



## Analysis of FRA Roma survey results by gender

### Introduction

On 27 June 2013, the President of the European Parliament asked the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), in accordance with its Regulation, to provide an analysis of data collected through FRA's Roma Survey<sup>1</sup> broken down by gender and covering the core areas of employment, education, housing and health, as well as any other gender-sensitive policy areas. The analysis contributes to the European Parliament's own initiative report on *Gender aspects of the European Framework of National Roma Integration Strategies*.

### Summary

On average across the 11 EU Member States surveyed, the situation of Roma women in core areas of social life, such as education, employment and health is worse in comparison to that of Roma men. The results show also important differences between Member States that need to be taken into account when developing and implementing Roma inclusion policies and actions.

In regard to **education**, more Roma men (85 %) than women (77 %) said that they could read or write and more Roma women (19 %) than men (14 %) said that they had never been to school. The situation is better for young Roma aged 16–24 years and even more so for Roma women reaching, on average, the literacy levels of Roma men in that age group. In Greece, literacy rates are the lowest among the EU Member States surveyed even for young Roma men and women aged 16–24 years. On average across all Member States surveyed, fewer Roma women (37 %) than men (50 %) aged 16–24 years were reported as remaining in education after the age of 16.

Concerning **employment**, on average across the Member States surveyed, 21% of Roma women are in paid work compared to 35 % of Roma men. The proportion of Roma women working as full-time homemakers is higher in France, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Romania and Spain. In the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia, the proportion of women doing paid work is equal or even higher than that of Roma men. On average, Roma men are more frequently reported as self-employed (25 %) or in ad hoc jobs (28 %) than Roma women (13 % and 15 %, respectively).

When looking at **health**, there were overall relatively few differences between Roma women and men. On the other hand when comparing Roma women to non-Roma women aged 16+ we find that more Roma women said that their health is a 'bad' or 'very bad' and the difference is even more pronounced for women older than 50. In Italy, the health of Roma women aged 50+ living in encampments is much worse compared with non-Roma women surveyed nearby. When asked about their medical insurance coverage, on average, 18 % of Roma women respondents said that they are not covered in comparison to 8 % of non-Roma women living nearby.

In regard to **housing**, the survey results show that 42 % of the Roma surveyed live in conditions of severe housing deprivation, e.g. have no piped water and/or sewage and/or electricity in

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<sup>1</sup> More information on FRA's work on Roma inclusion is available at <http://fra.europa.eu/en/theme/roma>



comparison to 12 % of non-Roma living near-by. Roma households with four or more children face a higher proportion of severe housing deprivation.

The **financial situation** of women is reflected in the at-risk-of-poverty household indicator. 87 % of Roma households in the survey have an income below the national at-risk-of-poverty level compared to 46 % of non-Roma households surveyed and compared to 17 % for the EU's population in general. Roma families with four or more children have the highest at-risk-of-poverty rate across the surveyed EU Member States – often 90 % or more of these families have an income below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold.

There were relatively small gender differences concerning perceived **discrimination and rights awareness**: overall 22 % of Roma women and 27 % of Roma men respondents said that they felt discriminated due to their ethnicity when looking for work in the last 12 months, but there are important differences between EU Member States. Roma women are also, on average, less aware of anti-discrimination legislation than Roma men.

Gender differences concerning **voting** in national and local elections were small with the lowest participation rates, for both men and women, in France (*gens de voyages*), the Czech Republic, Italy and Portugal.

In regard to **marriage** across all Member States surveyed around 2% of Roma girls aged 10-15 were reported as 'traditionally married' or cohabitating with a partner and around 16% of Roma (men and women) aged 16–17 years were reported as legally or traditionally married or cohabitating. Only 6 % of Roma women aged 16–17 years who were of married or cohabitating were in education compared with an average of 36 % for all Roma women of this age group.

## Background

In September 2010 the European Commission established an internal Roma Task Force with the participation of FRA to assess the process of Roma inclusion. The initial findings of the Roma Task Force in December 2010 noted a lack of robust and comparable data. In order to improve data availability FRA conducted in 2011 a survey of Roma and non-Roma populations living in close proximity in areas where Roma live in a higher than national average proportion. The survey covered 11 EU Member States, where the majority of Roma live, including: Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, France, Greece, Italy, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Spain. It collected information on the respondents' socio-economic condition and their perceived experiences of discrimination and rights awareness.

The survey was conducted in close cooperation with the European Commission, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank. For the FRA survey, Gallup Europe carried out the fieldwork under the supervision of FRA's expert staff that developed the survey questionnaire, observed the training and fieldwork, and undertook the data analysis.

The term 'Roma', as used by the Council of Europe, refers to Roma, Sinti, Kale and related groups in Europe, including Travellers and the Eastern groups (Dom and Lom); it also covers the wide diversity of the groups concerned, including persons who identify themselves as Gypsies.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Council of Europe, *Descriptive Glossary of terms relating to Roma issues*, version dated 18 May 2012, available at [http://hub.coe.int/c/document\\_library/get\\_file?uuid=83de8f0d-ee32-40c9-b92e-e77edec46388&groupId=10227](http://hub.coe.int/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=83de8f0d-ee32-40c9-b92e-e77edec46388&groupId=10227)



The term 'non-Roma' refers to the population living closest to the Roma covered in the FRA survey and is not representative of the general population of a country.

#### *Who was interviewed and how?*

- In each Member State, about 1,000 Roma households and 500 non-Roma households were sampled randomly<sup>3</sup> in areas that were known to have a proportion of Roma residents above the national average. The survey therefore reflects the situation in those areas in the 11 EU Member States that have an above average proportion of Roma.
- Across all countries, the survey interviewed 10,811 Roma and 5,508 non-Roma households providing information on about 61,000 household members.
- The data provide information on a total of 14,104 Roma women and 13,521 Roma men aged 16 years and older, and for 9,161 girls and 9,594 boys below the age of 16 years who live in a Roma household.
- Information on the household and its members was collected through face-to-face interviews in their home by one randomly selected respondent within the household aged at least 16 years; non-Roma respondents were sampled from the same residential area or from the closest neighbourhood to the Roma interviewed.
- The majority of Roma interviewed in the survey held the citizenship of the country of residence, with the exception of Italy where about 40 % of respondents were non-citizens.

#### *What did the survey ask?*

- Questions about the basic socio-demographic characteristics of all household members.
- Questions about their situation in employment, education, health and housing.
- Questions about the neighbourhood and its infrastructure.
- Questions about integration, discrimination, rights awareness and citizenship issues.
- Questions about mobility and migration.

#### *How representative are the results?*

- The results are representative for those Roma women and men living in areas where they reside in a higher than national average density.
- The results for non-Roma are not representative of the general population in each Member State, but serve as a benchmark for the Roma since the non-Roma interviewed often share the same environment, labour market and social infrastructure.
- The survey "total" mentioned in many graphs and tables<sup>4</sup> is an unweighted average of all Roma included in the survey and should only be used as a reference point for individual country values. As it is an unweighted average – that is, not correcting for different population sizes in different countries – it does not reflect the situation of the total Roma population in the 11 EU Member States surveyed.

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<sup>3</sup> Respondents self-identified as Roma or as 'non-Roma'.

<sup>4</sup> Normal rounding error may result in a small difference of +/- 1 percentage point in the analysis.



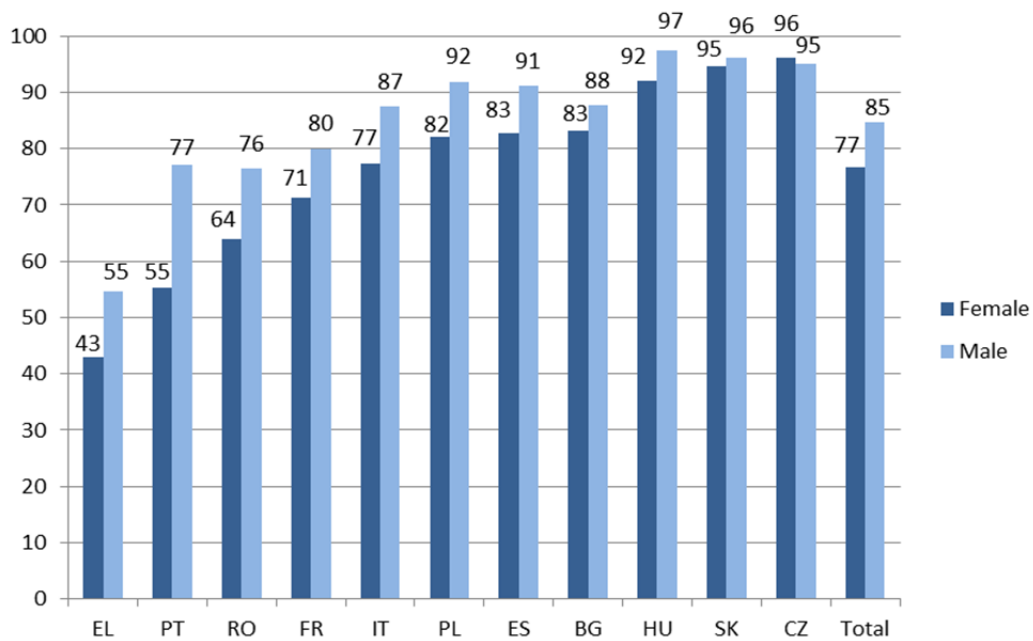
## 1. Education

Education has an impact on future life chances, and it is crucial for finding stable and decently paid employment. The results show that Roma women lag behind men in regard to education. The gap closes, however, when looking at younger age groups indicating that there are improvements over time, especially in some EU Member States.

- **Literacy rate**

- 80 % of Roma men and women surveyed aged 16 years and over can read and write compared with 99% of non-Roma.
- Overall, Roma women have a lower literacy rate (77 %) than Roma men (85 %). Gender differences are highest in Portugal where 55% of Roma women aged 16 years and over can read and write compared with 77 % of Roma men. The gap in literacy levels between Roma women and men is also notable in Romania (64 % vs. 76 %) and Greece (43 % vs. 55 %).
- At the same time, the situation has improved for younger Roma in particular and even more so for women: Roma women, aged 16–24 years, have reached the same literacy level (89 %) as Roma men of the same age group.
- In Portugal, literacy rates for Roma aged 16 to 24 years have increased the most and the gap between young women and men has nearly closed (88 % literacy among Roma women in Portugal vs. 93 % among Roma men).
- In Greece, literacy rates are the lowest with 43% of Roma women and 55% of Roma men aged 16 years and over stating that they can read and write. The same applies to young Roma in Greece as 65 % of Roma women and men aged 16 to 24 years are literate.

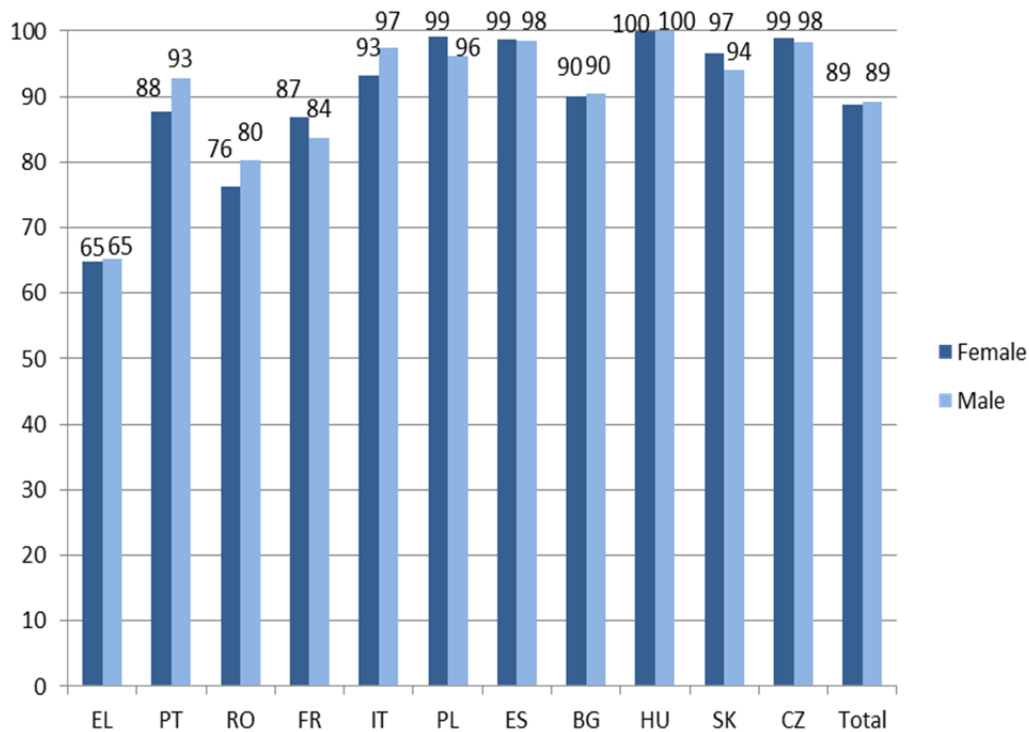
**Figure 1: Literacy of Roma women and men aged 16 years and over, %**



