



A mentoring system for Roma  
women on their vocational  
and educational path

# Empowering marginalised groups through education and training in the Danube Region

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Wien, Austria



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Learning  
Programme

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- public organization, established in 1959 by municipalities: Trebnje, Šentrupert, Mokronog-Trebelno and Mirna
- population: 23.600 inhabitants / area: 283 km<sup>2</sup>
- **Adult education / lifelong learning:** primary & secondary school, vocational education, preparations & certification for the national vocational qualifications, courses (language, ICT, accounting and bookkeeping, handiwork...)



**ms4row** A mentoring system for Roma women on their vocational and educational path



- **projects** (for learning to raise literacy levels)
- **target groups:** adults, employees, elderly adults, the unemployed, rural residents, people with special needs, Roma people, imprisoned persons, migrants...



# Once upon a time...

*... there were Roma  
sisters .  
... they didn't finish  
their education.*

## Why?





# Why MS4ROW?

**Roma girls** are often victims of double discrimination:  
being women/girl & being Roma.  
They are vulnerable target group.

***Vulnerable target groups*** are marginalised, deflected, deprived groups, which are characterized by different handicaps and are often disadvantaged by assessing important resources.

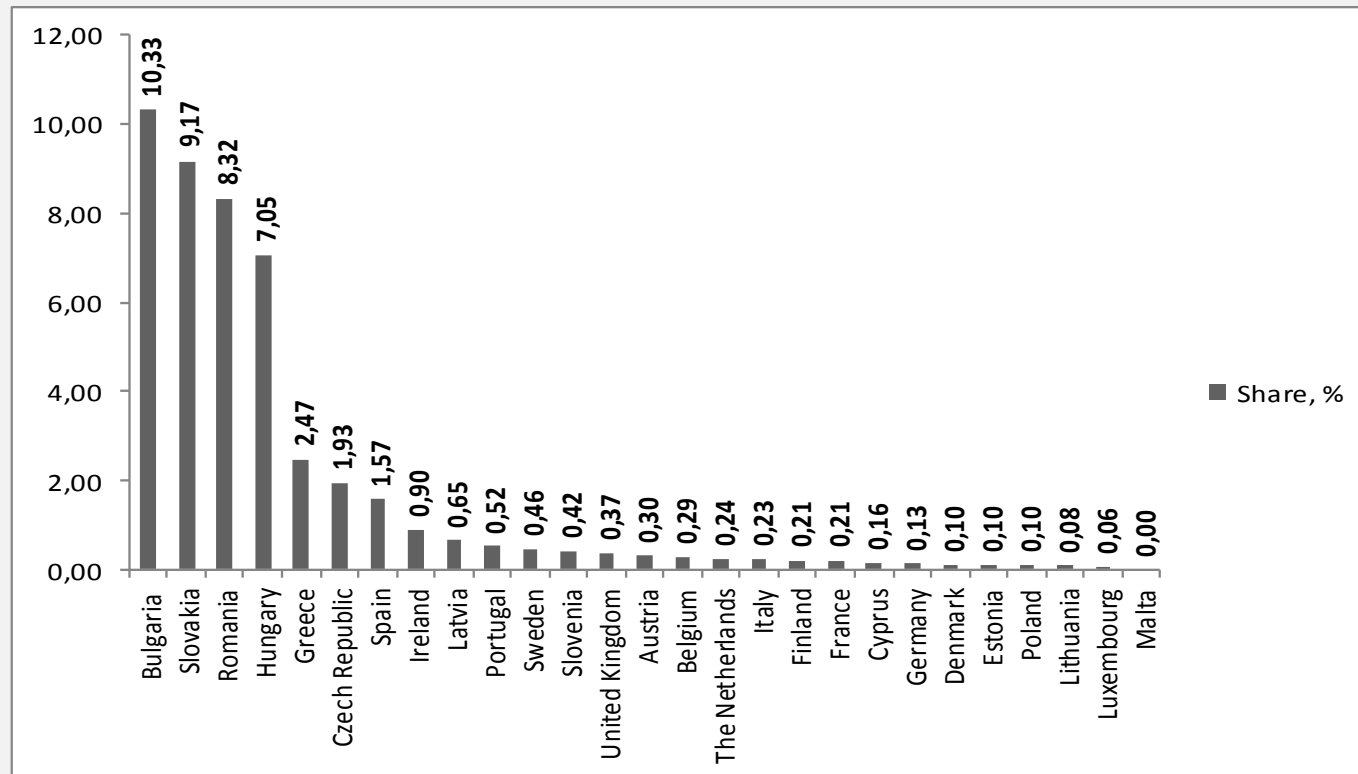


- disadvantages
- discrimination
  - deprivation
  - inflexibility
  - poverty
- social exclusion
- multiple marginalization

