Access of Roma and Traveller Women to Justice
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Access of Roma and Traveller Women to Justice

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Background and Justification

Roma and Travellers women are subjected to intersectional forms of discrimination and are more vulnerable to violence, discrimination and exclusion. Their situation is often further aggravated by:

- Lack of awareness of their rights and discrimination
- Lack of knowledge about free legal aid
- Lack of trust in public institutions & confidence in reporting offences/criminal acts against them to the police
- Lack of knowledge of protective or enforcement agencies
- Lack of education or fluency in the national language
- Lack of identity documents and legal status
- Lack of financial means to pursue litigation
- Long, costly court proceedings
- Limited use of anti-discrimination legislation
- Poor capacity to apply international human rights standards
- Legal aid is often limited by types of proceedings
- Eligibility criteria for accessing legal aid may not be met by Roma; Roma may be refused legal aid on the merits
- Lack of knowledge by legal professionals of the situation of Roma and Travellers and of the ECJ/ECtHR case law on Roma and Travellers/discrimination
- Failure of member states to raise awareness of vulnerable groups about their rights and available protection mechanisms
Background and Justification

Why Roma women?

- Increased vulnerability to discrimination, including multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination
- Gender inequalities
- Discrimination and inequality have a disproportionate impact on Roma women and young girls
- Access to justice of women is not a popular topic
- Empowering women and girls, we empower communities and societies
Joint Programme CoE & EC
General provisions

• It is joint programme of the Council of Europe and European Commission, DG Justice and Consumers
• CoE & EC as main implementers and partners
• National stakeholders are involved as associate partners
• Activities are implemented by experts or consultants
• Flexibility in the implementation of the project re: the involvement of the CoE and EC
• Time-line of the project: 1 October 2016- 31 March 2018
• Target countries: Bulgaria, Greece, Ireland and Romania
Project Aim and Objectives

The project aim is to improve Roma and Traveller women’s access to justice in Bulgaria, Greece, Ireland, Italy and Romania.

A. Empower Roma women
to adequately address discrimination and other human rights violations committed against them, including early/forced marriage, trafficking, domestic violence, housing evictions, police abuse and hate crime.

B. Facilitate access to court
and court proceedings at national and international level, including whilst on probation or in prison.

C. Provide free legal advice
and legal aid and/or representation through legal clinics set up in two locations per country

D. Enhance the capacities of legal professionals and police
to adequately respond to Roma women’s needs through training on non-discrimination and gender equality.

E. Strengthen partnerships
with national state institutions, local authorities, human rights institutions, legal aid bureaus, bar associations, NGOs and Roma communities.

F. Improve synergy and co-operation
between the Council of Europe and the European Commission on improving the situation of Roma and Travellers with a focus on the situation of women.

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Project Activities
From 1 October 2016 until March 2018

- Feasibility study on access to justice of Roma women
- National launch events (October – November 2016)
- Non-discrimination training for lawyers (December 2017)
- Selection of national teams (December 2016 - February 2017)
- Establishing 10 legal clinics (mobile and fix) – January – February 2017
- Gatherings and awareness raising meetings in selected communities
- Organising mid-term Project Steering Committee Meeting (June 2017)
- Organising training of trainers for judiciary and law enforcement
- Develop fact-sheets on discrimination cases reported by Roma women
- External evaluation of the project implementation (February – March 2017)

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Project Target groups

The target groups: lawyers, bar associations & legal aid bureaus, Human Rights institutions and equality bodies, Ministries of Justice and National Justice Institutes, Ministries of Interior, specialised national agencies for Roma and/or Social Inclusion, National Roma Contact Points, local authorities, Roma communities and NGOs.

