Romania" is divided into five chapters and a study, a thorough certatare on sociological aspects of Roma in the city Slatina, Olt county, with emphasis on education.

The first part of the paper is theoretical and elaborates on the history and living conditions of Roma communities in Romania. The work captures how the main European programs have been implemented that have as their main objective to support Roma education. The first chapter, called conceptualization, includes sociological concepts used in ethnic and race relations. We identified conceptualization styles in sociology, race and ethnicity have defined in sociological theory and I researched documents concerning genesis forms of racism and institutionalized racism. In the second part of the first chapter, we define and characterize the notions of community, state, sovereignty, statehood, national state, nation and nationalism, the main theories.

In the second chapter, we tackle Roma communities from a historical perspective, i.e., changes in bondage to assimilation policy towards Roma minority under the Antonescu regime, the Roma minority in Romania during the communist period, however, we considered the recognition as a national minority after 1989. Given the fact that during slavery Roma were treated as mere objects and representing the property of others were not full citizens as the general population. Consequently, the Roma were not any educational elite, nor social, nor political, nor economic.

This led to the present at a high socio-economic gap between the Roma minority and the majority population. Roma Emancipation caused chaos in Romani communities, they neștiind what to do with their freedom. In the aftermath of emancipation there were no Roma elite and successful models in Roma communities, or whether there were too few to face the new situation they were in and to organize themselves in order to get respect, citizens have rights and obligations to exercise country. During communism Roma were assimilated, and as such, could not assert as a community with well-defined identity.

The situation of the Roma minority in Romania after twenty-five years since the collapse of the communist regime has worsened in terms of social decalajelor gain between Roma and the rest of the population. This reality is confirmed by numerous studies and research conducted in recent years on the situation of Roma in Romania and Europe. Efforts to reduce decalajelor between the Roma and the majority were made under pressure from European institutions rather than as a consequence of policy makers.

Poverty, social exclusion, repeated violations of human rights, lack of identity and

therefore lack access to health services, low employment labor and discrimination at all levels, actual problems of the Roma minority in particular and Romania in general. Severe poverty in Roma communities is the defining characteristic for most of this ethnic group.

Although Romania has made a somewhat recent growth period seen, this was not reflected at the level of the Roma community, on the contrary, poverty has grown, the Roma living in unimaginable conditions: no drinking water, electricity and food. And all this amid an acute lack of political will. From 1990 until now, the problems are rooted in lack and poor quality of education in schools where Roma children were not infrequently, they are separated from other children because of discrimination and segregation to which they are subjected. With regard to employment, job fairs for Roma, NEA organized so far failed to achieve their purpose. Disclaimer identity by members of the Roma leads to their marginalization and social exclusion and a strain and delay the integration of Roma in society.

The third chapter entitled sociological coordinates on Roma, Roma issues is allocated as ethnic or social issues, strategies for their identification and localization deficit or sampling problems. Poverty is another problem facing both the Roma and state authorities in an attempt to implement their research programs on Roma and methods to prevent their exclusion from the different programs The integration or adaptation to life social.

The fourth chapter Specifics of Roma communities in Romania include information on the typology of the Roma and their way of life in the contemporary period.

Given that there is no real evidence of these people, the diversity of Roma communities, along with identification problems, creates difficulty when it is desired to make a general characterization of this community because the Roma way of life is different, îndelednicirile and their entertainment or financial situation.

Roma traditions have always been an attraction for most of those who watched "door" these people full of enthusiasm and joy. For centuries we have fascinated and worried at the same time.

Strategy life of the Roma community had the advantage to survive centuries of discrimination, marginalization and persecution, but has become a barrier to modernization. These communities have developed a set of habits important events of life and artistic production type specific folklore. But the greatest importance in the life of a Gypsy family has. Everything revolves around the family: social and economic relations, education and transmission crafts and traditions, safety and protection of the individual. Therefore, marriage in Roma communities is at an early age.

From the linguistic point of view, Romani has important influences of Persian and Armenian, which demonstrates Roma passing through those countries. Roma were divided into three groups (possibly because the Turkish invasion), some leaving for the northern Black Sea, its southern others going (going to Egypt), and the other group went to the west to the Byzantine Empire. The latter are most likely those who were spread throughout Europe in the centuries that followed. Specifically, the multitude of words derived from Greek - and there are now Roma language - makes historians assert that the Roma have spent a long period of their existence in the Byzantine Empire. Incidentally, the name "Gypsy" apparently comes from the Greek word "atsiganos" which was the name of a sect of heretics that Roma do not actually have any relationship, but that was

because of their foreign partners.