## (Vulnerable) target group Roma people

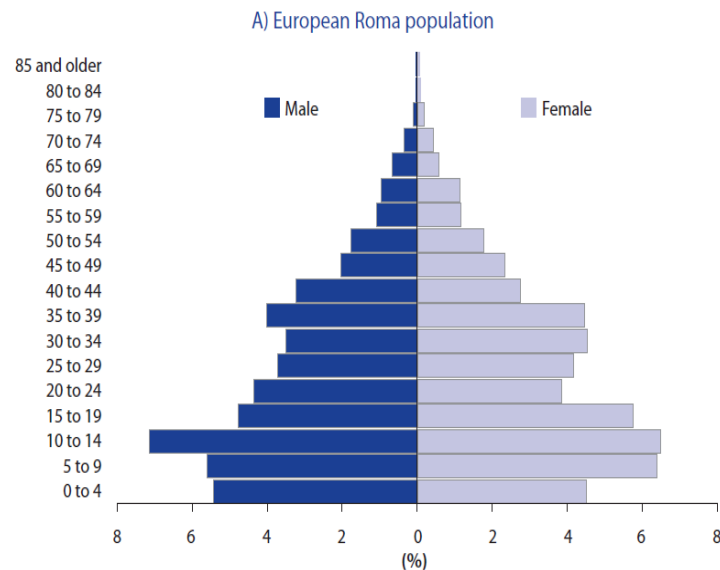
- **One of the biggest minorities:**

There are between 10 and 12 million Roma living in Europe. Roma people live almost in all countries – member of EU. The proportion of the Roma population range from 0,06% (Luxemburg) to 10,33% (Bulgaria).

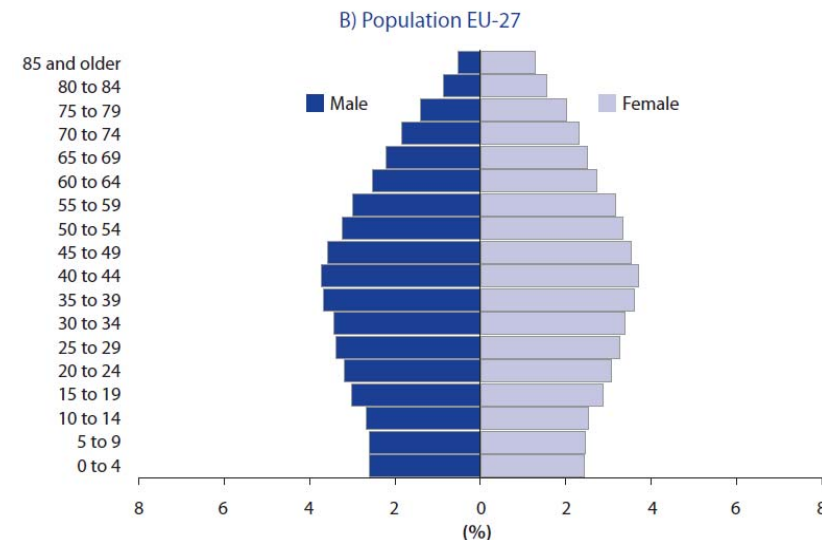


# (Vulnerable) target group Roma people

- Young population:**  
 35,7% of Roma are younger than 15 years (15,7% of majority population in EU is younger than 15 years),  
the average age of Roma is 25 years (the average age in majority population in EU is 40 years)



Source: EDIS S.A. based on the European Survey on Health and the Roma Community, 2009.



Source: EDIS S.A. based on Eurostat data of 1 January 2008.

## (Vulnerable) target group Roma people

- **Low education level:** 44% of the total adult Roma population (over age 15) have not completed primary school and only 24% of them has attained at least a secondary level education.

**Table 1.3.** Distribution (in percentage terms) of the 16 and over population (Roma community and EU-27) according to academic level

	Primary and lower	Secondary and higher	Total
EU-27 (*)	32.1	67.9	100
Roma Population (*)	75.5	24.5	100

Source: Health and the Roma Community, analysis of the situation in Europe (2009)

- **High unemployment rate,** inactivity and discrimination in the labor market: 64% of Roma population have been unemployed and 26% of Roma population have been discriminated against when looking for a paid work (respondents age 16 years and older)

FRA – Results from Roma Survey, 2011



## (Vulnerable) target group Roma people

- **Inadequate housing conditions:** 45% of the Roma live in households that lack at least one of the following basic amenities: indoor kitchen, indoor toilet, indoor shower or bath and electricity
- **vicious circle** of transmission of poverty between generations

*One of the five targets of the strategy Europe 2020 is fighting poverty and social exclusion, to fewer people in or at risk of poverty and social exclusion*

LEARNING/EDUCATION → EMPLOYABILITY → PROGRESS  
→ POVERTY REDUCTION & SOCIAL EXCLUSION

*The main aim of the LLP is to provide each participant equal opportunity for education for personal development, social inclusion and competitiveness, even those who live at the edge of society*

