Health and Housing in the EU Roma Framework
Roma Health Network

• Established by EPHA in 2018
• Roma and pro-Roma **Civil Society** and **Researchers**
  • 20 organisations
  • 10 countries in Europe
• Roma Health **Capacity Building** and **Policy Advocacy**
Roma Health and Housing: Filling in the Gaps

• Addressing **blind spots** in health and housing

• Six **recommendations** → **Call to action**
  1. **Indicators** for health and housing
  2. **Health advocacy scheme**
  3. **Psychosocial approach** to mental health
  4. **Health impact** of **Housing Inequalities**
  5. **Environmental justice**
  6. **Lessons** taken from **COVID-19**
1. Use of Indicators

- Lack of **Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)**
- 2021 Council Recommendation **2021/C 93/01**
- Lack of **disaggregated data**
- Build strategy **around KPIs**
  - 2021 **Council Recommendation**
  - FRA **portfolio of indicators**
  - Eurostat **Sustainable Development Goals**
  - Disaggregated data collection

**Lack of data is not an excuse** not to act, data should **complement**, not qualify

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Difference in years</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BE</td>
<td>13.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FR</td>
<td>10.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IE</td>
<td>8.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NL (Travellers and Sinti)</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>10.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>7.1</td>
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*Life Expectancy Gap*

FRA, Roma and Travellers in six countries, 2020
2. Health Advocacy Scheme

- Capacity Building
- Community-based approach
- Roma advocate and participate
- Structurally supported health mediation
- Intercultural training
- Non-paternalistic

Take away **barriers to healthcare** in a **non-paternalistic way** and give Roma a **voice** through **advocacy** and **participation**
3. Psychosocial approach to Mental Health

- Lack of mention in national strategies
- Mental Health as a crucial part of Roma Health
- Social Determinants → **Psychosocial Approach**
  - human-rights based approach
  - Mental health promotion

Taking a **psychosocial** or **human rights-based approach** to mental health through addressing determinants that may case mental ill-health
4. Housing Strategies and Health Impact

- National Housing Strategies Targeting Roma
  - Lacking on homelessness and halting sites
  - Further expansion necessary
- Discrimination in housing
- Health impact assessment
  - Access to utilities, dampness, cramped conditions
  - Impact on health outcomes

As part of a **holistic approach**, expansion of **housing strategies**, paired with a **health impact assessment** is necessary.
5. Environmental Justice

• Environmental Inequalities in form of:
  - Segregation, pollution, energy poverty
  and work environment

• Communities pushed to the edge:
  - Industrial estates or landfills

• Health effects of Environmental Inequalities
  - Environmental Justice is crucial for health equity

Integrating environmental justice in health and housing strategies is crucial to combat health inequalities
6. Effects of COVID-19

• National strategies pay little attention to **effects of COVID-19**
• Pandemic laid bare (**health**) inequalities faced by **Roma**
  • Adhering to lockdown measures
  • Access to employment
  • Scapegoating
• Ensure a **fair recovery** and future **resilience**

**Take lessons from COVID-19, let it inform strategies and ensure fair recovery and resilience so Roma are not left behind**
Thank you for your attention!

#RomaHealth
#HealthInequalities

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