Source: FRA Roma pilot survey 2011: Self-declared ability to read and write, Roma respondents, age 16+



**Figure 2: Literacy of young Roma women and men aged 16 to 24 years, %**



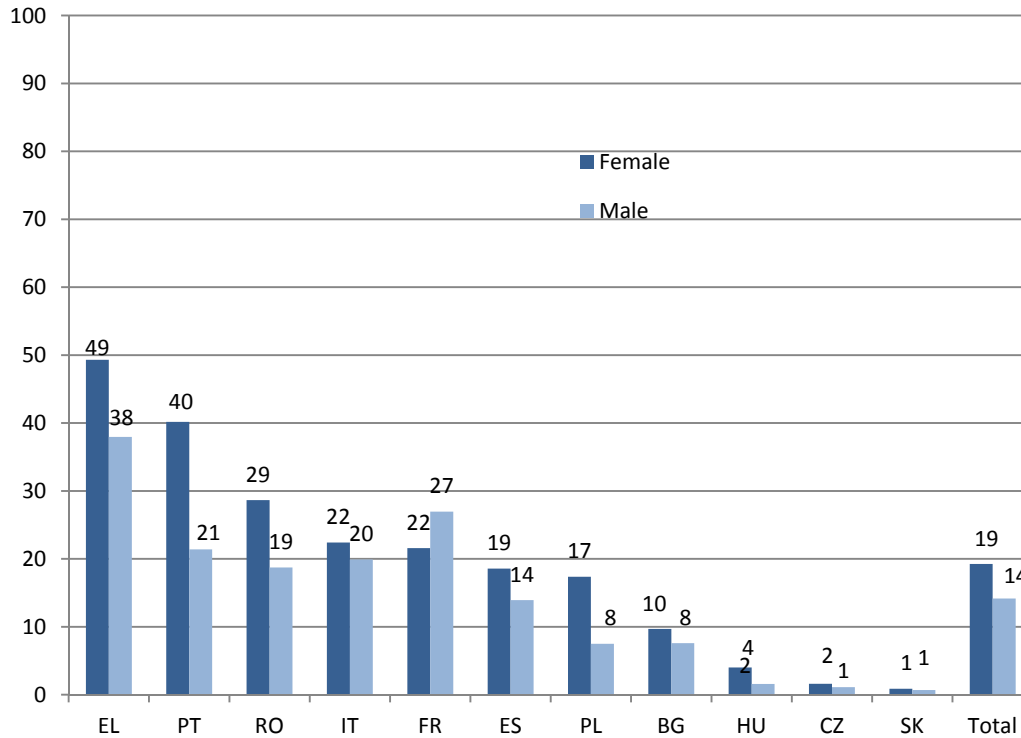
Source: FRA Roma pilot survey 2011: Self-declared ability to read and write, Roma respondents, aged 16–24 years

### • **School attendance**

- 17 % of the Roma surveyed aged 16 years and over never attended school compared with 2 % of non-Roma. The situation has, nevertheless, improved for Roma aged 16 to 24 years: only 8% have never attended school. However, high percentages of young Roma aged 16 to 24 years have never attended school in Greece (28 %), Romania (15 %) and France (11 %).
- Roma women surveyed aged 16 years and over attended school less often than Roma men; the differences are, however, relatively small: across all Roma surveyed around 19 % of women have never been to school compared with 14 % of Roma men. In France, slightly more men than women said that they had never been to school.
- In Portugal, the FRA survey observes the highest gender gap in school attendance: almost twice as many Roma women (40 %) than men surveyed (21%) have never been to school. In Greece, half of Roma woman surveyed (49 %) never attended school compared to 38 % of Roma men.



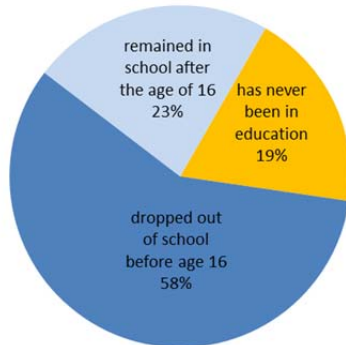
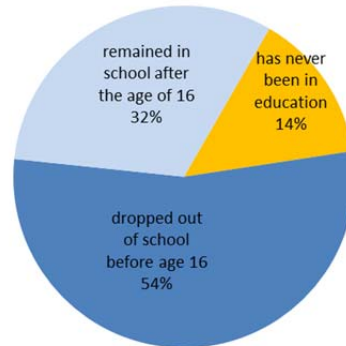
Figure 3: Roma aged 16 years and over who never went to school, %



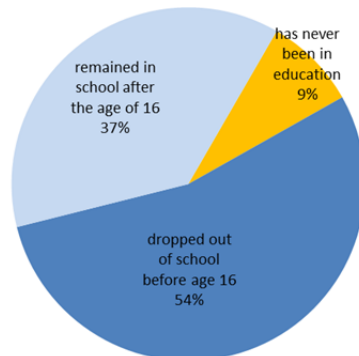
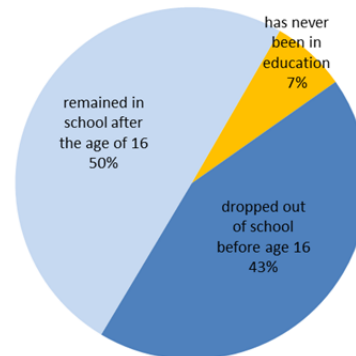
Source: FRA Roma pilot survey 2011: Answer category "has never been in education" on the question: At what age did you finish or leave school, Roma respondents, age 16+

• **School attendance patterns**

- More than half of Roma women (58 %) and men (54 %) surveyed aged 16 years and over dropped out of school before the age of 16 – an age at which compulsory school ends in most countries.
- As regards Roma aged 16 years and over, more Roma men surveyed (32 %) than women (23 %) remained in school after the age of 16.
- For the younger Roma surveyed the situation has overall improved: 8 % have never been to school, 50 % dropped out of school before the age of 16 and 42 % continued education after the age of 16.
- However, young Roma women are at a disadvantage compared with Roma men, as more drop out of school before the age of 16 (54 % vs. 43 %) and fewer continue after the age of 16 (37 % vs. 50 %).

**Figure 4: School attendance patterns of Roma aged 16 years and over, %**
**Roma women aged 16 and over**

**Roma men aged 16 and over**


Source: FRA Roma pilot survey 2011: Question: "At what age did you finish or leave school" or "main activity indicated as "in school/student", Roma respondents, age 16+

**Figure 5: School attendance patterns of Roma aged 16 to 24 years, %**
**Roma women aged 16 to 24**

**Roma men aged 16 to 24**


Source: FRA Roma pilot survey 2011: Question: "At what age did you finish or leave school" or "main activity indicated as "in school/student", Roma respondents, aged 16–24 years

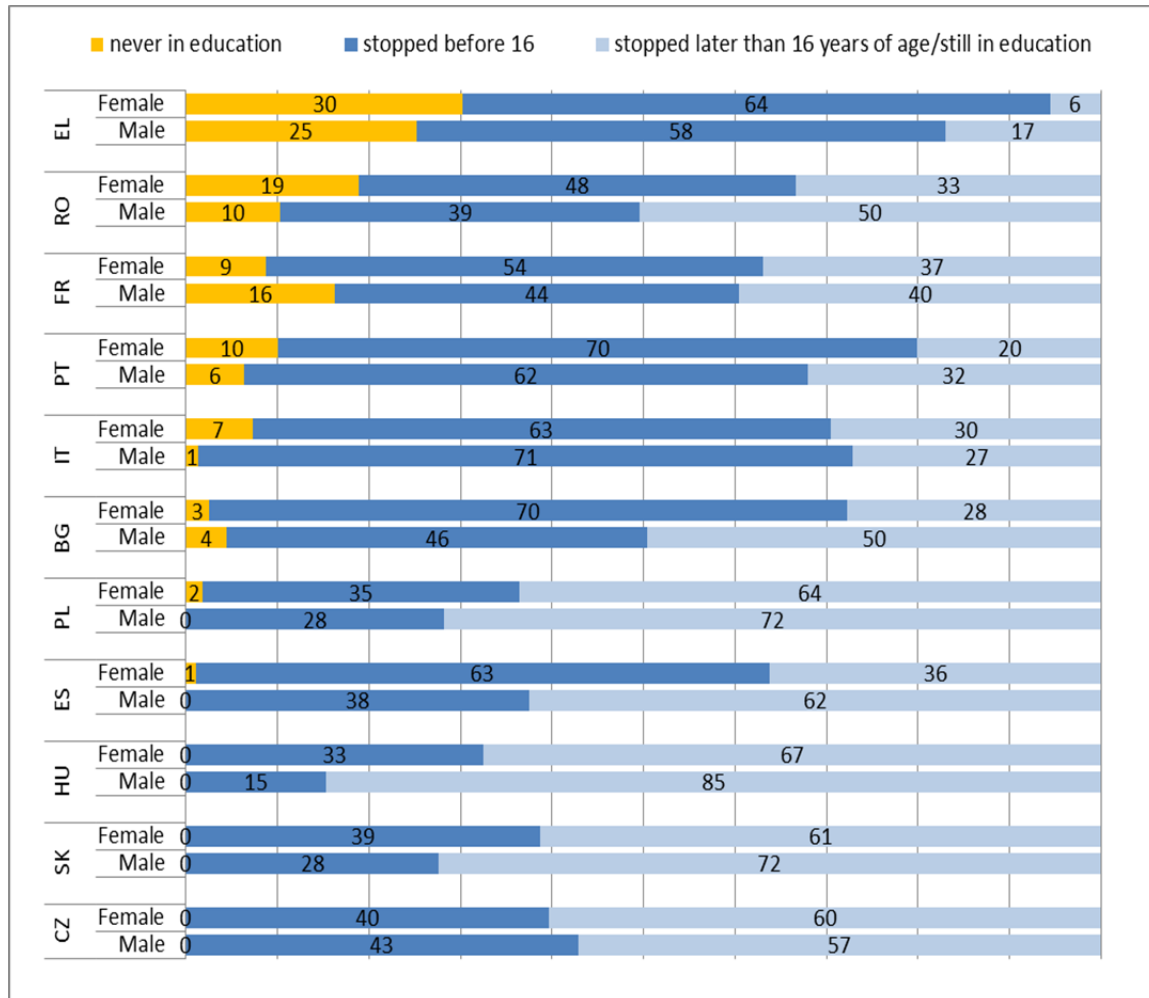
- **School attendance patterns by country**

- Greece has the lowest proportion of both Roma women and men surveyed that said that they continue education after the age of 16, and the gender differences are also pronounced: only 6 % of Roma women aged 16 to 24 years compared with 17 % of Roma men continued education after the age of 16.
- Among the EU Member States surveyed, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Poland have the highest proportion of 16–24-year-old Roma women and Roma men who continued education after the age of 16, but, with the exception of the Czech Republic, fewer Roma women continued their education after 16 than Roma men.



- Gender differences persist in the younger age group in Romania (19 % vs. 10 %) and Greece (30 % vs. 25 %). In France, also in this 16–24-year age group, more men (16 %) than women (9 %) said that have never attended school.
- In France, Italy and the Czech Republic, the school attendance patterns of young Roma aged 16 to 24 years show no notable gender differences, in contrast to the other countries.

**Figure 6: School attendance patterns of young Roma women and men aged 16–24 years, %**



Source: FRA Roma pilot survey 2011: Question: "At what age did you finish or leave school" or " main activity: in school/student", Roma respondents, age 16-24, 11 EU-Member States.





## 2. Employment

Employment patterns in Roma communities are often very distinct from the majority population due to, for example, restricted access to the regular labour market and lack of childcare facilities.