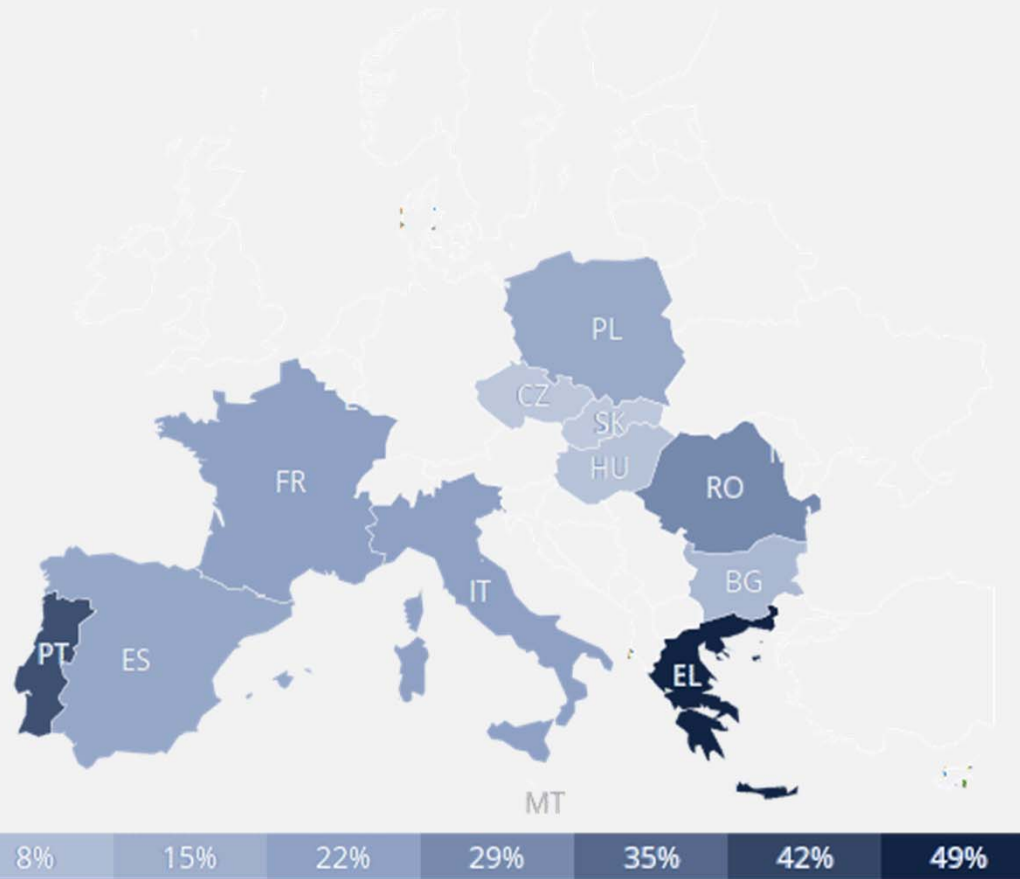
## (Vulnerable) target group Roma women

- **educational** attainments are half those of (Romani) men
- their educational level is significantly lower than of non-Roma women
- they are often pressured for various reasons to leave school at an earlier age
- they are more prone to early marriages (*50% of the Roma with the lowest educational level already have a partner at age of 16, while the average age of first cohabitation among persons with higher education is 23 years*)



