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RESTORE

PROVIDE SOCIAL PATHWAYS FOR ROMA PEOPLE

PR1: IDENTIFICATION OF CIVIC EDUCATIONAL MODELS FOR DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION OF ROMA ADULTS

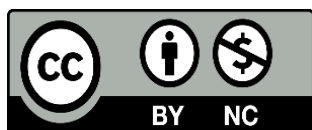
NATIONAL REPORT – GERMANY

Erasmus+ Programme

KA220-ADU - Cooperation partnerships in adult education

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1. Desk Research

1.1 General data on the population and the situation of the Roma in Germany

According to civil society estimates, between 70,000 and 150,000 (Council of Europe, 2012) members of the national minority of German Sinti and Roma and more than 100,000 Roma migrants live in Germany.

The Roma population in Germany can be differentiated into at least three groups with different legal status:

- Firstly, there are a considerable number of Roma people who have lived for generations in Germany and have the normal legal status of Germans. In formal terms, they have the same rights as other German population groups;
- Secondly, there are Roma people from other member states of the European Union who live temporarily or permanently in Germany. Many of them come from the new European member states in the south-east of Europe, especially from Romania and Bulgaria. The members of this group have the full rights of European citizens;
- Thirdly, there is a group of Roma people who over the past decades immigrated as migrant labourers or as displaced persons from other countries outside of the EU, in legal terms the so-called “third states”. Within the last 15 years, many Roma have come as refugees from Kosovo or other regions of the former Republic of Yugoslavia.

As a national minority in Germany, German Sinti and Roma enjoy protection under the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. The Romany language is officially recognized as a minority language in line within Germany's commitments under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

The situation and the identity of the Roma population in Germany today cannot be understood without knowledge of the historical background of the Roma and especially of the racist prosecution during National Socialism in the 1930s and 1940s in Germany. Since the 1970's, the civil and human rights engagement of Roma in the Federal Republic of Germany has increasingly taken place against a background of generational change and the transformation of the political culture.



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1.2 Policies targeting Roma in Germany

According to the federal structure of the German state, the political responsibility for the integration of Roma is split up between the Departments of the Interior at national as well as state level. Because most of the programmes to promote the situation of the Roma population are the responsibility of the states and the local authorities, it is almost impossible to get a clear picture of the volume, content and effects of these programmes.

The overarching objective of Germany's national integration policy is for all people living here legally to be able to realise their own potential and bring it to bear in society regardless of whether they were born here or not. That objective applies in equal measure to all Sinti and Roma living in Germany.

Integration activities are meant to all legal migrants in Germany, regardless of national, ethnic or religious affiliation. They cover the following three areas:

- language teaching,
- integration in training, work and (tertiary) education, and
- social integration.

The Federal Government implemented the EU Framework up to 2020 by launching measures as part of a broad-based policy strategy on integration which is open to all migrants. Besides integration and inclusion, equality and participation also have a key role to play under the new EU Framework Strategy, in particular tackling antigypsyism and discrimination. The Federal Government regards civic education as essential when it comes to preventing and fighting antigypsyism. The Federal Agency for Civic Education has various (online) publications, handouts and webpages on dealing critically with antigypsyism. The Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familien, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend, BMFSFJ) the first time provided funds to an Antigypsyism Centre of Excellence focusing on

- awareness-raising among the general population as regards antigypsyism stereotypes and prejudice,
- supporting Sinti and Roma social participation,
- supporting empowerment structures, and
- historical-political education in relation to the persecution and murder of Sinti and Roma during the Nazi era



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2. Brief summary of the key findings reached through the online survey with Roma

The online survey was conducted using an online questionnaire within the Roma community in Wuppertal and across Germany in the period May-June 2022, in an area where the Roma population is more emancipated. A total of seven (7) Roma participants who stated from the beginning that they are interested in the community responded to the questionnaire.

2.1 Demographic characteristics of the participants:

- 100% (7/7) of the participants were Roma adults.
- Of the seven (7) participants, four (5) were female, and three (2) were male.
- Out of the seven (7) participants, five (4) participants belonged to the age group 24-38 and two (3) participants belonged to the age group 18-22.
- All participants (7/7) had German citizenship.
- All participants (7/7) have been living in Germany since birth.
- Of the seven (7) participants six (6) persons have attended or completed high school.
- All participants (7/7) were employed in fields such transport, cleaning, production.

