

## Joint pro-Roma Civil Society Contribution to the public consultation on access to health services in the EU

### EXPERT PANEL ON EFFECTIVE WAYS OF INVESTING IN HEALTH (EXPH)

November 2015

#### PART 3 – National context - case studies from local NGOs from Member States

##### Macedonia

##### From the increased voice to the improved health care access for Roma women

In order to address the need in Macedonia for equal access to health care for Roma women and socially vulnerable women of reproductive age, the **National Roma Centrum** is implementing the project “From the increased voice to the improved health care access for Roma women” to monitor the situation and active advocacy for change.

The Goals of the project are:

- **to ensure efficient and available antenatal, perinatal and postnatal health services for Roma women** and socially vulnerable women through monitoring of newly introduced state sponsored antenatal check-ups and advocacy for improved sexual and reproductive health for Romani women.
- **to raise awareness on free antenatal health care services and patients’ rights** through Information and Advocacy campaign on national level using samples from three municipalities (Kumanovo, Shtip and Kochani)

Although there are some existing policies which are meant to ensure basic health access to General Practitioners, Gynaecologists and dentists including access antenatal, perinatal and postnatal health services for Roma women, still there are some barriers in Macedonia such lack of gynaecologists, specialists, hospitals that are accessible to rural areas. **Macedonian women receive more often complete check-up during pregnancy comparing to the Romani women.** Actually none of the Romani women received complete antenatal check-ups comparing to 16,67% Macedonian. For example 56,67% Macedonian women comparing to 31,15% Roma had blood and urine analyses as well as screening test for cervical cancer (PAP smear) and ultrasound scopica (4D EXO). In this context the duty of health Mediators working with Roma communities is to inform them which are their rights.

More information on that project is available at [http://www.epha.org/IMG/pdf/Skenderovska-Brussel\\_presentation\\_2015.pdf](http://www.epha.org/IMG/pdf/Skenderovska-Brussel_presentation_2015.pdf)