Legal professionals

National human rights institutions and equality bodies

Roma communities

Bar associations and legal aid bureaus

Ministries and local authorities
Project Beneficiaries

Roma women and young girls, including those in prison, victims of discrimination and violence

Roma communities, civil society organisations

National governments (incl. Ministries of Justice, Interior and Labor), Regional and local authorities

National Equality Bodies, Human Rights Institutions, Legal Aid Bureaus, Bar associations

Final project beneficiaries

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Expected results

- Increased HR awareness of Roma women
- Better application of non-discrimination principles and HR standards
- Increased number of reported cases of discrimination
- Increased co-operation and synergy on Roma inclusion

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Bulgaria

Plovdiv

Communities: Stolipinovo and Sheker Mahala in Plovdiv, villages of Bolyartsi, towns of Peshtera, Rakovski, Asenovgrad

Clinic: Social Policy Department, Plovdiv Municipality
38, 4 Yanuari str., entr. B, fl. 2 - 4000, Plovdiv
Consultation hours: Wednesday, from 09:00 - 17:00
Telephone number: 09895553920

Bulgaria

Veliko Tarnovo

Communities: Veliko Tarnovo, Zlataritsa, Gorna Oryahovitsa, Rodina, Elena, Konstantin, Pavlikeni, Lyaskovets, Strajitsa

Clinic: Bar association Veliko Tarnovo
39 Tsanko Tserkovski street, office No 106, ground floor, 5000 Veliko Tarnovo
Consultation hours: Friday, 12:00 - 16:00
Telephone number: 09888734943
Legal clinics

Greece
Attica (Athens)
Communities: Elefsina, Aspropyrgos, Mandra, Shoisto
Clinic 1: Heromact association
Stadiou 33, 2nd floor, office 15, Athens
Consultation hours: 09:00 - 17:00
Telephone number: 06906986421

Clinic 2: Roma Support Office
Ethnikis Antistaseos 80, 19200, Elefsina
Consultation hours: 09:00 - 17:00
Telephone number: 06906986421

Greece
Thessaloniki
Community: Dendropotamos
Clinic: Greek Roma Women’s Association
Kyprou 6, 54628, Dendropotamos
Thessaloniki
Consultation hours: Tuesday – Thursday – Friday: 18:00-21:00
Telephone number: +30 (0)6908764483

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Legal clinics

**Ireland**

**Dublin**
Communities: Traveller women sites and Roma families in the city  
**Clinic:** Free Legal Advice Centers (FLAC)  
13 Lower Dorset Street, Dublin 1  
Consultation hours: Thursdays, 09:00 - 13:00  
Telephone number: 018873600

**Ireland**

**Tallaght**
Communities: Roma women  
**Clinic:** The Russell Centre Tallaght Cross, Dublin 24  
Consultation hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 14:00 - 17:00  
Telephone number: 018873600
Legal clinics

Italy
Rome
Roma and Sinti communities/camps:
Borghesiana; Salviati 1-2; River; Candoni;
Gordiani; Monachina; Castelromano; Arco di
Travertino, Monte Mario
Clinic: Giulia’s Perin Law Firm (temporary)
Via Piemonte 117, Rome
Consultation hours: 09:00 - 17:00
Telephone number: 03927357395

Italy
Naples
Roma communities/camps: Scampia,
Giugliano, Gianturco
Clinic: Ilaria Alpi- Carlo Levi Education
Institute
Via Baku’ 4, Naples
Consultation hours: 09:00 - 17:00
Telephone numbers: 03927357395

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Legal clinics

Romania
Calarasi county
Communities: Calarasi, Soldanu, Curcani, Budesti, Vasilati, Galbinasi, Nana, Frumusani, Oltenita, Chiselet, Dor Marunt, Manastirea, Mitreni, Sarulesti, Ulmeni
Clinic: Office space of the Calarasi Municipality
Consultation hours: 09:00 - 17:00
Telephone number: 0762314869

Romania
Ialomita county
Communities: Bora and “500% neighborhood” in Slobozia, Fetesti, Bordusani, Tandarei, Urziceni, Ograda, Traian, Cazanesti, Andrasesti, Sinesti
Clinic: Multifunctional Center of the Bora Municipality, Slobozia
Consultation hours: 09:00 - 17:00
Telephone number: 0720552781

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Thank you for your attention

JUSTROM

For more information: http://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/roma

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