2.2 Key findings of the online survey with Roma citizens

All Roma participants were aware of civic education programmes. 57.41% of the participants (4 out of 7) had never participated in a civic education programme in their community while 42.9% (3 out of 7) had participated in one, in their area reporting at least 2-3 different trainings. 85.7% of the participants (6 out of 7) are interested in participating in civic training programmes and agree that there is a need for civic education programmes targeting Roma. The main reasons for participation seem to be:

- breaking the stereotypical image of Roma (85.7%),
- social integration (57.1%),
- finding better employment opportunities (57.1%)

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- learning about their rights and European culture (42.9%)

At the same time, 85.7% of the participants (6 out of 7) believe that participation in citizenship and civic participation training programmes will increase the participation of Roma in democratic, cultural and community activities. Only 42.9% of the participants (4 out of 7) have attended online training courses in the past.

All participants (100%) consider the participation of Roma in public life to be low. The main barriers identified by participants to Roma participation in the community are:

- The lack of self awareness
- The lack of quality information about the public sphere and civic engagement
- The limited access to employment,
- Systemic racism

3. Brief summary of the key findings reached through the online survey with Professionals

The online questionnaire survey was administered online to 9 professionals working with the Roma population in Germany, during the period May-June 2022.

3.1 Demographic-professional characteristics of the participants:

- All participants were German.
- Six (5) participants were female and three (4) were male.
- Eight (7) participants belonged to the age category 24-38 years old, while one (2) participant belonged to the age category 40-60 years old.
- Eight (8) out of nine (9) participants are currently working.
- Five (5) participants have completed postgraduate studies and four (4) have completed higher education.
- The participants' job titles were adult educators/trainers, project managers.
- The majority of the participants have supported Roma in matters of: general education, social and cultural support, and skills training.

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- The majority of participants have worked 1-2 years in Roma education/support (6 out of 9), while one (1) person have worked 3-5 years in this field, one (1) person less than 1 year and one (1) person more than 7 years.

3.2 Key findings of the online survey with professionals working with Roma

The majority of the participants (7 out of 9) are well aware of civic education programmes in their community, while they are considering civic education programmes to be very crucial when it comes to individual's civic participation improvement. Most participants (6 out of 9) are unsure whether they are sufficiently trained to support Roma with civic education, information or assistance programmes. A slim majority (5 out of 9) stated that they had access to specialised resources of educational materials for Roma while the remaining (4 out of 9) answered negatively. Most participants (8 out of 9) considered educational materials and specialised resources important to very important for their work. Most of the participants have not used e-learning. However, they agree that the use of technology improves the level of training for Roma civic engagement. At the same time, the majority of participants (7 out of 9) stated that they often encounter language barriers when training or supporting the Roma population, while participants did not seem to be aware of training organisations for Roma. A slight majority (5 out of 9) stated that they are rarely informed about civic education models in the EU. All participants consider Roma participation in public life to be low. Finally, most participants do not often raise awareness among Roma populations about their democratic participation and have never evaluated a civic education programme for Roma.

4. Brief summary of the key findings reached through the organised focus group / interviews in each country with Roma adults.

The meeting/interview with the Roma adults in the context of the focus group, was conducted through face-to-face meetings in September 2022, with the participation of three (3) adult Roma males, who have completed higher educational degree and were willing to participate. The following findings emerged from the discussion:

- ✓ All participants have previously participated in education and training programs to enhance community participation in their communities. In addition, they have been politically active and actively involved Whether in Roma cultural associations, as municipal counsellors, members of political organizations or as Roma mediators

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- ✓ Regarding the barriers faced by Roma to participate in public life and education and the focus group identified the following barriers:
 - Lack of education/training and the lack of basic knowledge of Roma about their participation in public and political action, as well as the lack of information of the population about their rights and the importance of participation in politics.
 - lack of education and training opportunities, segregation in education (mono-cultural classes or schools), school drop-out for reasons of poverty and livelihood.
 - the reluctance of political parties at local government level to mobilize the Roma and include them in political processes, the exploitation of the Roma by political organizations and candidates in elections who are remembered only for electoral reasons.
 - social racism that Roma are subjected to not only by political organisations and their representatives but also by their fellow citizens.
- ✓ **All participants underlined that the majority of Roma in Germany even though completed decent degree of education are not enjoying quite authentic equality.**
 - **They aren't fully aware of their rights as EU citizens,**
 - **They are quite aware of European values, the western culture but they hardly identify with it**
- ✓ **There are some positive Sinti/ Roma role models in some areas, usually in the more socially integrated areas**
- ✓ **The challenges in the trainings** attended are summarised below:
 - **The lack of tools and methods for the social and political integration of Roma**
 - **Adapting the educational material to the needs of Roma**
 - **Getting young Roma to engage and take place in the training**



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5. Brief summary of the key findings reached through the focus group / interviews in each country with educators, professionals, and volunteers working with adult Roma adults.

Low participation is noted in processes linked with the Roma Strategy although Germany's national Roma integration strategy is not a strategy as such, but rather an integrated set of policy measures within Germany's social inclusion policies. They focus, in particular, on the areas of education, employment, health and housing.