## Never been in education / Roma / Sex: Female

	EL	49%
	PT	40%
	RO	29%
	IT	22%
	FR	22%
	BG	19%
	ES	19%
	PL	17%
	HU	4%
	CZ	2%
	SK	1%

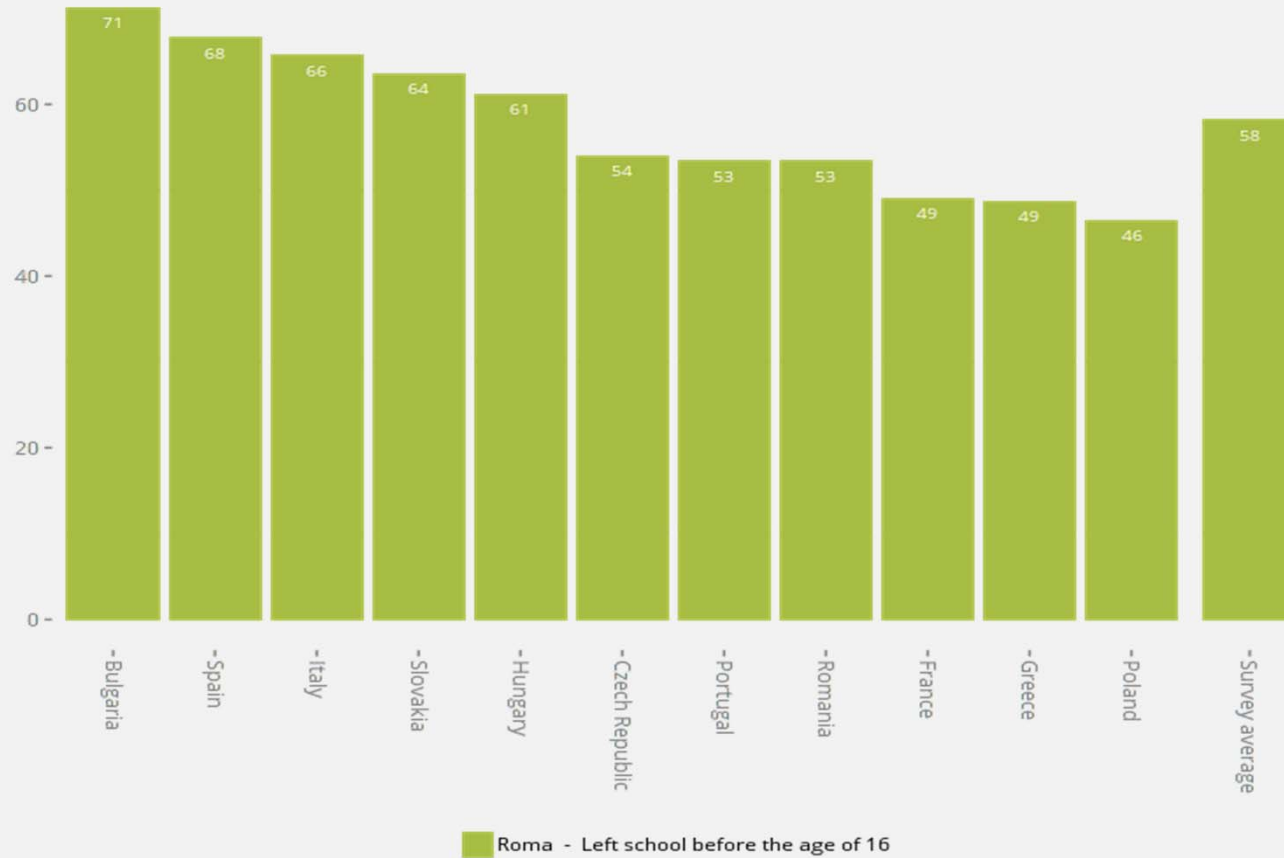


© FRA - All rights reserved - Results from Roma pilot survey 2011 | Never in education | Sex : Female | Roma

19% of Roma women are identified as not attending school.



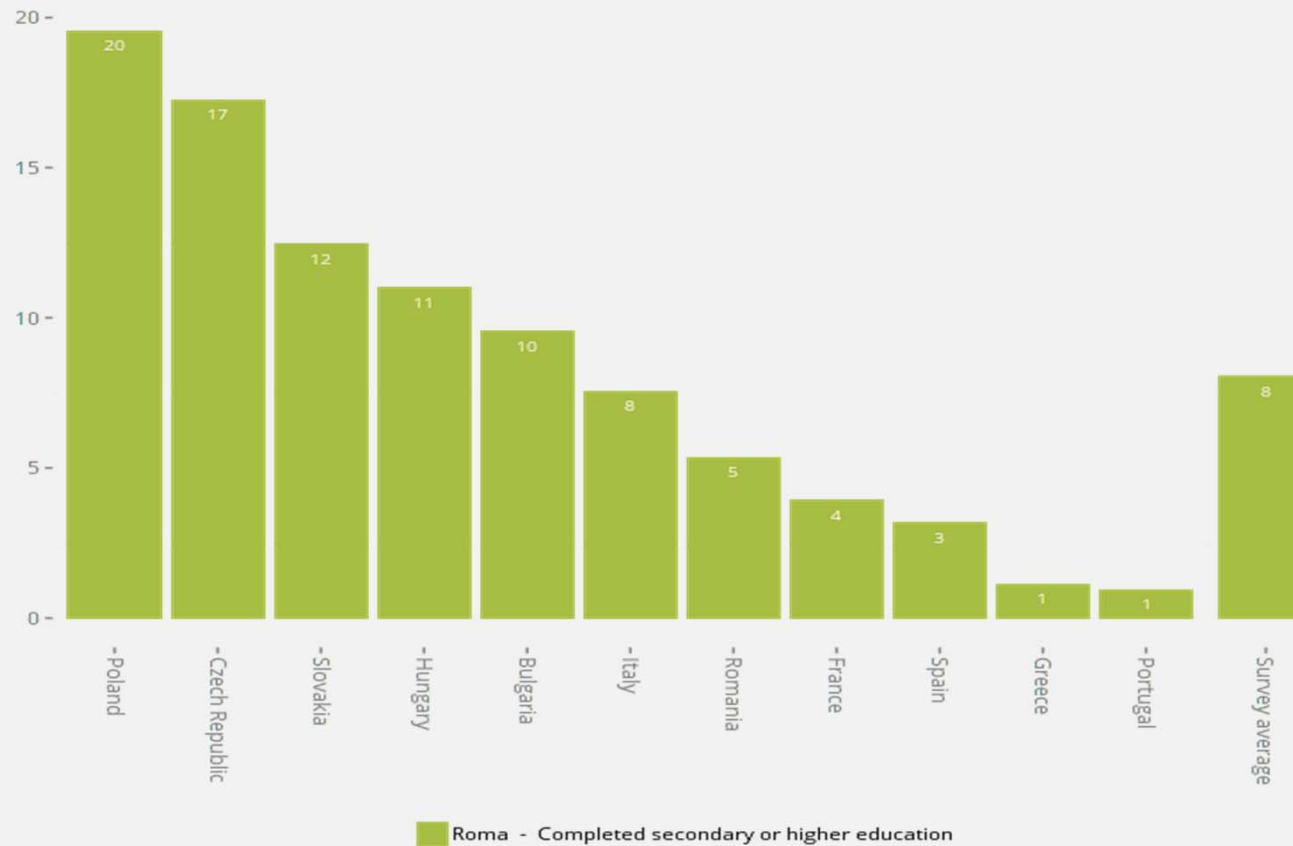
## Left school before the age 16 / Roma / Sex: Female