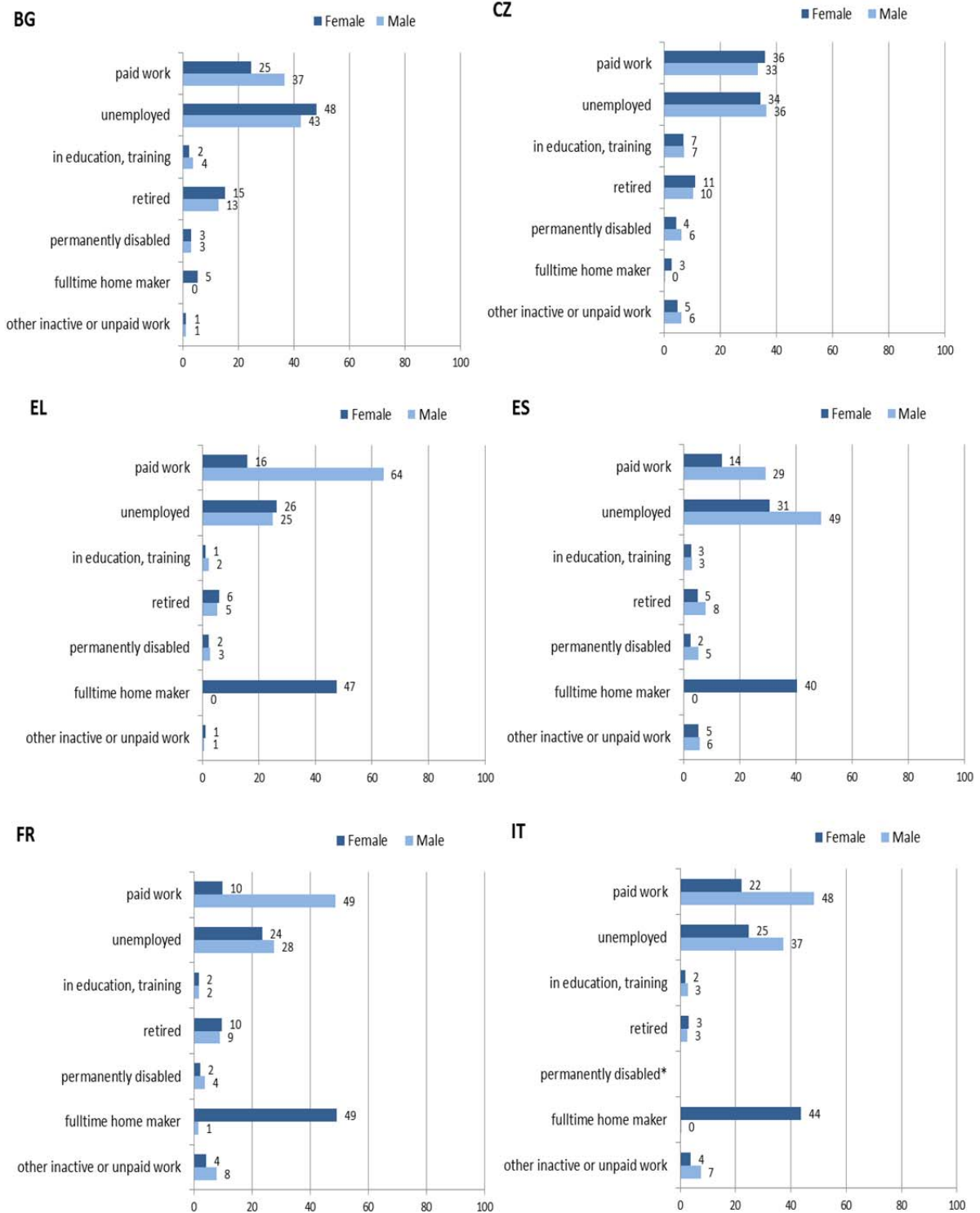
Types of residential areas where Roma live and where they were interviewed differ considerably between the 11 EU Member States covered in the FRA survey; therefore, possible differences between Member States surveyed in the distribution of respondents between urban and rural dwellers need to be taken into account when interpreting the results.

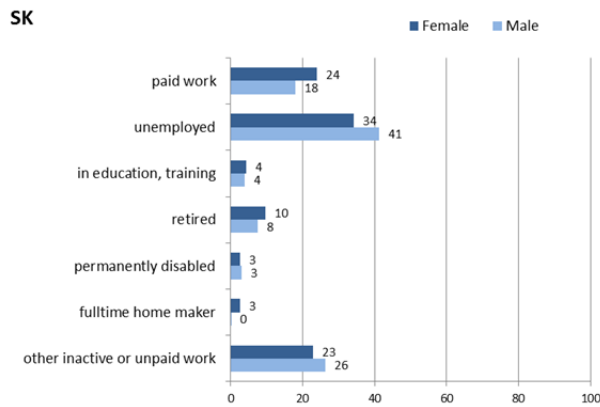
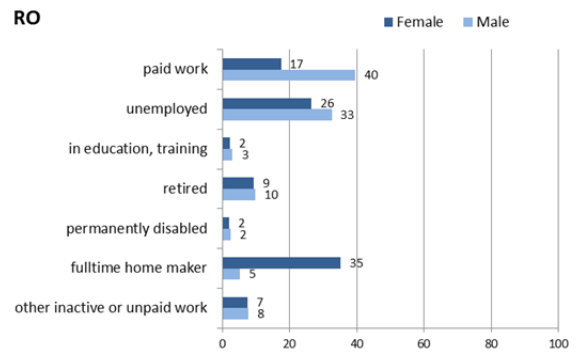
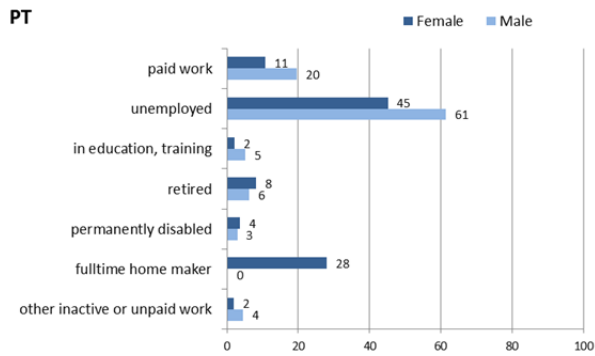
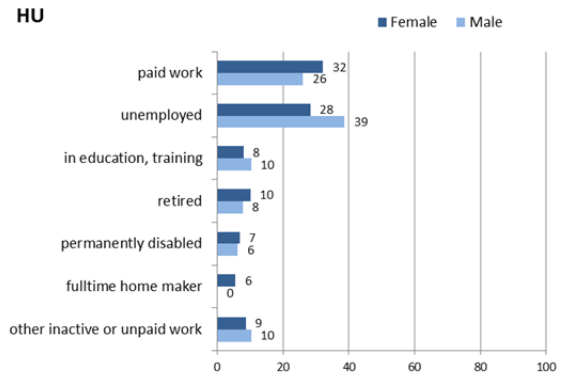
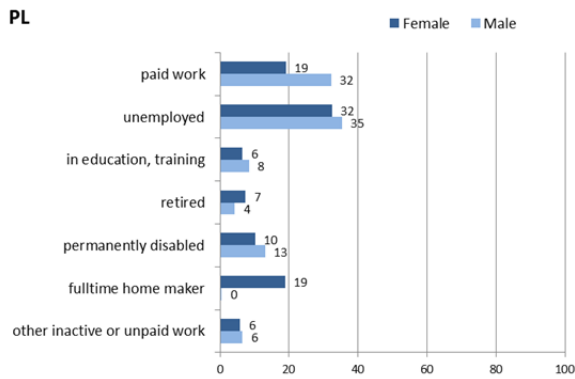
- **Self-declared main activity status**

- On average in the 11 EU Member States surveyed, 21 % of Roma women older than 16 years are in paid work (vs. 35 % of Roma men), 33 % are unemployed (vs. 39 %) and 24 % state that their main activity is taking care of the home (vs. 1 % of Roma men).
- In France (*gens de voyages*), Greece, Italy, Portugal, Romania and Spain, data show the traditional divide between women and men in terms of their main activity status: Roma women are more likely to be full-time housekeepers, whereas the labour participation of men is clearly higher. Except for France, these more traditional gender roles are also evident among the non-Roma living nearby.
- In central European countries (Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia), Roma women tend to have an equal or even higher labour market participation rate than Roma men, in terms of paid work. In Hungary, 32 % of Roma women aged 16 years and over are in paid work compared with 26 % of Roma men. In Slovakia, 24 % of Roma women and 18 % of Roma men are in paid work. In the Czech Republic, 36 % of Roma women and 33 % of men indicated some form of paid work as their main activity. In these countries, Roma women and men share an equal rate of unemployment.
- Only minimal differences can be observed between Roma women and men in relation to retirement, whereas differences can be noted between the Roma and non-Roma women surveyed: while 27 % of non-Roma women surveyed are retired, only 9 % of Roma women regard themselves as retired (vs. 23 % of non-Roma men and 8 % of Roma men).
- Focusing at the age group aged 50 years and over, the level of retirement remains higher: 39 % of Roma women and 36 % of Roma men state retirement as their main activity compared with 58 % of non-Roma men and 52 % of non-Roma women.



**Figure 7: Self-declared main activity of Roma women and men aged 16 and over, %**



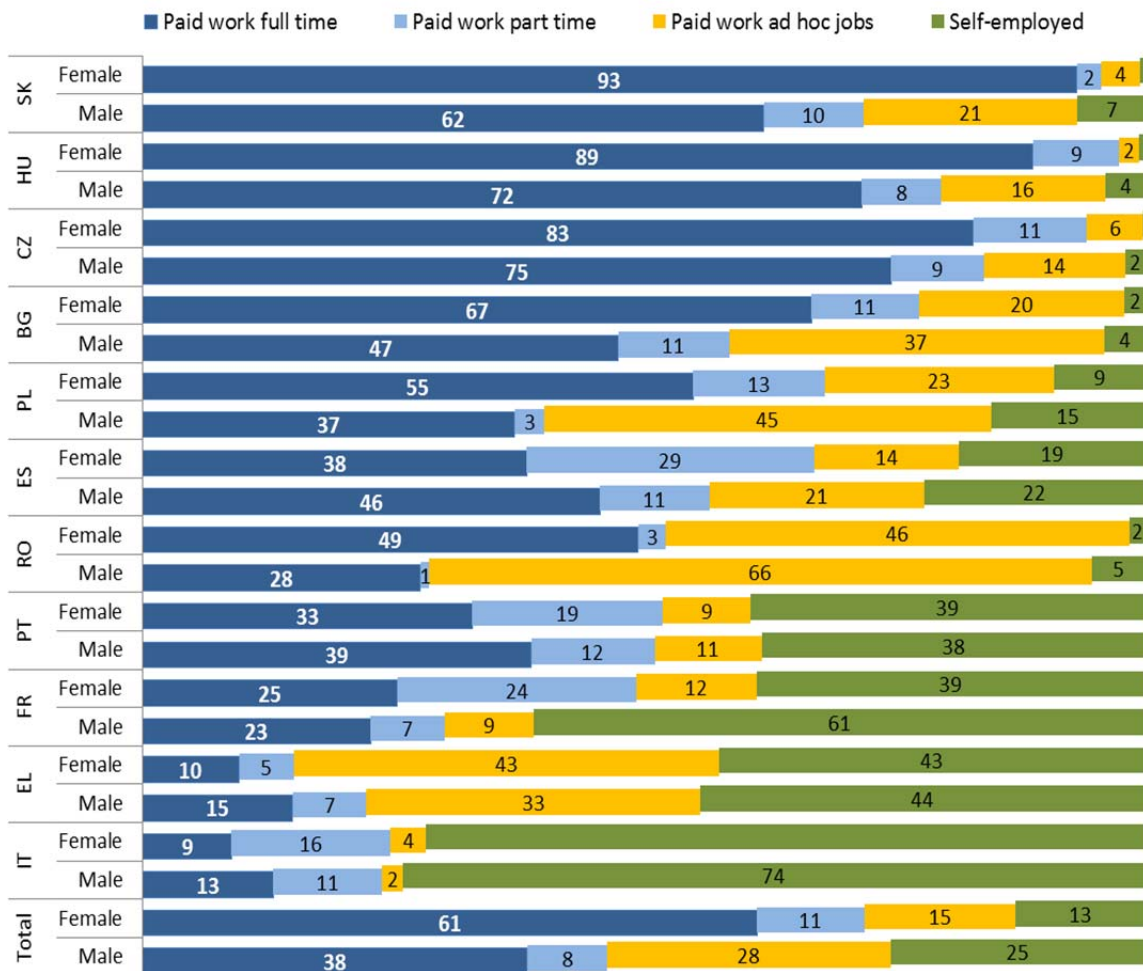


Source: FRA Roma pilot survey 2011: Self-declared main activity, persons in Roma households, age 16+

- **Employment patterns of paid work**

- On average across the 11 EU Member States surveyed, Roma women aged 20–64 years in paid work are more frequently in full-time employment (61 %) than men (38 %). There are, however, very important differences between the Member States surveyed ranging from 93 % in Slovakia to 9 %–10 % in Italy and Greece, respectively.
- Among the Member States surveyed, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia show the highest shares of labour market participation of Roma women; they also have a high proportion of Roma women in full-time work: 93 % of Roma women who are in paid work in Slovakia have full-time work, followed by 89 % in Hungary and 83 % in the Czech Republic.
- Roma men are also more frequently self-employed (25 %) or in ad hoc jobs (28 %) than Roma women (13 % and 15 %, respectively).