Neither those who remained closer to the Black Sea had no existence easier. In the Balkans, Moldova and the Romanian Country, Roma lived in slavery and those who did not accept this had to continue the "journey", spreading throughout Europe, from Spain (1425) to in Finland (1597). To obtain permits passage through Western European countries, Roma have claimed to be Christians in Egypt come on pilgrimage, and when they could not convince, they forged the documents. This false identity associated with their foreign appearance gave rise to new names that Roma have received from the British - "gypsy" and in Spanish - "Gitano", both meaning "Egyptian". Only in the second half of the eighteenth century, Europeans have realized that Romani looks a lot like Hindi, making the Indian origin of Roma.

Most are musicians because they have a very great talent in terms of talent. For small children, the Roma are drawn to musical instruments. If you give a child rum holding a musical instrument suddenly try to play some sounds that might resemble a song.

Almost all the musicians begin to play the drums, but very few continue with this instrument.- musician father will give your child the first lessons instrument that he decided to sing. Then one child studying without being directed by someone, hours and days.

Based on the content of previous chapters, in the fifth part of the thesis we wanted to analyze the perspectives of public policies for Roma. To what extent were applied to policies, programs and projects of social inclusion? What kind of measures have had favorable results and should be redesigned to better collaboration between Roma and Romanian? What kind of problems were encountered in implementing such projects, which are the targets of the Millennium Development Goals?

The main policy document in the field is the Romanian Government Strategy for Improving the Roma, the first comprehensive government initiative addressing problems of the Roma minority. Public policy is a series of interconnected decisions regarding the setting objectives to be achieved, the means and resources allocated to achieve its purpose in different contexts.

Public policies are responding to needs arising in society, so as to reduce the gaps on one area or another. Public policies for Roma have been an upward trend, especially in recent years, due, on the one hand, representatives of Roma communities have assumed responsibilities in regard to the rights and living conditions and, on the other hand, institutions involving national and international Roma issue on the political agenda.

Models lack an issue - Roma communities rarely benefit from models of people within them, who managed the "school". In general, the model of success is characterized by "the power to support his family" thing rom teaches small children. In Romanian society, school is seen more as a "service learning" - school cooperation with third parties (community, church, public authority etc.) is far from what it should be. Parents are far less involved, leading, for the disadvantaged - including Roma - the lack of family support.

Successful models (individual, community) from within Roma communities who have achieved professional and exceeded their condition through education and work are intended to motivate Roma children and youth to go to school, to achieve professional and also to the parents realize the importance of education to their children. Knowing all models, through education, through school and involvement of Roma communities in

development will help to society, to remove prejudices, eliminate stigma identity, to promote equal opportunities and improve the phenomenon of discrimination. Recognizing the diversity of families and habits, I limited the analysis of the Roma community in the town of Stellenbosch focusing on their education, specifically on how to make education among children and adults.

And so the last chapter of the thesis is subordinate to that goal, because education is the basis of every individual and it defines.

In the second part of the paper, the practice, research was conducted structured in five dimensions. Research methodology applied in the development of this work is based on the following dimensions: history, anthropology, comparative statistics, sociometric.

Depending on the issues addressed in each chapter we have identified the method or technique applied.

Qualitative research is using the sample Roma people from Roma communities who have surpassed provided by educational attainment, occupational, economic and religious and Roma people who have no fixed address, who have problems material serious or may not have a job.

In determining the sample we used both probabilistic techniques and techniques directed towards a goal. Research instruments used are: questionnaire, case studies, research by survey, interview and focus group. The research validates or invalidates assumptions and highlights the results, benefits and value of the proposed approach and the innovations in scientific solutions in response to Roma issues in social perspective and integration of Roma communities.

The main objective of this paper is to develop a sociological research the current state of Roma education and the influence of this on Roma communities. The case study explores the legal, institutional and experiences in Romania with regard to Roma communities, taking into account both the positive aspects and successes, and obstacles in the development of social enterprises within their communities. After analyzing the profile of Roma communities, the current policies, tools used to develop the social economy sector, the report provides a number of conclusions and practical recommendations that support the promotion and development of social policies to support education in Roma communities.

In analyzing the current situation I followed:

- development of education and identification of socio-economic and institutional that influenced this evolution in the context of social inclusion strategies promoted nationally and educational trends and prospects;
- assessing the relevance of social economy models for Roma communities in relation to the resources and needs of these communities, and in light of the experience of various organizations that have implemented such projects;
- identification of good practice models in educational projects in Roma communities and develop recommendations for increasing the capacity of these communities to develop such projects.