© FRA - All rights reserved - Results from Roma pilot survey 2011 | Sex : Female



## What is the highest education level you have attained? Roma / Sex: Female



© FRA - All rights reserved - Results from Roma pilot survey 2011 | Sex : Female

8% of Roma women have completed secondary or higher (vocational) education.



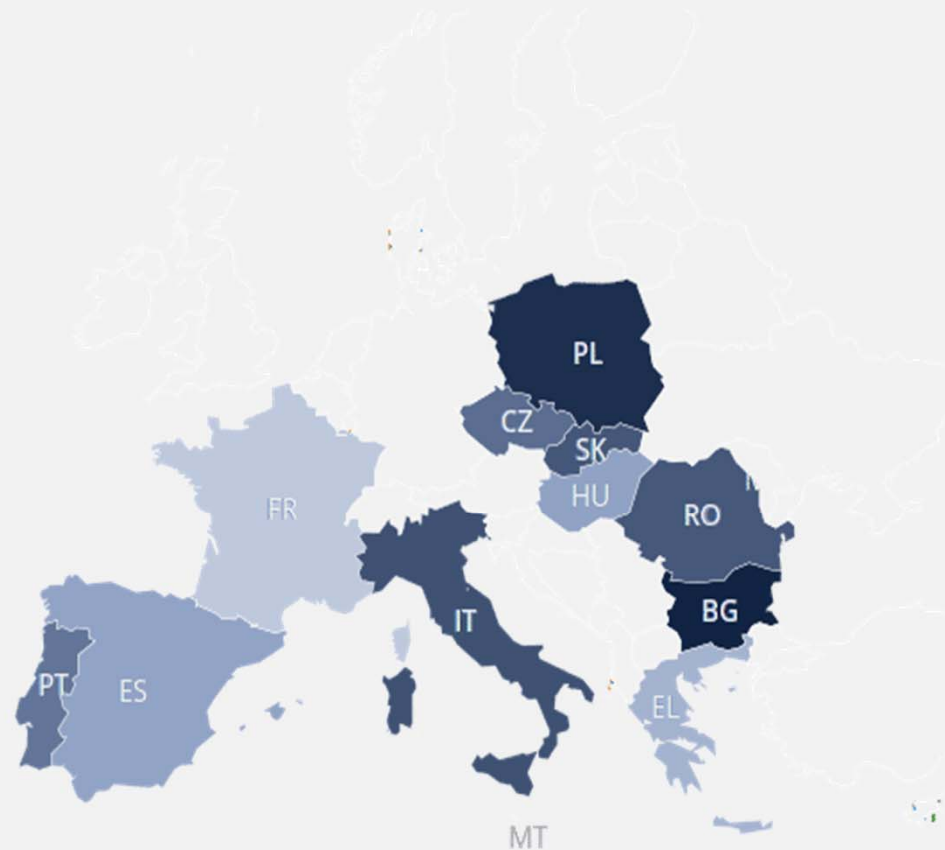
## (Vulnerable) target group Roma women

- exclusion in the field of **employment**
- racist discrimination in the workplace (when looking for employment or employed)
- unemployment rate is on average 1/3 higher than those of Roma men
- segregation and abuses in the **health care system**
- inadequate **housing conditions** in segregated and often polluted areas
- violence and human rights **abuses**