**Figure 8: Employment patterns of 20–64-year-old Roma women and men in paid work, %**



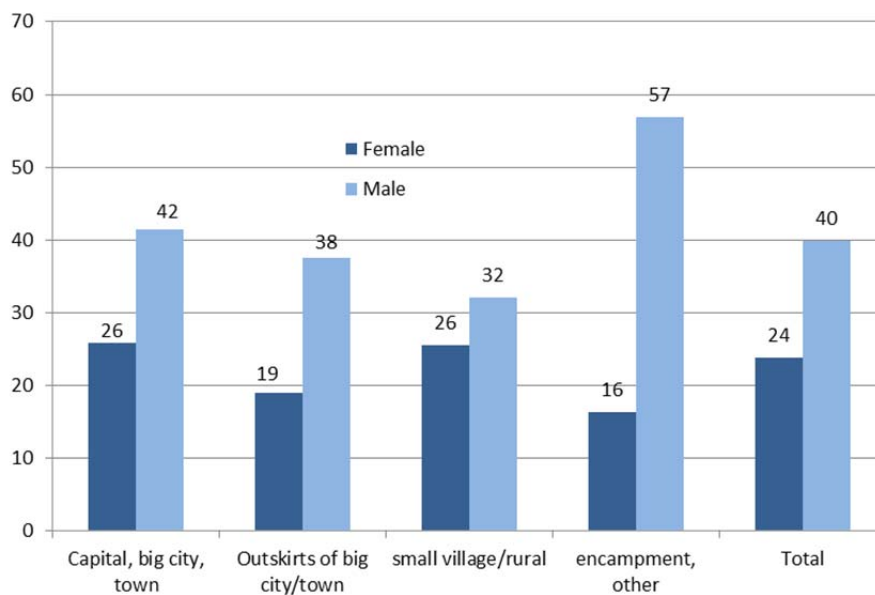
Source: FRA Roma pilot survey 2011: Self-declared main activity: paid work part-, fulltime (including paid parental leave), ad hoc jobs, self-employed, persons in Roma households, aged 20-64 years.



- **Paid work in urban and rural areas**

- The overall rate of paid work of the Roma surveyed is markedly below the national average. Roma women participate even less in the labour market than Roma men: only 24 % of Roma women aged 20 to 64 years are in paid work, compared with 40 % of Roma men.
- The employment gap which disadvantages Roma women is lowest in rural areas. This is due to the fact that the employment rate of Roma men in rural areas is below the average rate of paid work for all Roma men aged 20 to 64 years.
- The largest employment gap between Roma men and women was observed among those living in encampments and, to a lesser extent, those living in the outskirts of big cities.<sup>5</sup>

**Figure 9: Roma aged 20–64 years in paid work by type of residential area and by gender, %**



Source: FRA Roma pilot survey 2011: Self-declared main activity: paid work part-, fulltime, ad hoc jobs, self-employed, paid parental leave. Residential area: Interviewer's assessment of the type of area, persons in Roma households, age 20–64.

<sup>5</sup> Roma living in encampments were surveyed in France, Greece and Italy.



### 3. Healthcare

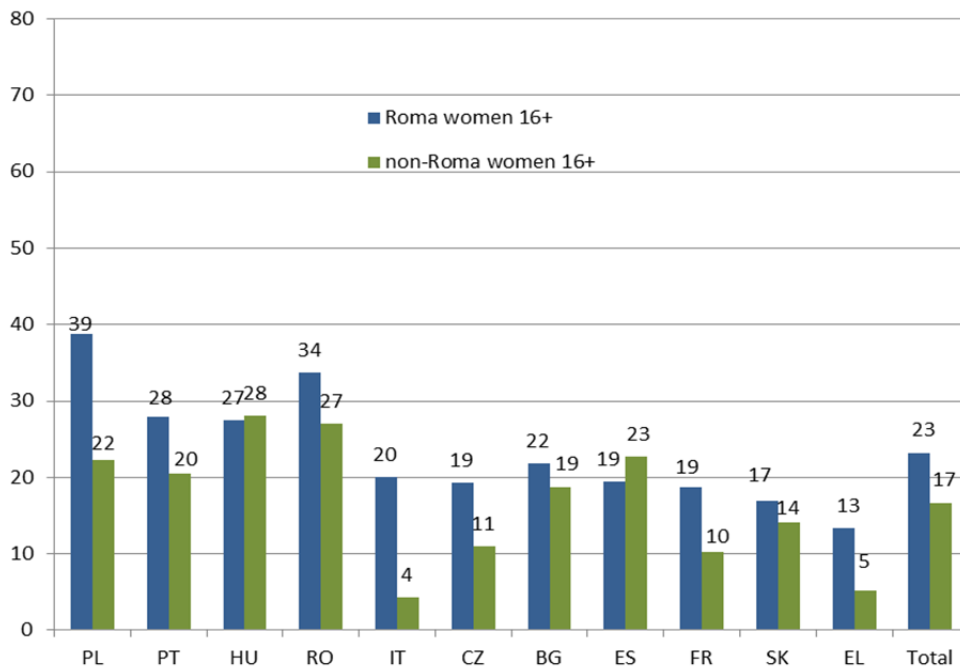
Respondents were asked to assess their own health. The subjective appraisal of one’s health situation is related to the current and past socio-economic situation of the respondent. In this regard, education and employment are of particular importance as regards differences in the self-assessment of the respondents’ health situation.

Health related surveys have shown that women generally tend to report a lower self-perceived health status than men – even when socio-economic differences are taken into account – and that women use healthcare facilities more frequently than men. Furthermore, women and men face different, also gender-specific, health issues. To better describe the health situation of Roma women, their responses concerning health problems which limit their daily activities were compared with the responses of non-Roma women living close by. Survey respondents were also asked about access to healthcare facilities in case of need, and about their health insurance coverage.

- **Health status**

Overall, Roma women aged 16 years and over reported more frequently a ‘bad’ or ‘very bad’ health status compared with non-Roma women. As health problems generally increase with age, the survey analysis needs to take into account that the surveyed Roma population was on average significantly younger (mean age=26 years) than the non-Roma population interviewed in the same neighbourhoods (mean age=40 years). The health status is therefore compared in the age group 50 years and older.

**Figure 10: Roma women and non-Roma women in bad health aged 16 years and over, %**

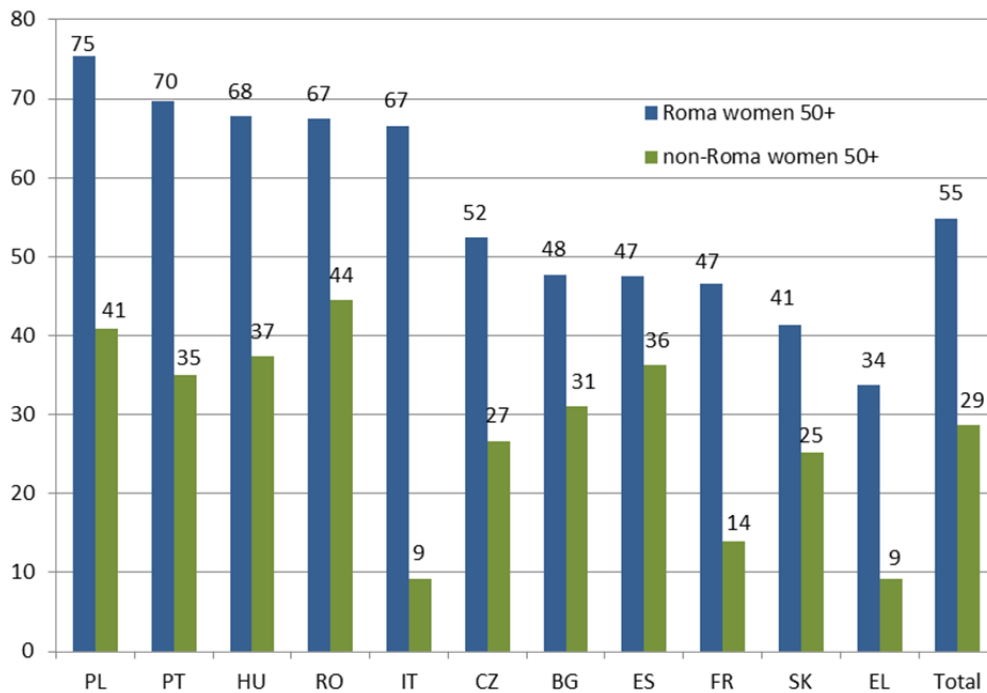


Source: FRA Roma pilot survey 2011: Self-declared general health status, answer categories: in bad health, in very bad health, women respondents age 16+



- Almost twice as many Roma women aged 50 years and over (55%) than non-Roma women (29%) said that their health is 'bad' or 'very bad'.
- In Poland, Portugal, Hungary, Romania and Italy, more than two thirds of Roma women aged 50 years and over said that their health was 'bad'.
- The lowest proportion of Roma women aged 50 years and over reporting bad or very bad health was surveyed in Greece (34 %).
- The smallest difference in subjective perceived health status between Roma and non-Roma women aged 50 years and over was in Spain.

**Figure 11: Bad and very bad health status, Roma women and non-Roma women aged 50 years and over, %**



Source: FRA Roma pilot survey 2011: Self-declared general health status, answer categories: in bad health, in very bad health, women respondents aged 50+

### • Limitation in daily activities

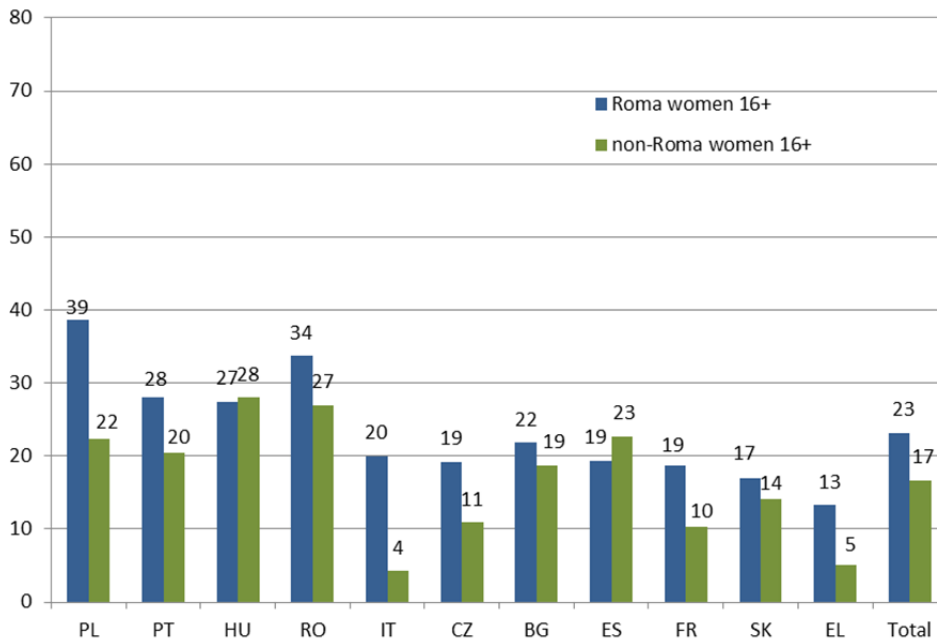
Bad health conditions can severely hamper daily life and they are often related to deprivation and social exclusion. Respondents were asked if they have any complaints, injuries or diseases that limit their everyday activities keeping them from doing things such as working, shopping, managing their life or keeping contact with other people.

- Overall, 23 % of all Roma women respondents and 17 % of non-Roma women aged 16 years and over said that health problems limit their daily activities.
- When looking at women aged 50 years and over, the majority of Roma women (61 %) reported to be limited in their daily activities due to health problems, compared with 45 % of non-Roma women of the same age group.



- Across the EU Member States surveyed, Roma women aged 50 years and over reported at different levels that they are hampered in their daily life due to injuries, diseases and other health problems, with the highest levels showing in Poland (79%), the Czech Republic (77%), Portugal (75%) and Hungary (74%). In comparison, non-Roma women of the same age group living nearby indicate health limitations to a much lesser extent: 48% in Poland, 53% in the Czech Republic, 58% in Portugal and 53% in Hungary.
- In Italy, about half of the Roma surveyed (40% non-nationals) lived in encampments. The health condition of older Roma women aged 50 years and over living in encampments is much worse compared with the non-Roma women surveyed nearby: 67% of Roma women said they were in bad health compared to 9% of non-Roma women, and 69% of Roma women said that their health limited their daily activities compared to only 24% of non-Roma women.