The proposed methodology was based mainly on the use of three methods of research:

1. analysis of relevant documents from the perspective of education among Roma communities: national and European strategies, legislation, other programmatic documents, specialized articles and research reports;
2. The secondary analysis of data from different statistical and research conducted in

Roma communities or the entities;

3. qualitative research based on individual and group interviews with stakeholders in the area studied, mainly representatives of organizations that have implemented or are implementing education projects.

The documentary analysis focused on the one hand, an overview of the main laws impacting Roma education, policy and social inclusion strategies, focusing on Roma inclusion, on the other hand reviewing the results of the various studies and research made in Romania on Roma communities, social inclusion of disadvantaged groups and education as a tool for promoting inclusion.

In this regard, was made an extensive list of documents - laws, strategies, research reports - which were subsequently analyzed. By reporting these critical documents, documentary analysis was mainly aimed to describe and explain the institutional context that shapes the forms of social economy in Romania and how this context has evolved in recent years.

Secondary analysis of statistics from official or inquiries by various NGOs or academic focused mainly describe resources and needs of Roma communities in Romania. Most statistical data come from the 2002 Population and Housing Census and 2011, as well as a survey conducted in 2011, the UNDP / World Bank / European Commission in five countries in Central and Eastern Europe in a program financed European Commission entitled "pilot project on Roma communities: Tools and Methods of Evaluation and Data Collection [the Roma pilot Project: Tools and Methods for Evaluation and Data Collection]". The result of these analyzes resulted in profiling Roma communities, with emphasis on those characteristics that may influence the potential of using education in these communities.

Through qualitative research we collected information from relevant actors for social economy, applied in Roma communities, NGOs and public institutions in order to identify, on the basis of their own problems, potential solutions and best practices for implementation educational projects in these communities.

Were selected and included in the analysis five types of organizations targeted by qualitative research:

1. Institutions of public administration at central level;
2. Non-governmental organizations active in the education of Roma, in the sense that they have developed or providing support for the development of social economy activities, focusing on projects in Roma communities;
3. Non-governmental organizations whose work promotes the rights of the Roma minority (NGOs).
4. Large retail companies with social responsibility programs that might be interested to facilitate market access for activities developed in Roma communities;
5. Non-governmental organizations in Central and Eastern Europe experienced in social economic projects in the region.

This study included a detailed analysis of education in terms of its applicability in Roma communities, taking into account the socio-economic profile of these communities, the legislation and the experiences gained so far in Romania. Highlighted a number of structural limits and analysis in making this report: a limited number of official data, disaggregated by age and gender, on the structure of Roma communities; appearance, in February 2012, the preliminary data of the National Population and Housing

Recensământului 2011; lack of impact at national level funding programs and / or public policy; lack of specific legislation on Roma education and a national consensus on its definition.

For the study case, I focused more on organizațiile and institutions have developed educational initiatives, achieving in this way only primary analysis training Romanian market for social economy.

As sociological survey methodology we used a questionnaire with open questions.

To achieve the goal we developed a questionnaire that was sent to the 8 municipalities in the county where the Roma communities are representative (Slatina, Caracal, Ship, Piatra Olt, gardening, Iancu Jianu, Horseshoe, Drăgănești Olt) and by NGOs local.

The questionnaire contains 23 questions and is presented in Appendix. 1.

With reference to the 8 municipalities in Olt County, the situation is as follows:

eight municipalities responded to the questionnaire as follows:

- All 8 municipalities identified Roma people
- All 8 municipalities have identified a different number of Roma people
- All municipalities have responded to the questionnaire
- 3 NGOs responded and identified Roma people.

In the first part of the questionnaire we asked municipalities to assess the number of Roma people who are within the locality concerned. After centralizing information received from the 8 municipalities that resulted were recorded 30.06.2012 A number of 12,474 Roma people.

The situation presented above indicate that there is some dispersion of the Roma population in terms of their number and localities where they are. It is known that in some urban or rural, their number is higher (Caracal, Ship, Piatra Olt, Iancu Jianu, Horseshoe, Drăgănești Olt), while in others there is a relatively low number of Roma population. The statistic data sent by municipalities allowed me to emphasize age groups of the Roma population.

One can easily notice that, in terms of this variable, we have an approximately uniform distribution of this population across localities analyzed.

Another question sought to identify the occupational status of the Roma population. Statistics indicated that the 61% of them have no occupation, and 39% carry out different activities (agriculture, self employed, small craftsmen, etc.).