## Unemployment within the last 5 years / Roma / Sex: Female

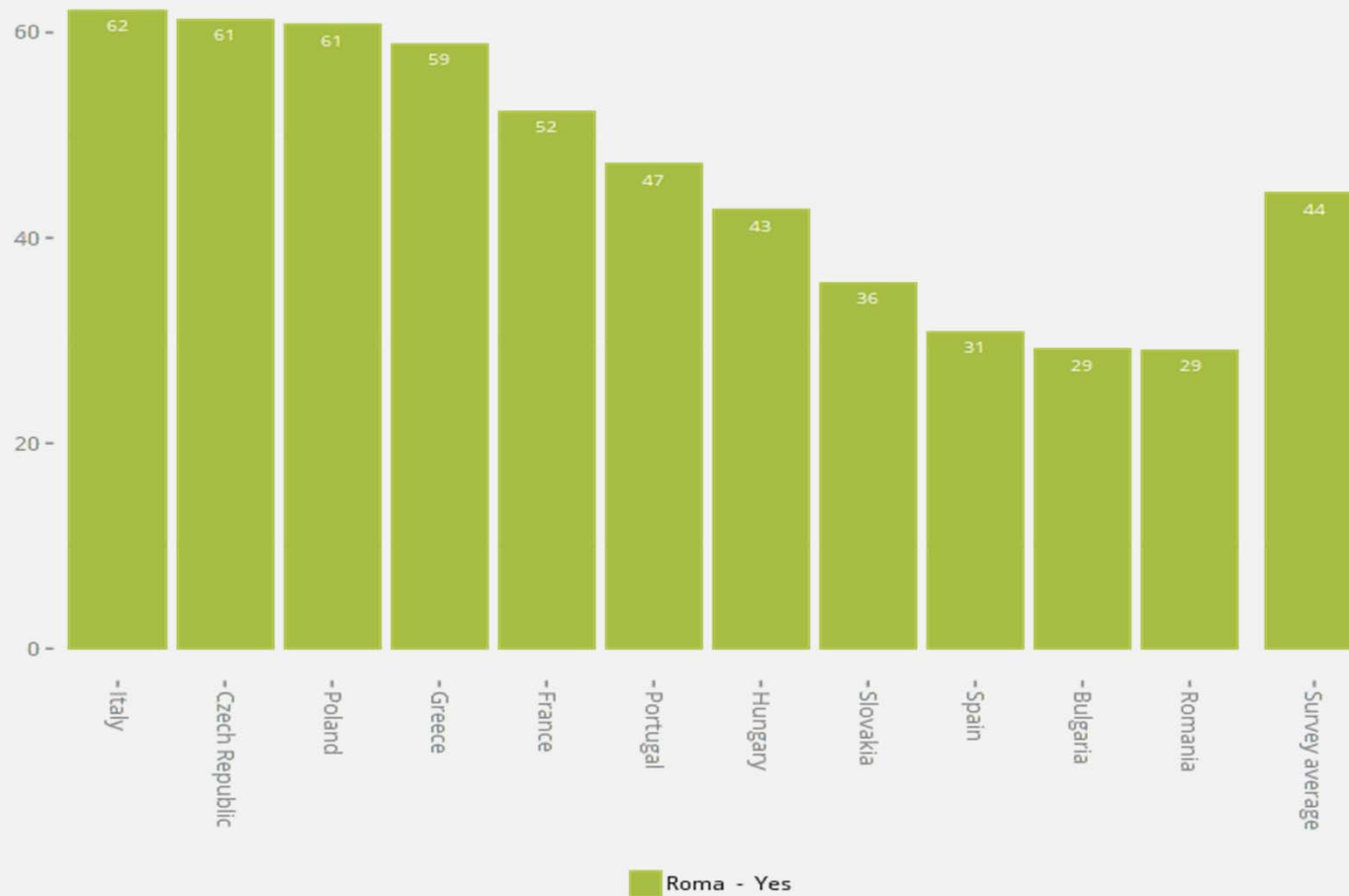
BG	79%
PL	76%
IT	70%
SK	69%
RO	69%
CZ	65%
PT	64%
TRUE	61%
HU	53%
ES	52%
EL	45%
FR	35%



© FRA - All rights reserved - Results from Roma pilot survey 2011 | Yes | Sex : Female | Roma

61% of Roma women are unemployed within  
the last 5 years.