**Figure 12: Limitation in daily activities due to health, Roma and non-Roma women aged 16 years and over, %**

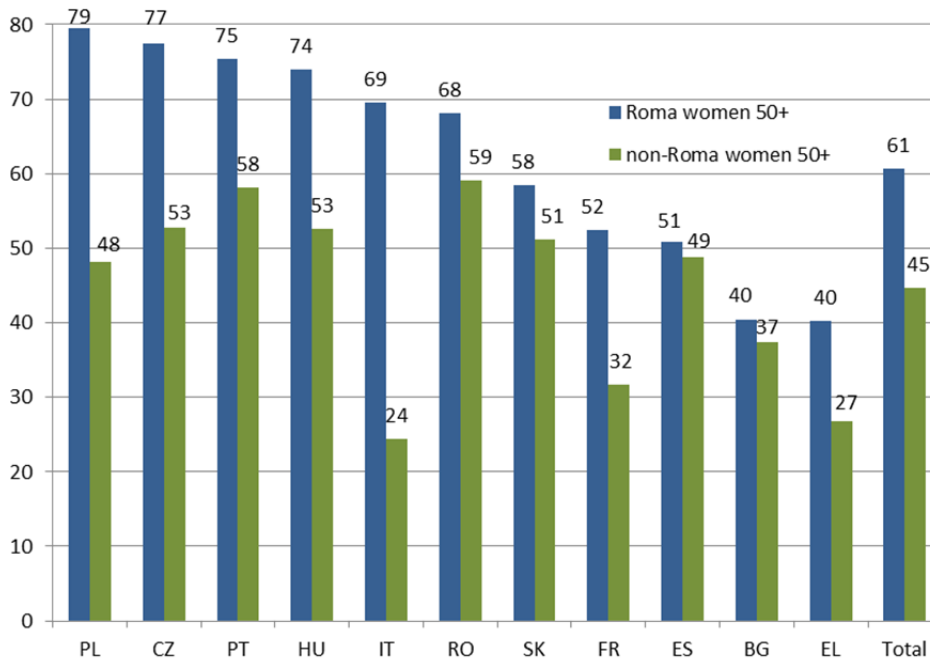


Source: FRA Roma pilot survey 2011: Self-declared: any complaints, injuries or answer categories: in bad health, in very bad health, women respondents aged 16+





**Figure 13: Limited in daily activities due to health, Roma and non-Roma women aged 50 years and over, %**



Source: FRA Roma pilot survey 2011: Self-declared: any complaints, injuries or answer categories: in bad health, in very bad health, women respondents aged 50+

### • Health insurance

The survey examined the respondents' awareness of having medical insurance cover<sup>6</sup>. Such awareness is important because people who think that they are not insured may not take advantage of medical services they are entitled to, such as preventative healthcare and pre-screening examinations. Medical insurance is compulsory for employees throughout the European Union. However, given the low employment rate of Roma surveyed their protection in the health system is questionable. Respondents aged 18 years and over were asked if they have any form of medical insurance in their country (with the main national insurance scheme name suggested by the interviewer).

- On average, 18 % of Roma women state that they are not covered by any medical insurance. There are, however, no gender differences in access to health insurance between Roma men and Roma women.
- In comparison to non-Roma women living nearby, significantly fewer Roma women said that they had a medical insurance: more than twice as many Roma women (18 %) stated that they are not covered by any medical insurance compared with non-Roma women (8 %).
- In Bulgaria, Greece and Romania, the survey findings show the most significant differences between Roma and non-Roma women aged 16 years and over: 59 % of Roma women in Bulgaria, 47 % in Romania and 38 % in Greece said that they had no medical insurance

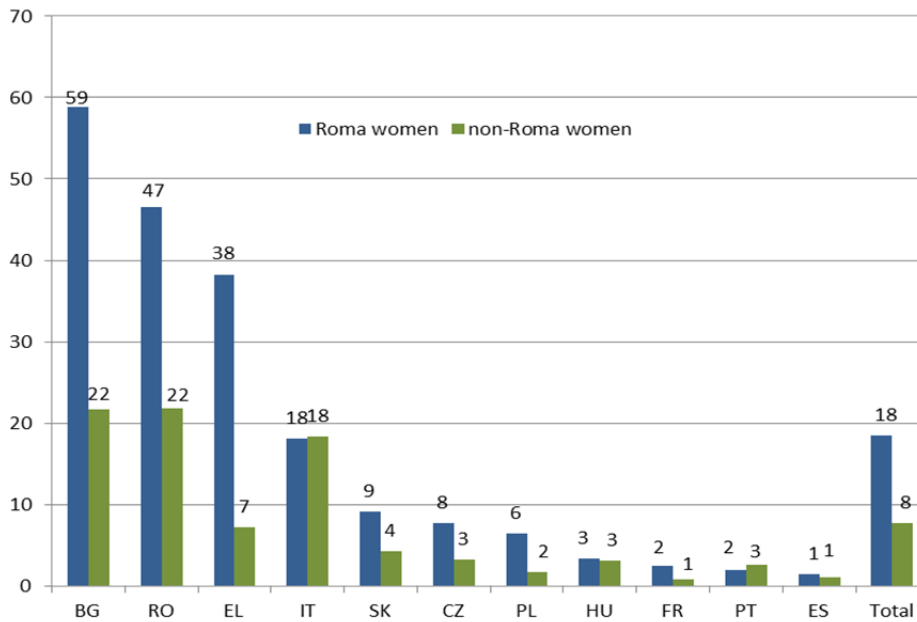
<sup>6</sup> Healthcare provisions and medical insurance cover differ across the Europe Union.



compared with 22 % of non-Roma women in Bulgaria and in Romania, and 7 % of non-Roma women in Greece.

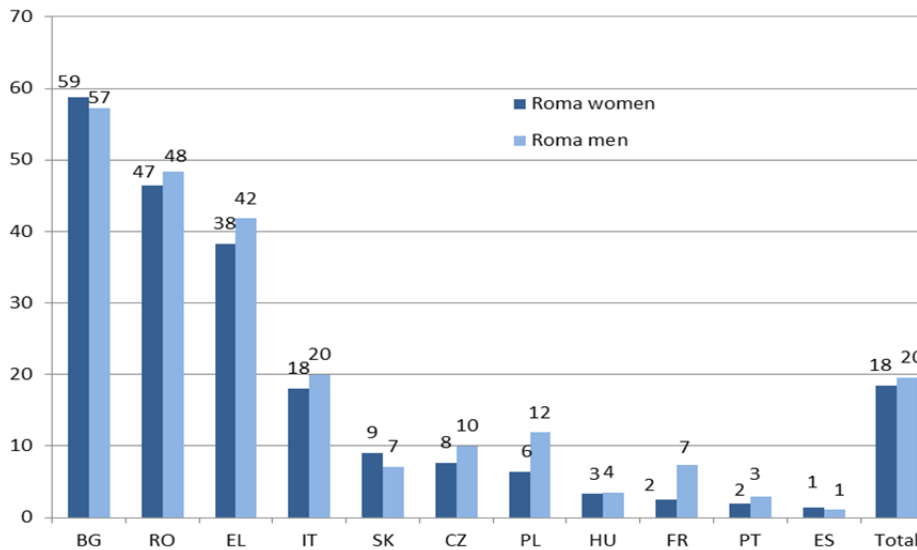
- Almost full coverage of medical insurance was reported in France, Portugal and Spain, with less than 2 % non-coverage among Roma women.

**Figure 14: No medical insurance, Roma and non-Roma women aged 16 years and over, %**



Source: FRA Roma pilot survey 2011: Self-declared having no medical insurance, women respondents aged 16+

**Figure 15: No medical insurance, Roma men and women aged 16 years and over, %**



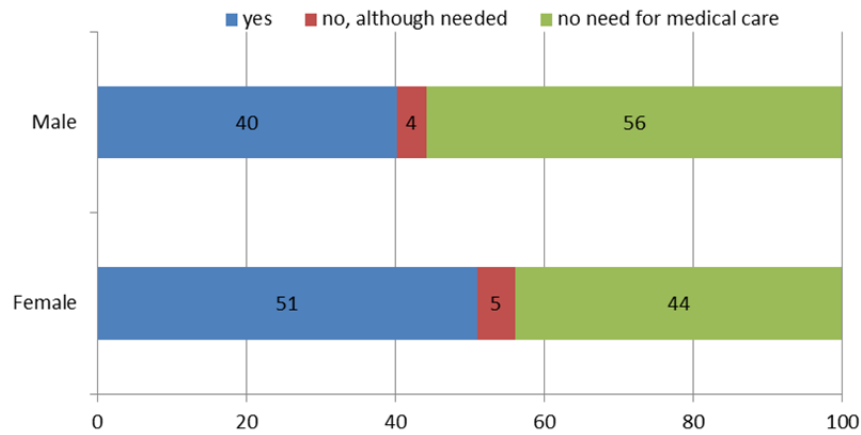
Source: FRA Roma pilot survey 2011: Self-declared having no medical insurance, Roma respondents aged 16+



- **Access to healthcare**

- Most Roma respondents did not face problems in accessing medical care when needed. Only 5 % of Roma women and 4 % of Roma men said that although they had an urgent need for medical care in the last 12 months they did not see a doctor.

**Figure 16: Medical assistance when needed, Roma respondents aged 16 years and over, %**



Source: FRA Roma Pilot Survey 2011: Question: Was here any time during the last 12 months when you personally really needed a medical examination or treatment for a health problem? If yes: Did you get the medical assistance that you needed?



## 4. Housing

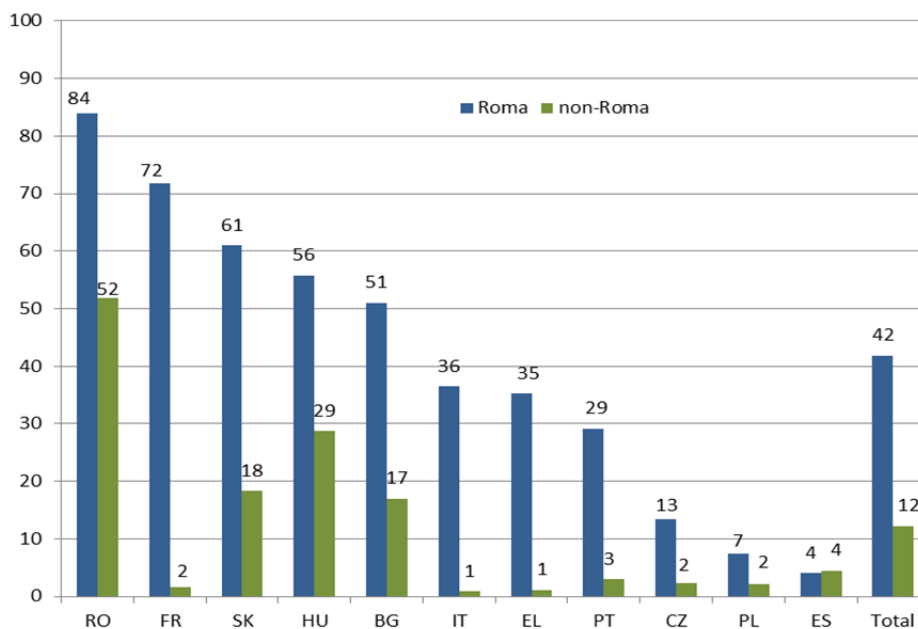
Information on housing conditions concerns the household as a whole including women, men and children. The analysis of housing conditions by gender concerns only one-person households or single parents living with children. Households of this type are few limiting the scope for analysis of the survey findings. In general, the survey results show that many Roma households face severe housing deprivation. Therefore, Roma women, children and men living in these households are often excluded from the fundamental right to have access to adequate housing with piped water, sewage and electricity.

- **Housing deprivation:**

Housing conditions are considered to be deprived if the household does not have piped water and/or no connection to the sewage system or a sewage tank, and/or does not have electricity.

- 42 % of the Roma surveyed said that they have either no piped water or no sewage or no electricity in their home. In comparison, only 12 % of the non-Roma living nearby reported such deprivation.
- Some 84% of the Roma population surveyed in Romania and 72 % in France – including women, men and children – live in deprived housing conditions. In some of the EU Member States surveyed, however, many in the non-Roma population living nearby also reported severely deprived housing conditions: for example, 52 % in Romania and 29 % in Hungary report a lack of basic infrastructure.
- In France (70%), Slovakia (43%), Italy (35%), Bulgaria and Greece (both 34%), Romania (32%) and Hungary (27%), the results show the largest gap in housing conditions between Roma and non-Roma.