I tried to find the sources of income of Roma people in the 8 cities included in my review. By centralizing information showed that nearly a third of them is the main income amounts allocated by MIG (31.4%) and only slightly receiving pensions (5.2%) and wages (2.3%). In relation to the size and structure of these families to benefit, according to legal regulations of various categories of benefits (state allowances, allowances and additional support for lone parents, etc.). Of the total population, 10.7% had no source of income.

This illustrates the precarious state of this category of persons and a certain dependence on benefits and welfare system. A percentage of 38.8% of the total Roma population was under 18 (data were processed in the period June-August 2012). Over half of the Roma population did not attend any form of education preschool or school. An important part of the Roma population, a 21% graduated from elementary school grades I-IV, and was graduated from high school 5.9% of patients. Statistics show, however, that 5.0% of the representatives of this population study in post-secondary

schools and higher education institutions.

Identifying specific variables allows us to support the population under investigation is the most stable unemployed, being dependent on social assistance and low schooling or schooling for two-thirds of them will allow while achieving occupational integration or professional.

The study aimed to know the ways in which local communities have developed their own basic social assistance services (counseling, information) including the Roma. The responses were diverse, they cantonându being generally the following answers (4 municipalities gave no answer):

- community nurse visits the Roma families by working with the school,
- organize regular information campaigns on the issue of the Roma community education and prevention of school failure,
- Romani learning activities,
- within SPAS there is a counseling office for Roma and other areas of advice and guidance service for Roma, information,
- Community Advisory Council was established where people are invited and Roma
- In the City Hall there is a local expert on Roma issues, health mediator, mediator school
- support for the provision of free medical care.

We were interested in the extent to which representatives of municipalities perceive the Roma in marginalized category included in the periodic reports submitted by DMPS Olt, according to Law 116/2002. With the analysis of statistical information obtained, 34.1% of these people are perceived as marginal, while four municipalities did not answer this question.

8 municipalities argued that Roma people do not have the status of marginalized people in those areas.

From the perspective of local main social problems faced by this population circumscribe the following statements (three municipalities did not answer, and representatives of other municipalities had the possibility to choose several answers): Municipalities have tried to prioritize the most important social problems facing the Roma. The main priorities identified are:

- Reduced offer of employment,
- Extreme poverty and relative
- Insufficient cash income,
- The high school dropout,
- Housing and habitat conditions apply.

In this context we asked municipalities to identify solutions for preventing social disturbances, but also at least partially solve the problems detected. All 8 municipalities have answered this question. Therefore, the solutions identified are:

- contacts and regular visits to their homes giving, where appropriate, advice, guidance,
- working with schools and concrete measures to prevent drop out of Roma,
- guidance of Roma by territorial centers of CEA Olt finding a job,
- building partnerships to support external financing projects to support solving various problems of the Roma population (development of social housing, material and financial support for Roma children to have access to high levels of professionalization.)
- finding solutions as the Roma, social uninsured or guaranteed minimum income benefit not be able to access health insurance system.

- continuous monitoring of Roma families to social support and other social assistance benefits in relation to the law,
- realization of investments with the support of the county for housing supply electricity, drinking water, open plan living space to the minimum decency, etc.
- taking measures to prevent and combat all forms of discrimination.

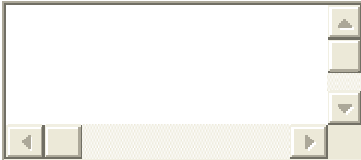
We wanted to know if now, municipalities have some goals that allow to improve the situation of Roma.

No answer to that question 2 municipalities, and others have offered a set of responses that differ from one locality to another. Although, in general, the social problems of the Roma population are the same local interventions are different in relation to a particular social context, economic, financial and human resources available to local authorities.

They concern the ongoing collaboration with CEA to obtain a job, support for obtaining identity documents and certificates of births, making a database of the Roma population to ensure better communication with it and achieve interventions in emergency situations, leasing of land for housing, water, sewerage network expansion in areas with Roma population, organizing infrastructure and other public services (modernization of roads, electric lighting, etc.), create action counseling with the family doctor, social worker, showing modern contraceptive methods and other aspects of health.

The information submitted have identified NGOs to carry out projects, activities for the Roma. No answer to this question three municipalities, and Iancu Jianu, Caracal such organizations exist. Local authorities claim that there is collaboration with the associations and organizations that provides specific services performed.

We evaluated the number of Roma in larger or smaller periods of time migrated to EU countries By centralizing data it is estimated that currently about 3,200 people out of 12,474 (up 25%) are not found within the locality concerned. Did not answer this question three municipalities, and in 2 cases the answer was "not applicable".



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