## Discrimination – feeling discriminated against because of being Roma / Sex: Female

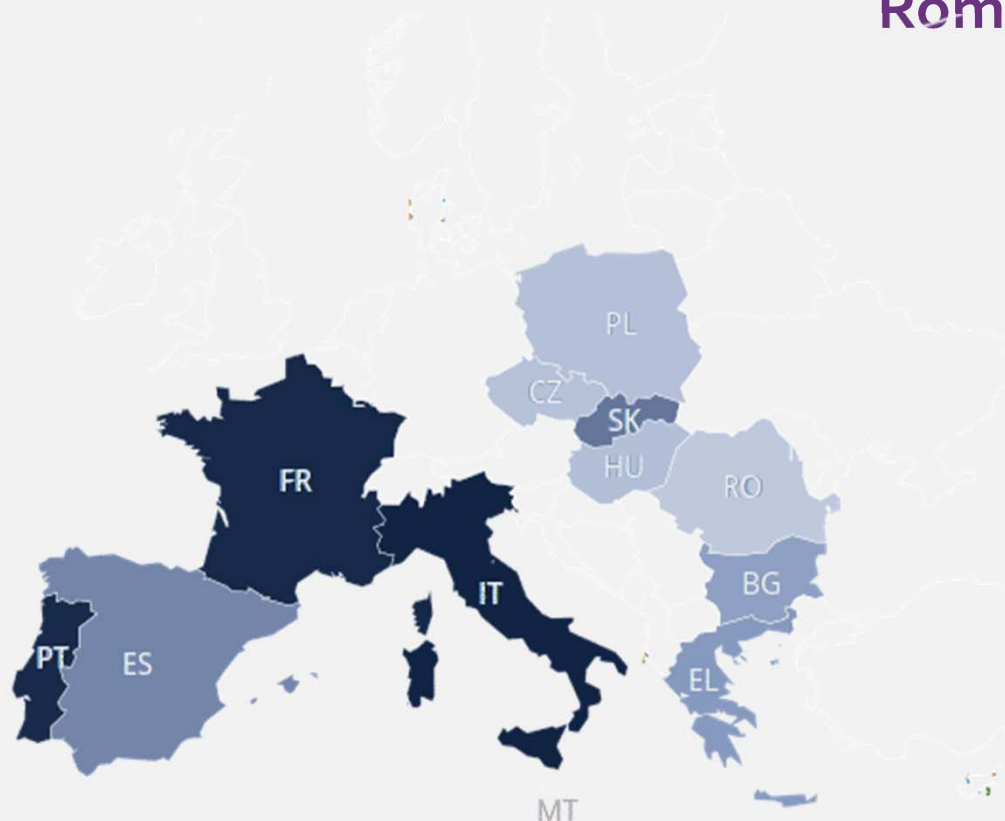


© FRA - All rights reserved - Results from Roma pilot survey 2011 | Sex : Female

44% of Roma women are facing with discrimination.

## Income below the national at-risk-of-poverty threshold Roma / Sex: Female

	IT	98%
	FR	97%
	PT	97%
	SK	91%
	ES	90%
	EL	88%
	TRUE	87%
	BG	87%
	HU	81%
	PL	80%
	CZ	80%
	RO	79%



© FRA - All rights reserved - Results from Roma pilot survey 2011 | Income below the national at-risk-of-poverty threshold | Sex : Female | Roma

87% of Roma women live below the national at-risk-of-poverty threshold.

## Roma women

- They are playing important and **central role** in their families.
- They ensuring and providing **support to all family** members, raising children and taking care of their education, social development and inclusion.
- Due to the poor education and lack of educational experiences, Roma girls are usually less equipped for their **parenting mission**: *being premotor and role model for children in the field of education and employment.*





# Roma women



A lifelong learning, career planning and monitoring is the key importance for:

⇒ successful integration of Roma girls into society with the aim

- to control their career and life path and
  - to increase their access to the labor market and employment
- ⇒ successful implementation of their parental role in Roma society as a role model and promoter for their children in the field of education and employment

# MS4ROW project

## WHO?

- **CIK Trebnje** (Slovenia) – coordinator
- **EuroCoop** (Slovenia)
- **Amrita OBK** (Hungary)
- **Drom Kotar Mestipen** (Spain)
- **Düzce MEM** (Turkey)

## Duration:

1.12.2013 – 30.11.2015

*Financed by European  
Commission - LLP*



# HOW will MS4ROW help?



- alternative mode of teaching – **mentoring system for Roma teenage girls/women**
- to design and realize a personal educational and vocational path for Roma teenage girls.

# HOW?

**Identification and analysis** of the existing educational, pedagogical and counselling programmes, educational content for Roma teenage girls, existing education opportunities, demand for education, occupational aspirations and wishes of Roma girls.

⇒ **A survey**

⇒ **Project guidelines**



# HOW?

**Development** of comprehensive mentoring system:

- ⇒ **general education content** with a detailed mentoring system plan (of implementation of general education contents: reading literacy, digital literacy, financial literacy, communication skills, job-finding skills, (e-) learning techniques... and to increase the scope of key competences).
- ⇒ **supporting didactic materials** for on-line learning and manuals
- ⇒ **a web application** as an ICT tool for educational path and career growth support and on-line learning.