**Figure17: Deprived housing conditions, Roma and non-Roma households, %**

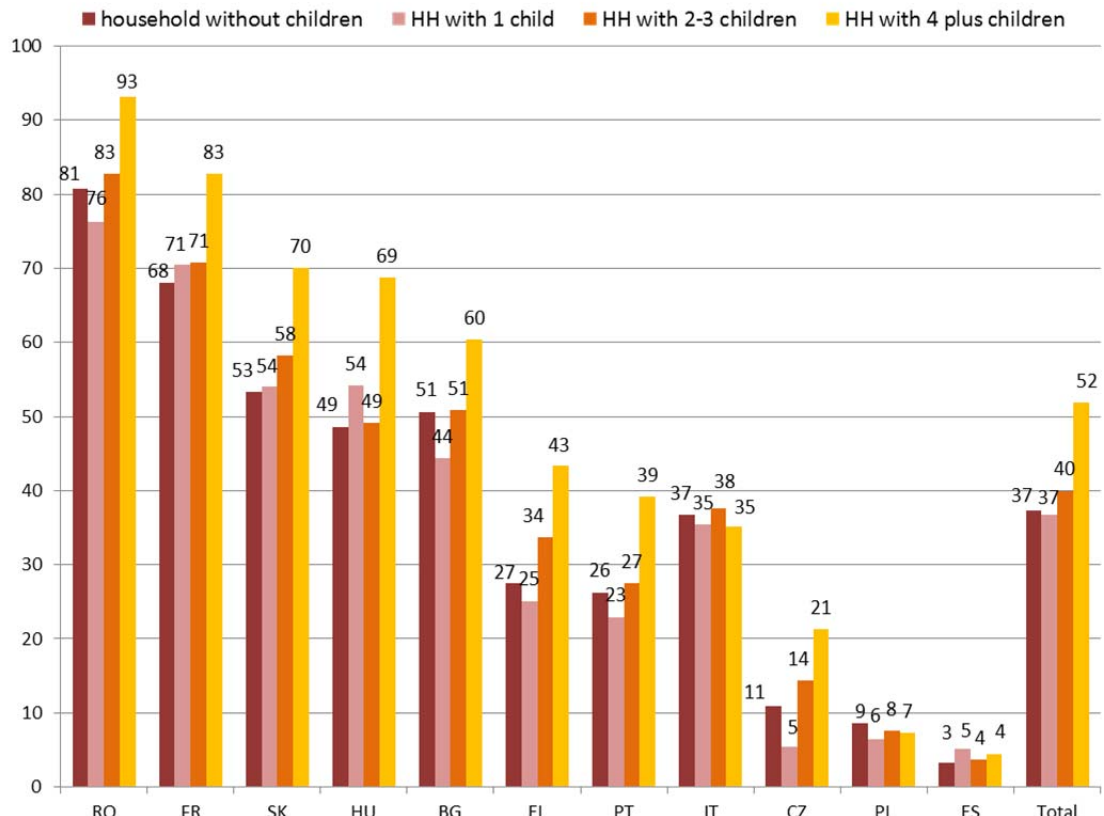


Source: FRA Roma pilot survey 2011: No piped water or no sewage or no electricity in the household, persons in households



- When looking at the relationship between household size and housing conditions we find that deprived housing conditions are relatively similar on average for Roma households without children (37 %) as for households with one, two or three children (40 %). Only Roma households with four or more children face on average a higher proportion of severe housing deprivation (52 %). For example, in Romania, 93 % of Roma households surveyed with four or more children face severe housing deprivation.

**Figure18: Deprived housing conditions, Roma households with and without children, %**



Source: FRA Roma pilot survey 2011: No piped water, sewage or electricity in the household, children aged <18 years, persons in Roma households



## 5. Financial situation

The survey collected information on the income and living conditions of the household. This information can be used to calculate the share of persons being at-risk-of-poverty. The underlying concept assumes that the standard of living is shared in a household and gender differences can usually only be detected for one-person households and single parent households. Analysis for this household type is limited by the small number of cases available in the FRA survey. The following analysis explores possible differences between the financial situation of Roma men and women, and the impact of women's employment on the living standards of the Roma households:

- **At-risk-of-poverty:**

The EU's at-risk-of-poverty benchmark reflects the percentage of persons with a disposable income below the national 'at-risk-of-poverty' threshold. The at-risk-of-poverty threshold for each Member State is set at 60 % of the national median equivalised disposable income (see glossary).<sup>7</sup>

- The overwhelming majority of Roma households in the survey (87 %) have an income below the national at-risk-of-poverty level compared with 46 % of non-Roma households; this is, however, still a poverty risk clearly above the EU and national averages – in 2011, 17 % of the EU's population was at risk of poverty.
- To detect possible gender differences, the type of household needs to be taken into consideration. Variation between the types of Roma households remains relatively small. On average in the surveyed 11 EU Member States, 72 % of Roma one-person households and 80 % of multi-person households without children face the risk of poverty. A higher poverty risk can be observed in Roma households with an increasing number of children.
- Although among the general population one-parent households are usually more affected by risk-of-poverty (predominantly reflecting the dire financial situation of single mothers), it is interesting to note that Roma one parent households are similarly at risk of poverty as other households. Only in Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, one-parent Roma households have a distinctly higher at-risk-of-poverty rate than other types of Roma households.
- On the other hand, Roma families with four or more children have the highest at-risk-of-poverty rate across the surveyed EU Member States – often 90 % or more of these families have an income below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold.

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<sup>7</sup> At-risk-of-poverty rate in the FRA survey is based on a single question on the monthly household income. Eurostat household income is measured with detailed questions on different income sources and covering the total annual income. The survey may therefore underestimate income, as respondents might forget small or irregular income.



**Table 1: At-risk-of-poverty for different types of Roma households, %**

	One person household	One parent household	multi person household without children	multi person household with 1child	multi person household with 2-3 children	multi person household with 4 plus children
BG	91	74	83	86	87	93
CZ	60	70	71	76	81	95
EL	78	89	83	83	89	91
ES	76	83	88	90	89	96
FR	81	98	94	98	99	98
HU	59	89	66	77	80	91
IT	85	91	96	96	99	97
PL	68	91	67	76	84	87
PT	85	99	94	92	99	99
RO	62	87	60	68	81	91
SK	74	92	82	83	93	96
Total	72	87	80	83	89	94

Source: FRA Roma pilot survey 2011: persons in Roma households. Children defined as age < 18 years.

- o Differentiating by gender between Roma households, differences are not significant for men and women. Persons living in Roma households without children have a lower risk of poverty. Nevertheless, 78 % of the persons in adult Roma women only households, 76 % of persons in men only households and 80 % of the Roma gender-mixed households without children remain below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold.

**Table 2: At-risk-of-poverty for Roma households with only adult women, only adult men and mixed gender, %**

	women household without children	women household with children	men household	Gender Mixed HH without children <18	Gender Mixed HH with children
BG	89	83	82	83	88
CZ	60	78	60	72	83
EL	88	89	83	83	89
ES	84	92	84	88	90
FR	91	100	82	94	99
HU	56	80	68	66	84
IT	97	100	81	97	98
PL	71	89	74	67	82
PT	92	100	93	94	97
RO	80	82	67	60	82
SK	71	95	78	82	92
Total	78	88	76	80	89

Source: FRA Roma pilot survey 2011: women household: only female persons age 18+ in the household. Men household: only male persons age 18+ in the households cannot be differentiated for children (persons under 18), as case numbers are too small.



- The employment of women is often seen as an important factor for alleviating poverty; the results, however, confirm this only in regard to households without children. In households with one or more children, the advantage is reduced and for households with four or more children the at-risk-of-poverty rate reaches almost 100 % and employment of working-age women in the household does not seem to affect this situation.

**Table 3: At-risk-of-poverty for Roma households and women’s employment, %**

	multi person household without children		multi person household with 1 child		multi person household with 2-3 children		multi person household with 4 plus children	
	no woman employed	one woman and more employed	no woman employed	one woman and more employed	no woman employed	one woman and more employed	no woman employed	one woman and more employed
BG	90	65	91	79	90	82	94	91
CZ	77	63	77	74	82	80	97	93
EL	87	70	86	75	88	88	92	92
ES	91	76	92	80	91	78	95	100
FR	97	71	97	100	99	100	97	100
HU	72	40	83	72	86	75	96	89
IT	99	91	100	89	99	100	98	91
PL	75	40	74	81	84	81	85	89
PT	94	88	94	74	99	96	98	100
RO	64	49	74	54	84	75	93	83
SK	87	51	91	72	97	87	97	94

Source: FRA Roma pilot survey 2011: only persons in Roma multi-person households, with at least one woman at working age persons in the household. Children defined as <18 years

● **Entitlement to pension benefits**

Respondents were asked if they expect to receive a private or state pension once they have reached pensionable age, or for respondents of pensionable age, if they receive any private or state pension.

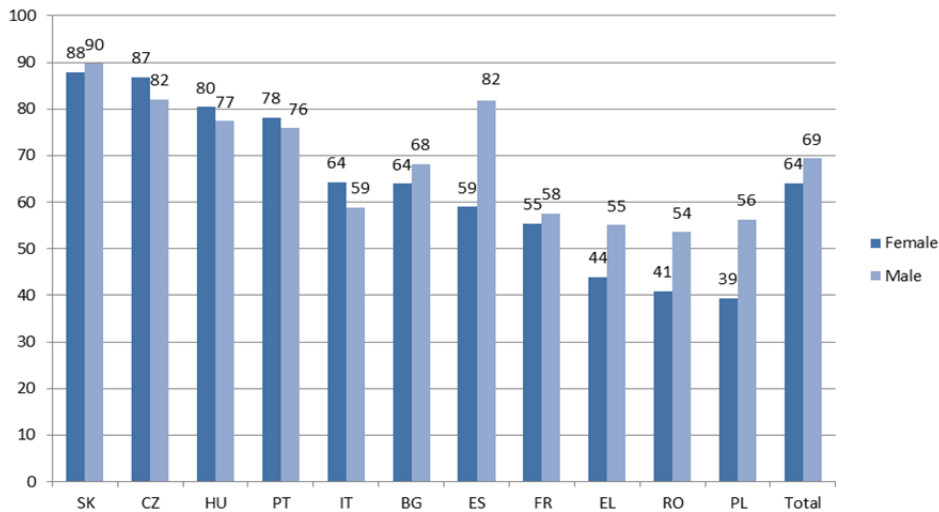
- Gender differences in regard to pension entitlements are low for Roma aged 45 years and over: 69 % of Roma men and 64 % of Roma women aged 45 years and over expect or receive a private or state pension to live on
- The non-Roma population of the same age (45 years and over) and living nearby have on average a higher expectation (or rate of receipt) of a pension. There is, however, a similar gender gap among non-Roma compared with Roma: 76 % of non-Roma women in comparison with 82 % of non-Roma men expect a pension once they are retired or already receive one.
- In Poland, only 39 % of Roma women in comparison to 56 % of Roma men have or expect pension entitlements; Poland together with Spain thus indicates the largest gender gap. Whereas in Poland non-Roma living nearby have significantly higher expectations and receipts of pension benefits compared with Roma, in Spain 82 % of Roma men and 59 % of Roma women have similar entitlements for these benefits with the non-Roma living nearby (85 % of non-Roma men, 62 % of non-Roma women).





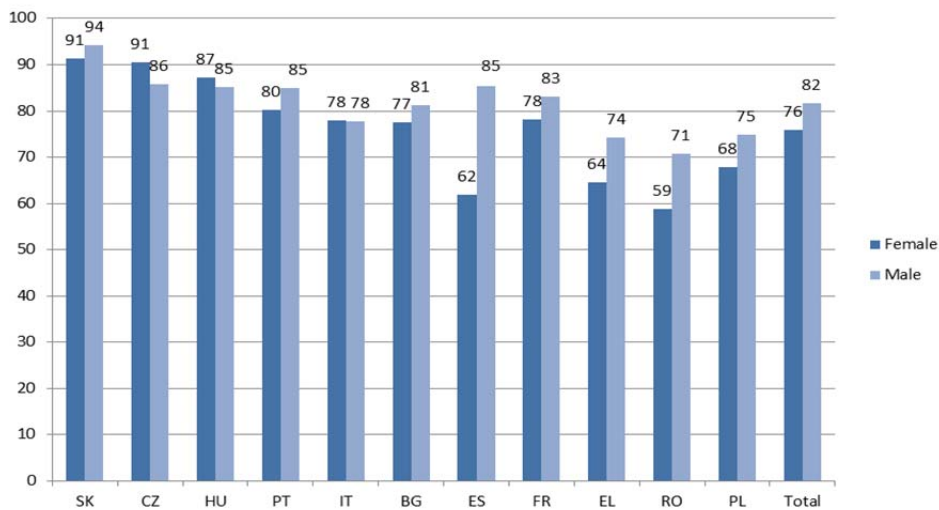
- In Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Portugal, the levels of pension entitlements reported by respondents are highest (between 76 % and 90 %) and there is no, or a relatively small, gender gap. In these EU Member States, the survey findings also show the smallest differences between Roma and non-Roma in this regard.