Therefore it can be concluded that there is still an opportunity to increase Roma participation by promoting the inclusion of representatives of this community in various decision-making and consultative bodies. Roma participation in such bodies may bring a variety of benefits – it enhances their group participation, improves the group's image among the majority community and allows individuals to acquire new skills, thus contributing to weakening a certain monopoly of leaders.

All the interviews explain that they are adapting the existing programs and toolkits to the Roma needs or sometimes need to create their own program and content mostly related to Roma history and origin. Materials related to increasing Roma civic engagement based on the daily Roma challenges will be an incentive. As a valuable set of knowledge and skills they emphasize a good knowledge of Roma history, origin, traditions and direct work experience with the Roma. Digital participation, social media and IT skills among the trainers are the skills gap, according to the interviewers. They think the programs and training should be aligned with the general trends in non formal education. Another interviewer pointed out that creative methods such as Forum Theater, music and art are attractive to younger generations and educators might be trained in using such methods.

In terms of materials specific on Roma issues mostly are using those created by COE: Mirror, Right to Remember and Roma history, Rom archive but generally as said before they are adjusting the existing ones. No language and cultural barrier were noted as interviewers are Roma origin but on the other side German language might be a problem for those Roma who do not speak the Roma language. A good civic educational model was mentioned the ROMED program - Democratic Governance and Community Participation through Mediation coordinated by COE. Beside the above creative methods, community organizing and Digital Participation were mentioned as methods that could be adopted to improve the Roma community's civic engagement.



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Name of Best Practice:	Information Centre for Sinti and Roma in Wilhelmsburg
Country:	Germany
Short Description: (300 words max)	Information Centre for Sinti and Roma in Wilhelmsburg' is assisting women and men from the Sinti and Roma minority to develop vocational prospects, in particular with regard to becoming self-employed. Participants who successfully complete the qualification modules are able to carry out specific work activities (e.g. best practices when using power saws or working with asbestos). Women work in a sewing shop as a first step to becoming self-employed. In addition to this, the contact centre helps clients to solve a wide variety of problems. The project's activities include advising young people on school and vocational training, thus supporting the work of the Youth Employment Agency.
Trends and Potential Benefits from this Best Practice (250 words max)	The aim is to integrate long-term unemployed Sinti and Roma, especially young people, into the labor market. The project provides advice on how to deal with problems and how to develop personal skills and professional perspectives. Roma women are being trained to raise their qualifications and become self –employed. On the other hand they have been involved in practical skills development as for example sewing.
How this Best Practice could be used/ transferred (250 words max)	This is a good example within the notion “The most of EU funds in favor of Roma” as it brings concrete results. The operational plan of the city Hamburg was aligned with the funding priorities. It can be transferred all over the EU member states. The project is funded by European Social Fund in Hamburg. In the 2014-2020 funding period, Hamburg received around 78 million euros from the ESF. This amount is topped up by the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg by the same amount to a total of more than 150 million euros, with which various projects are funded. Hamburg is pursuing the following goals with the ESF in the funding period 2014-2020: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labor mobility • Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty and discrimination • Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning <p>Above all, young people in the transition from school to work, job seekers, long-term unemployed, women and men in reconciling work and family, people with</p>



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	disabilities, people with a migration background, refugees and people in difficult circumstances benefit from the offers. The main focus of the ESF is to promote integration into work.
Website link:	https://www.esf-hamburg.de/foerderperiode-2014-2020/projekte/esf-projects-english/9877376/qualifizierungen-und-berufliche-einstiege-fuer-sinti-und-roma-en/
More Info:	The counseling times of "Qualifications and career entry for Sinti and Roma" are currently limited. The consultation takes place Monday to Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. by telephone. Appointments outside of these times can also be arranged.

No 2.