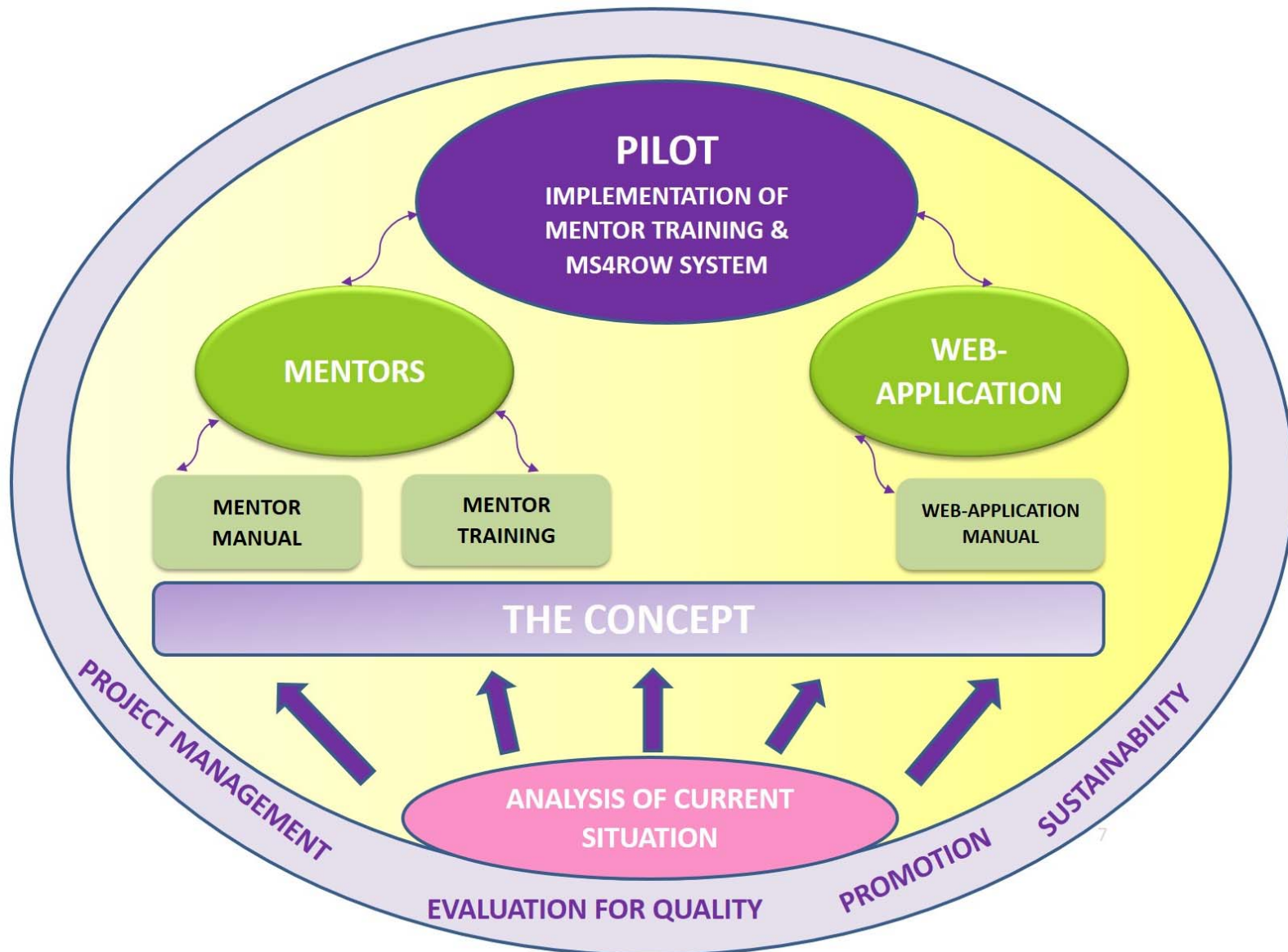
# HOW?



## Pilot implementation:

- ⇒ **Leader mentor training:** workshop, online-learning and practical work (on the content and technical level)
- ⇒ **Practical implementation of the system:** 20 Roma teenage girls/country, 10 months, individual meetings with mentor (to design the educational and vocational plan) and workshops (acquirement of educational content – to rise a literacy and to acquire core competences ).
- ⇒ **A web application:** an ICT tool for educational path and career growth support and on-line learning, to enable an overview of the individual's education progress and guide participant on hers educational and vocational path.

# MS4ROW system



# CHALLENGES OF THE PROJECT

- To properly address **cultural differences** between Roma society in partner countries & between Roma communities in partner countries.
- **Pilot leader-mentor training**: to ensure **leader-mentors** to pass the knowledge to other mentors beyond the consortium.
- **Mentoring system**: to overcome all obstacles that reduce motivation of **Roma teenage girls** to participate and attend in the pilot regularly.
- **Future exploitation**: adoption of the mentoring system in the programme/offer of relevant stakeholders and institutions (e.g. educational, employment and social centers, Roma associations, local authorities ...)

# ADDED VALUE OF THE PROJECT

- Focus on **ROMA TEENAGE GIRLS** and **combating their double discrimination** (women, Roma) as respond to numerous official documents and strategies dealing with Roma population
- **MENTORING SYSTEM** for Roma teenage girls = the combination of the **individual meetings mentor-Roma girl**, group **workshops**, **web-tool** will allow the individual to design and realize a personal education and vocational path → *new pedagogical and multisectoral approach; building inclusion; trans-national benefits*



*Thank you for your attention.*

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