**Figure 19: Entitlement to pension benefits, Roma respondents aged 45 years and over, %**



Source: FRA Roma Survey 2011: Answer category "Yes" on the question: When you reach pensionable age, will you be entitled to money from a private or state pension to live off?, Roma respondents aged 45+

**Figure 20: Entitlement to pension benefits, non-Roma respondents aged 45 years and over, %**



Source: FRA Roma Survey 2011: Answer category "Yes" on the question: When you reach pensionable age, will you be entitled to money from a private or state pension to live off?, Non-Roma respondents aged 45+



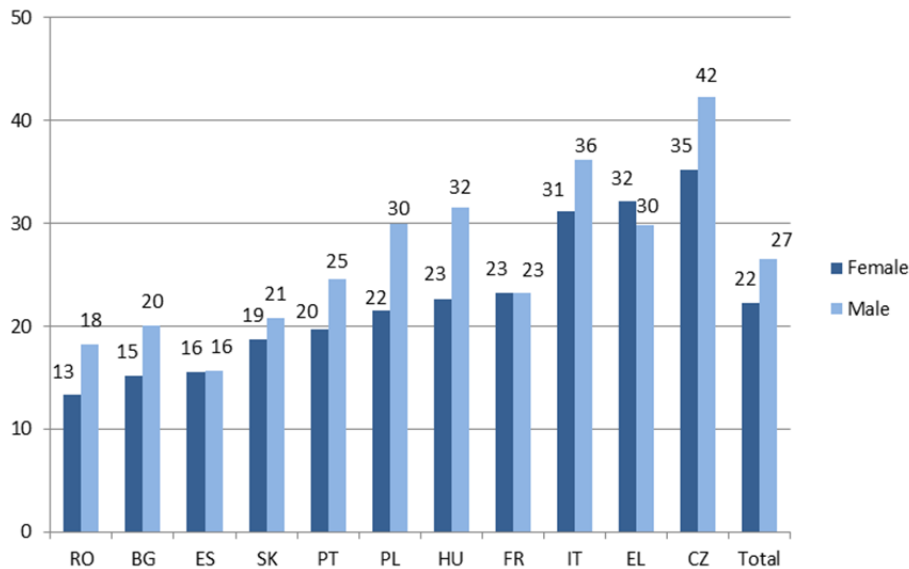
## 6. Perceptions of discrimination and rights awareness

Survey respondents were asked about their perceived experiences of discriminatory treatment on different grounds, in particular on the ground of ethnicity and gender, during the past 12 months. Roma respondents were also asked if they are aware of a law that forbids discrimination against ethnic minority people when applying for a job, and whether they are aware of any support organisations for victims of discrimination.

- **Discrimination because of ethnic background**

- Overall 22 % of Roma women and 27 % of Roma men respondents who were looking for work in the last five years said that they felt discriminated due to their ethnicity when looking for work.
- There are important differences between EU Member States: 13% of Roma women in Romania said that they had felt discriminated when looking for work; this figure rises to 35 % in the Czech Republic, 32 % in Greece and 31 % in Italy.

**Figure 21: Roma respondents aged 16 years and over who had looked for work during the last 5 years and felt discriminated against because of their ethnicity when looking for a job in the last 12 months, %**



Source: FRA Roma Survey 2011: Answer category "Yes" and "in the last 12 months" Over the last 5 years have you ever been discriminated against when looking for a job, Roma respondents aged 16+ who have been looking for a job in the last 5 years

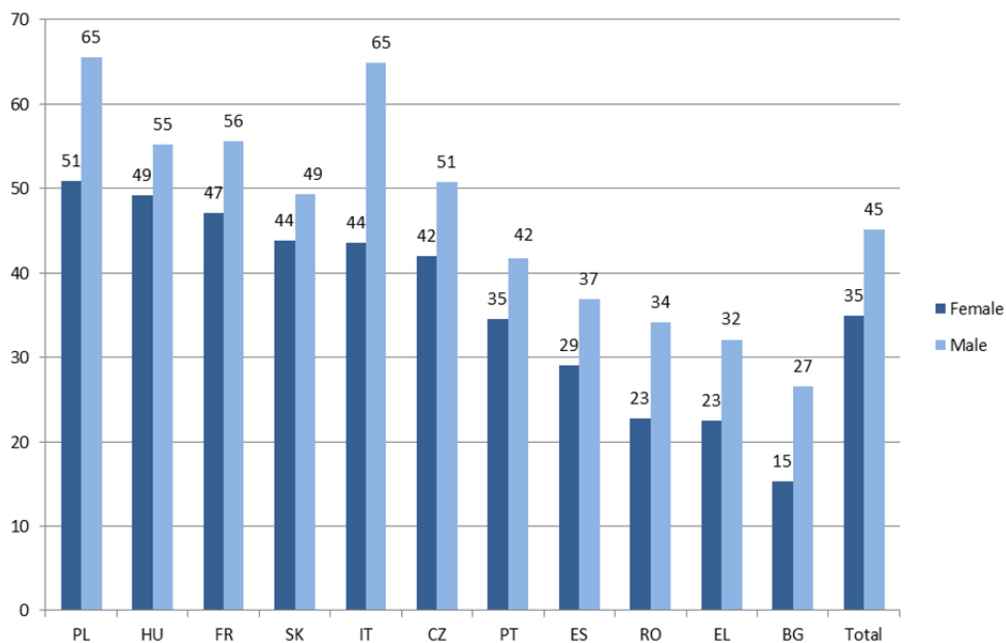
- **Awareness of anti-discrimination laws in employment**

- On average, Roma women are less aware of anti-discrimination legislation than Roma men: 35 % of Roma women compared with 45 % of Roma men knew that there is a law that forbids discrimination against ethnic minorities when applying for a job. The analysis, however, shows notable differences between EU Member States.



- Awareness of laws against discrimination was lowest among women (15 %) and men (27 %) in Bulgaria; yet, almost twice as many men were aware of such laws than women. Similarly, the results show low awareness among women in Greece and Romania (both 23 %) with smaller differences when compared with awareness of such laws among men.
- The highest awareness was among Roma women in Poland and Hungary, where about half of the Roma women surveyed was aware of the existence of anti-discrimination laws. In Hungary, the difference in the level of awareness of Roma women and men was relatively small (6 %).
- Awareness among the non-Roma population on the existence of legislation protecting ethnic minorities from discrimination is only a few percentage points higher, whereas the knowledge gap for non-Roma women and men is slightly smaller than that of Roma women and men: in the survey, on average only 47 % of non-Roma women and 51 % of non-Roma men were aware of laws against employment discrimination.

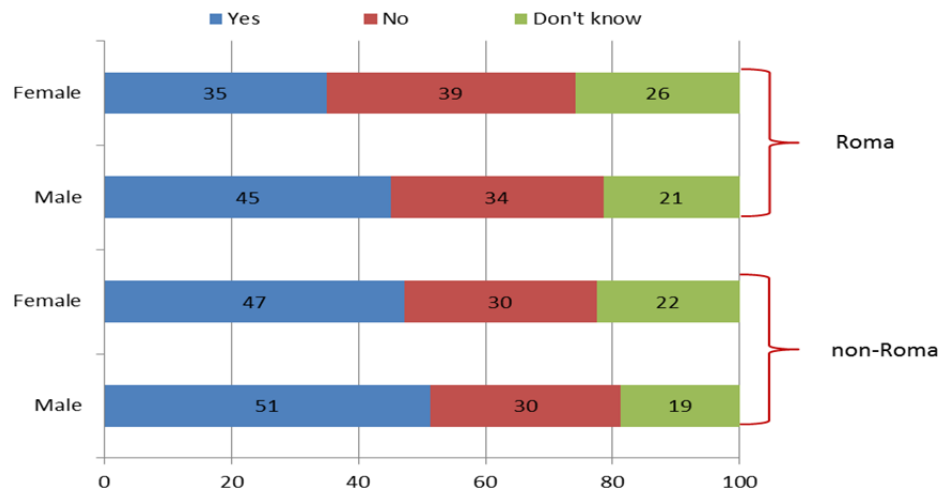
**Figure 23: Awareness of laws against discrimination when applying for a job, Roma respondents aged 16 years and over, %**



Source: FRA Roma Pilot Survey 2011: Answer category "Yes" on the question: What do you think, is there a law in [COUNTRY] that forbids discrimination against ethnic minority people when applying for a job? Roma respondents, 16+



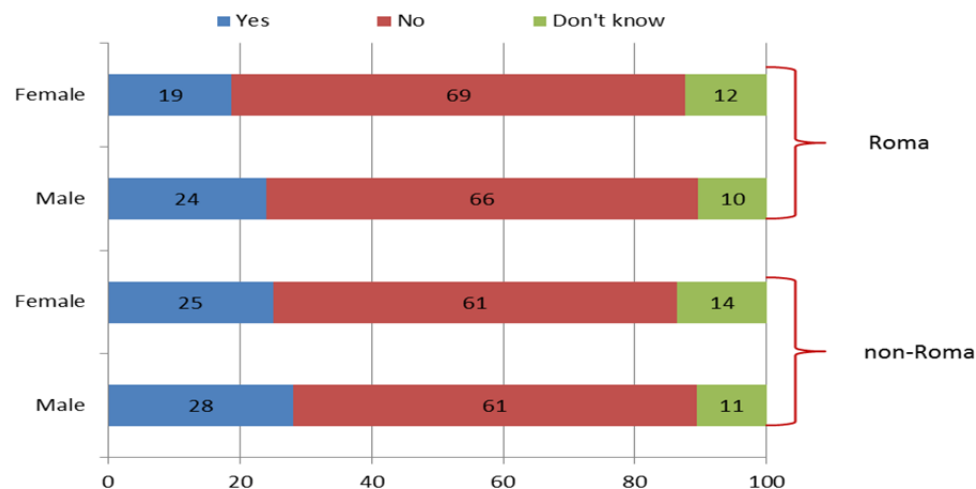
**Figure 24: Awareness of laws against discrimination when applying for a job, Roma and non-Roma respondents aged 16 years and over %**



Source: FRA Roma Pilot Survey 2011: Answer category "Yes" on the question: What do you think, is there a law in [COUNTRY] that forbids discrimination against ethnic minority people when applying for a job? Respondents, 16+

- **Knowledge of support organisations for victims of discrimination:**
  - The highest percentages of the Roma surveyed who knew of organisations supporting discrimination victims were in Italy – 53 % of Roma men and 35 % of Roma women – and France – 38 % of Roma men and 33% of Roma women.
  - However, overall the results show limited knowledge about organisations which can offer support or advice to people who have been discriminated against, both among Roma and non-Roma who live nearby. Knowledge of such support organisations is lowest among Roma women respondents across all Member States surveyed (19 %).

**Figure 25: Knowledge about organisations offering support / advice to people who have been discriminated, Roma and non-Roma respondents aged 16 years and over %,**



Source: FRA Roma Pilot Survey 2011: Answer category "Yes" on the question: Do you know of any organisation in [COUNTRY] that can offer support or advice to people who have been discriminated against? Respondents, 16+

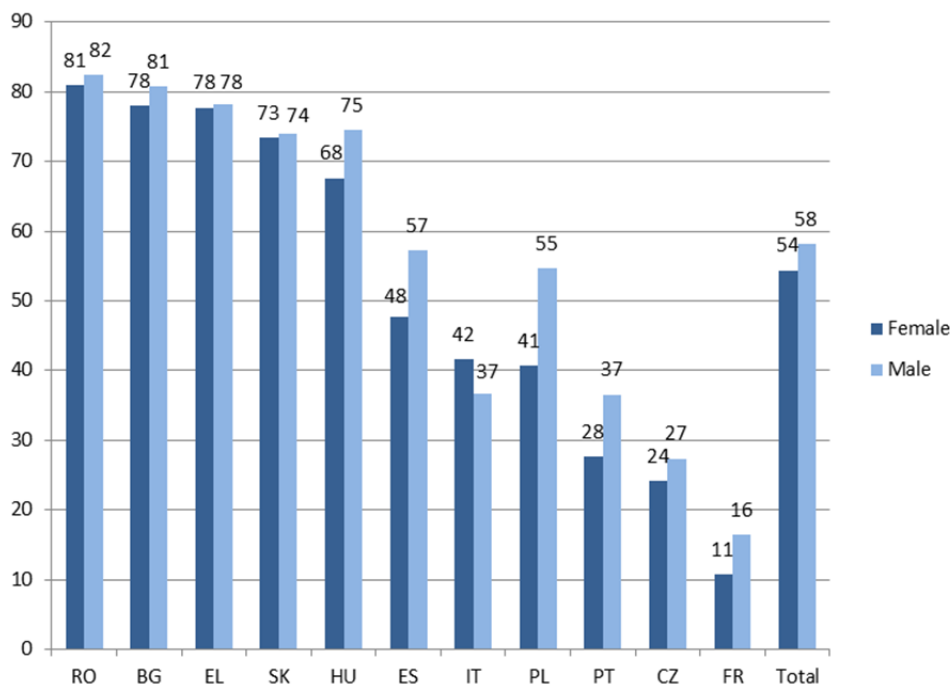


## 7. Active citizenship – voting

The survey asked questions about voting, a key element of active citizenship and a fundamental political right, in local and national elections. Differences between Member States need to be interpreted with caution as the date of the last election and regional and country specific voting pattern may differ substantially<sup>8</sup>.

