

Strengthening Roma Participation through Meaningful Advocacy

Daniela E. Miranda
CESPYD – Universidad de Sevilla

Thursday 15 October
14:00-16:00



Challenges and Opportunities for Participation

Absence of Roma community generated evidences in research and advocacy.

Consequences:

- Paleative efforts based on non-Roma, majority society knowledge generation
- Roma are blamed, deemed helpless and further silenced
- Repeating oppressive systems

Marginalization at the local level. Consequences:

- High percieved sense of abandonment of public services
- Fragementation between instutionalized services and influential Roma resources
- Strong sense of Roma identify and connection
- High capacity for resilience and resistance

Example of COVID-19 and consequences for Roma at the local level

- Current living conditions (SDDH perspective)
- NGOs and teachers from local schools provided food and emergency supplies
- Lockdown ends - no more support
- Schools reopen with new protocols without Roma participation
- Roma do not trust schools
- Blamed for school absenteeism and threatened by social services
- Sense of solidarity between Roma

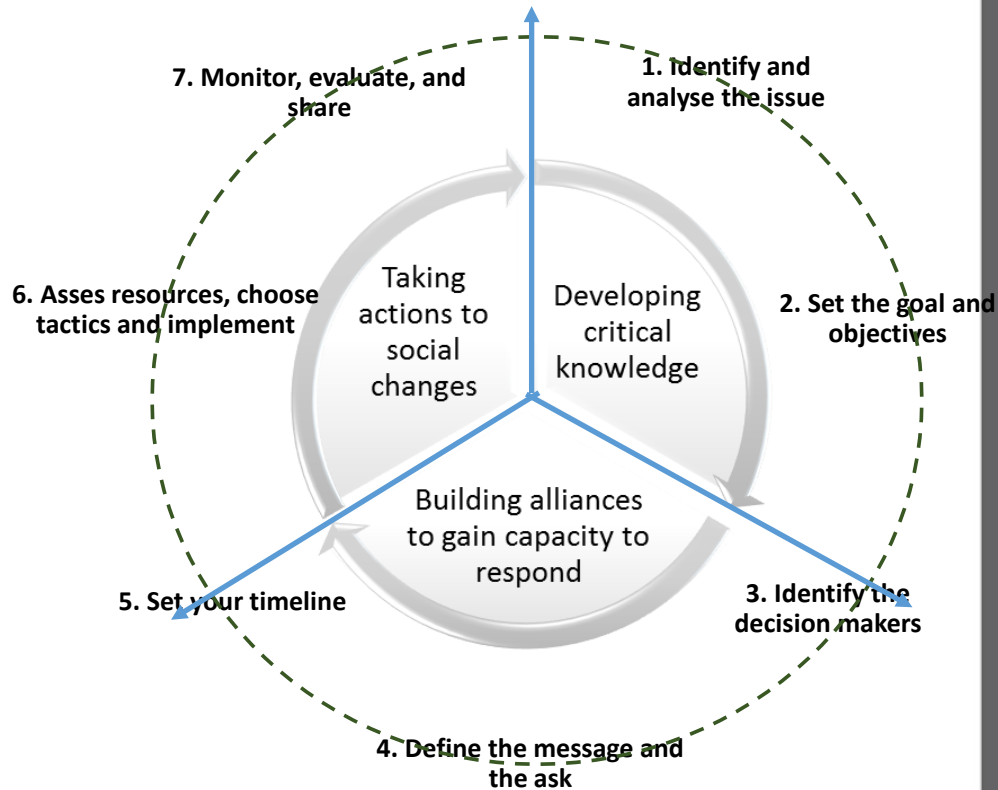


Developing Sociopolitical Control for Meaningful Community Advocacy

How can we ensure that Roma have opportunities to develop sociopolitical influence and recognition at the local level?

-Sociopolitical control. Engages historically marginalized groups to gain a deeper political understanding through building critical knowledge, expanding their social support and engaging in local settings.

-Advocacy. A method that develops sociopolitical control and seeks to influence Roma policies, led by Roma community narratives and evidences.



Miranda, D. E., García-Ramírez, M., & Albar-Marín, M. J. (2020). Building Meaningful Community Advocacy for Ethnic-based Health Equity: The RoAd4Health Experience. *American journal of community psychology*.



Key ideas

Anti-racist policies should follow trauma informed care practices

- Trust, transparency, and reflexivity

Multi-level, horizontal capacity-building

- Roma NGO -> Evaluation, peer support and solidfy alliances
- Roma community-> Capacity to represent selves
- Reserachers -> Resources, tools and civic responsibility to support advocacy towards institutions

Promote synergies

- Networks have a multi-level characteristic
- Identify and partner with influential actors from the community
- Link to other policy initiatives – Climate change, COVID-19 stimulus responses at the local level



The Voices of Local Roma Women

(1) What challenges do you have as Roma women in defending your rights?

(2) If you were standing in front of an EU policymaker, what message would you like to say to them?

"We have no peace of mind with the daily economic pressures. If we all had a job, this neighborhood would change."

Resources and opportunities

- No opportunities leads to no progress
- Roma create own opportunities
- Chain effects on collective mental health (generational)

Intersectional approach

- Roma women discrimination within and outside community
- Perceived discrimination and limited peer-support and network
- Lack of representation

"We have the same problem as all women in this society, but we have our own ways of living that creates other challenges for us."

"There is so much opposition to us, that we ourselves believe that we are not worthy. We have to change that. Come live a day in my shoes."

Roma Recognition

- Interiorized we are not worthy and then convince ourselves we are
- Trust from non-Roma and horizontal relationships

Priorities

Capacity-building

- Resist normalizing
- Perceived capacity for change
- Allies of non-Roma

"Don't look at us from up there, empathize with us. Change your position to change your prejudices, don't teach me HOW to live my life."



Strengthening Roma Participation through Meaningful Advocacy

Thank you!

For more information:

danimiranda@us.es

www.cespyd.es