- In most Member States gender differences in voting participation of the Roma surveyed in national elections are relatively small. The largest differences can be found in Poland (55 % for men vs. 41 % for women), Portugal (37 % for men vs. 28 % for women) and Spain (57 % for men vs. 48 % for women).
- The lowest overall participation rates, for both men and women, were in France (*gens de voyages*), the Czech Republic, Portugal and Italy.
- The largest differences in voting participation between Roma and non-Roma surveyed are in France (*gens de voyages*) and Italy (40 % non-citizens).

Figure 26: Voting in last national elections, Roma women and men aged 18 years and over, %

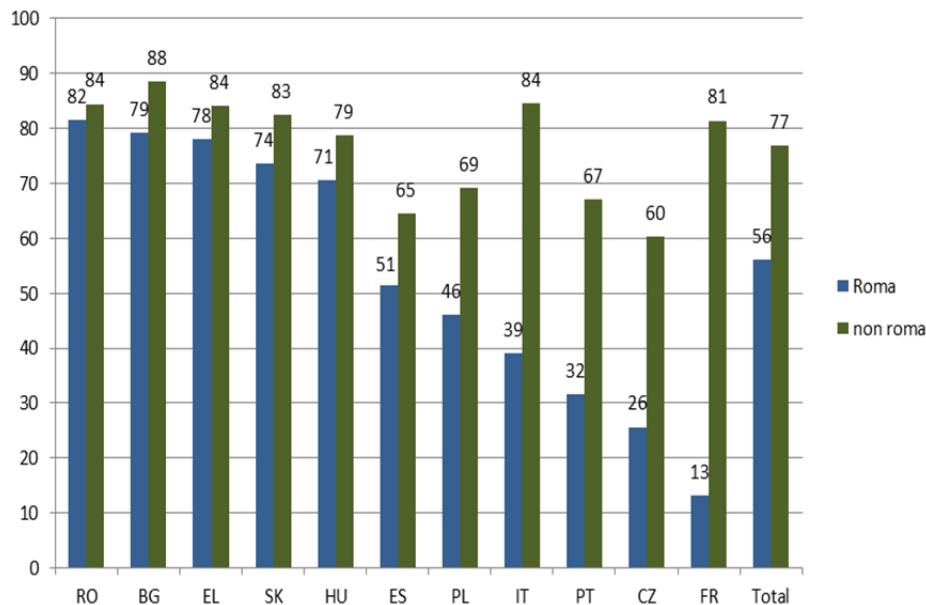


Source: FRA Roma pilot survey 2011: Answer category “yes” to the question ‘Did you vote in the last national elections in this country?’ Roma respondents, age 18+

8 Research has shown that surveys usually yield rates of voting in elections that are higher than official turnout figures, a phenomenon often attributed to intentional misrepresentation by respondents who did not vote and would be embarrassed to admit that (Hoolbrook, A., Krosnick, J. 2009, Social Desirability Bias in Voter Turnout Reports: Tests Using the Item Count Technique, <http://www.stanford.edu/dept/communication/faculty/krosnick/Turnout%20Overreporting%20-%20ICT%20Only%20-%20Final.pdf>)



**Figure 27: Voting in last national elections, Roma and non-Roma respondents aged 18 years and over, %**



FRA Roma pilot survey 2011: Answer category “yes” to the question ‘Did you vote in the last national elections in this country?’ survey respondents, age 18+

## 8. Early marriage<sup>9</sup>

Marriage before the legal age of consent raises serious fundamental rights concerns. Resolution 1468 of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe defines child marriage as “[...] the union of two persons at least one of whom is under 18 years of age” and, inter alia, urges national parliaments to “[...] fix at or raise to 18 years the minimum statutory age of marriage for women and men and to make it compulsory for every marriage to be declared and entered by the competent authority in an official register”.<sup>10</sup>

The issue of early marriage in Roma communities has been the subject of qualitative research,<sup>11</sup> as well as media interest and has sparked debates on women’s (and children’s) fundamental rights in traditional cultural contexts.

<sup>9</sup> Various international treaties, conventions, and action programmes address the issue of early marriage, for example the Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages (1962); the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979); the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action, etc.

<sup>10</sup> Resolution 1468 (2005)1 on Forced marriages and child marriages, available at <http://assembly.coe.int/main.asp?Link=/documents/adoptedtext/ta05/eres1468.htm>

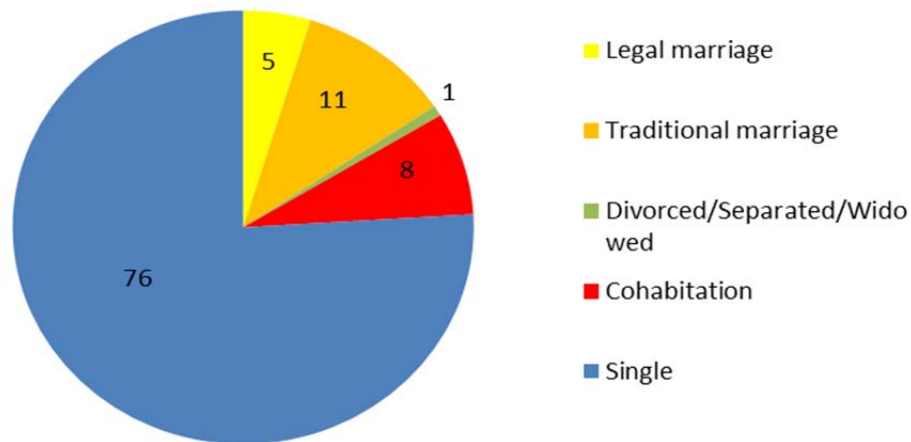
<sup>11</sup> For example see, UNICEF Romania (2010) Early Marriages within Roma Communities: Rule of Law, Cultural Autonomy and Individual Rights (of Children and Women, available at [http://www.unicef.org/romania/Early\\_marriages\\_Romani\\_CRISS.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/romania/Early_marriages_Romani_CRISS.pdf); AMALIPE CENTER (2011) Preventing early marriages, available at <http://amalipe.com/files/publications/ranni%20brakove%20last.pdf>, etc.



The survey results show that across all Member States surveyed around 2% of Roma girls aged 10-15 were reported as ‘traditionally married’ or cohabitating with a partner. In regard to Roma, aged 16 and 17, the results show that on average around 16% of Roma men and women aged 16-17 were legally or traditionally married or cohabiting. When looking at gender differences in this age group we find that it is mostly young women than young men who are married or live together at this age and that among the Member States surveyed, this was reported more frequently by women in Greece, Portugal, Romania and Bulgaria.

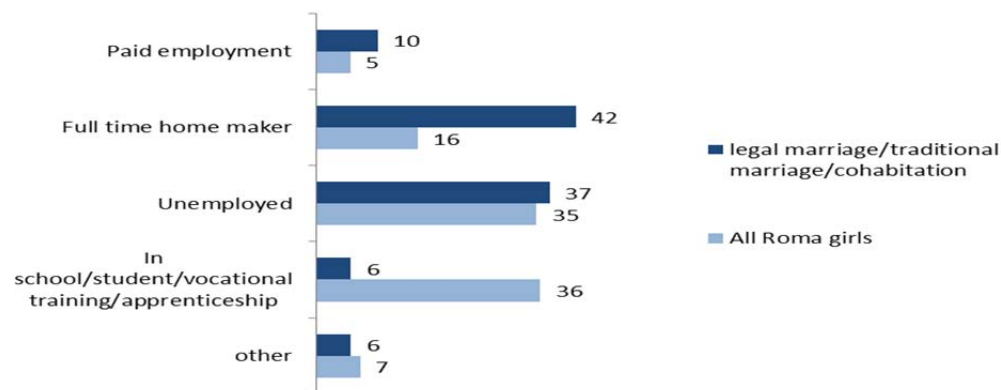
Marriage affects activity patterns, in particular education: Only 6% of Roma women aged 16-17 who were married or cohabiting were in education compared to 36% of all Roma women in this age group. Also, Roma women aged 16-17 who were married or cohabiting were more often full-time homemakers (42%) compared to all Roma women (16%) in this age group.

**Figure 28: Marital status, Roma women aged 16–17 years, %**



FRA Roma pilot survey 2011: Marital status question, Roma children in the household aged 16 to 17.

**Figure 30: Activity status, Roma women aged 16–17 years by marital status, %**



FRA Roma pilot survey 2011: Marital status and activity status question, Roma children in the household, age 16 to 17.



## Glossary

*At-risk-of-poverty:* This EU social inclusion indicator reflects the percentage of people with an equivalised disposable income below the 'at-risk-of-poverty threshold'. The at-risk-of-poverty threshold is set for each Member State at 60% of the national median equivalised disposable income. The present analysis uses the 2010 national thresholds provided by Eurostat divided by twelve for a monthly threshold.

*Employment age:* 20 to 64 years

*Equivalised income:* In order to reflect the differences in household size and composition, the income figures are given per equivalent adult. This means the monthly disposable household income is divided by its equivalent size using the so-called EU equivalence scale. This scale gives a weight of 1.0 to the first adult, 0.5 to any other household member aged 14 and over and 0.3 to each child below age 14.

*Housing deprivation:* Persons in households with either no piped water inside the house and/or the household is not connected to the sewerage system and has no waste water tank and/or the accommodation has no connection to electrical supply.

### Household types

*Multi person household:* Households with at least two adults aged 18+

*Household with children:* household with at least one child <18 years

*One parent household:* Households with maximum one adult and at least one child <18 years.

*Household income:* To collect information on the disposable household income the following question was asked in the survey: 'Thinking about the last 6 months, roughly how much money has your household to live on each month?' In case of reluctance of the respondent to provide the exact amount, categories were offered. Missing values on both questions are excluded from the analysis.

*Literacy:* Based on self-assessment asking the respondent: "Are you able to read and write?"

*Main activity:* The "main activity status" is the respondent's self-assessment regarding his/her current work situation and the work situation of the other household members.

*Paid work:* includes the answer categories of the main activity: paid work – full time, paid work – part time, paid work – ad hoc jobs, self-employed, paid parental leave

*Roma:* The use of the term 'Roma' in official European Union documents follows the approach of the Council of Europe<sup>12</sup>, which uses the term to refer to "Roma, Sinti, Kale and related groups in Europe, including Travellers and the Eastern groups (Dom and Lom), and covers the wide diversity of the groups concerned, including persons who identify themselves as "Gypsies"". The "Roma" as identified in the survey are not representative for the Roma population of a Member

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<sup>12</sup> Council of Europe, *Descriptive Glossary of terms relating to Roma issues*, version dated 16 November 2011, available at [http://www.coe.int/lportal/c/document\\_library/get\\_file?uuid=05511d8d-1dc9-4ce4-b36a-89fb37da5ff4&groupId=10227](http://www.coe.int/lportal/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=05511d8d-1dc9-4ce4-b36a-89fb37da5ff4&groupId=10227)





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State, but for the sampled areas with a higher density of Roma residents. The areas were identified depending on the information available in each country: Mostly information from the census and other statistical or administrative sources was used. In some Member States, Roma organisations were approached to help with information for the sampling frame.

*Non-Roma:* Those living in the same area as the Roma, who did not identify themselves as Roma and were willing to participate in the survey.

*Respondents 16+:* Selected respondents within the household providing information on the household and its members. This group is weighted for the unequal selection probability in households of different size. Results based solely on the answer of the household respondent are marked with “respondents”.

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