Name of Best Practice:	Documentation and Cultural Center of German Sinti and Roma
Country:	Germany
Short Description: (300 words max)	<p>Documentation and Cultural Center emerged in its current form and mode of operation from more than 45 years of successful civil rights work. Many members of our minority fought in post-war Germany for the recognition of their civil rights and the Nazi crimes committed against Sinti and Roma. This commitment was a major challenge for the young Federal Republic and ultimately contributed to consolidate democracy and constitutionality in Germany.</p> <p>Our examination of the past is part of a process of social understanding about our own history and identity. Through documenting and imparting of the culture and history of the Sinti and Roma in Germany and Europe we display the cultural plurality of our society and promote openness to diverse ways of life. We encourage critical reflection and discussion and thus strengthen the awareness of responsible participation in our democracy.</p>
Trends and Potential Benefits from this Best Practice (250 words max)	<p>A visit to the Documentation and Cultural Center offers the opportunity to encounter the history and the present of the Sinti and Roma and allows for an examination of the persecution of this minority during the Nazi era</p> <p>In addition we offer:</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Guided tours in our permanent exhibition ● Workshops and seminar sessions on memorial education ● Study and project days on the history and persecution of Sinti and Roma as well as Antigypsyism (also possible as part of apprenticeships or further education) ● Consulting and support for presentations, term papers, equivalent determinations of school performances (German: GFS) and seminar courses ● Mediation of contemporary historical city explorations in Heidelberg ● Planning and implementation of teacher training and specialist conferences (also in schools) ● Supervision of school and university theses ● Mediation of topic-specific discussion partners and expert speakers ● Organization and accompaniment of memorial site excursions (e.g. Natzweiler and Auschwitz) ● Talks on the history and culture of the Sinti and Roma
<p>How this Best Practice could be used/ transferred (250 words max)</p>	<p>The education portal with the three pillars Educate – Meet – Change combines and links old and new online offerings of the Documentation and Cultural Center. It considers itself a learning and information platform in progress. In the future, a revised overview of memorial sites as well as a nationwide overview with educational offers on the history of Sinti and Roma and the confrontation with antiziganism will be available here.</p> <p>The Documentation and Cultural Center is an educational center providing different type of exhibitions, cultural events, workshops etc. Organized educational tours for students, teachers and stakeholders are being organized. These groups all over the Germany and the region are visiting the Center.</p> <p>Such Cultural and Educational Centers are needed all over Europe where people and stakeholders can be educated for Roma culture and History.</p>
<p>Website link:</p>	<p>https://dokuzentrum.sintiundroma.de</p>
<p>More Info:</p>	<p>NA</p>



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No3.

Name of Best Practice:	The Federal Agency for Civic Education prevents and fights Antigypsyism.
Country:	Germany
Short Description: (300 words max)	<p>The Federal Government regards civic education as essential when it comes to preventing and fighting antigypsyism. At federal level, the Federal Agency for Civic Education (Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung, BpB) has always pursued numerous different measures dealing with group-focused enmity. Addressing antigypsyism has a key role to play in this and the Federal Agency will continue to pay great attention to this issue. Examples worth mentioning include grants paid to civil society organisations as part of model project funding, such as to the Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma (RomArchive. The Digital Archive of the Sinti and Roma; Voices of Victims – Representative of the Nazi Genocide), and RAA Berlin (“emPower Together! Resilience Strategies against Racism”).</p> <p>In the context of tackling antigypsyism the Federal Government attaches equal importance to promoting historical-cultural education. The arts, culture, historical analysis and teaching of media literacy have a decisive and sustainable impact on strengthening our democratic values and social system</p>
Trends and Potential Benefits from this Best Practice (250 words max)	<p>The Federal Agency for Civic Education has various (online) publications, handouts and webpages on dealing critically with antigypsyism. One key concern is supporting those civil society forces committed to combating racism and antigypsyism.</p> <p>Some of the examples are:</p> <p>https://www.bpb.de/mediathek/audio/322752/sinti-und-roma-im-nationalsozialismus/</p> <p>https://www.bpb.de/shop/zeitschriften/izpb/9720/sinti-und-roma-als-feindbilder/</p> <p>https://www.bpb.de/mediathek/audio/326875/antiziganismus-gadje-rassismus-oder-schlicht-rassismus/</p> <p>https://www.bpb.de/mediathek/video/202423/antiziganismus-begegnen/.</p>
How this Best Practice could be used/ transferred	It is a good example how the Federal Government supports and will continue to promote the art and history and historical analysis of Sinti and Roma in Germany in a structurally and financially appropriate



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(250 words max)	manner. As Antigypsyism has been defined as a ground for long term social exclusion of Roma and has been highlights in the “EU Roma strategic framework on equality, inclusion and participation” , it can be transferred to other countries as a good practice as an government measures to prevent Antigypsyism
Website link:	https://www.bpb.de
More Info:	In North Rhine-Westphalia there is contact points specifically for the victims of antigypsyism. They are to engage in special confidence-building work with Sinti and Roma communities, will be available to provide multilingual and culturally sensitive advisory services and to implement regional and supra-regional antidiscrimination programmes. Moreover, a Competence Pool on Antigypsyism was founded within these antidiscrimination structures which is tasked with expanding specialist know-how on antigypsyism and acting as a point of contact.

No 4.

Name of Best Practice:	ReFIT for Roma Migration
Country:	Germany
Short Description: (300 words max)	<p>The regional pilot project called “ReFIT for Roma Migration”, launched in summer 2020 by the Baden-Württemberg Association of the Association of German Sinti and Roma and funded by the Land of Baden-Württemberg, serves as a best practice example in relation to this sectoral target.</p> <p>Working with the cities of Mannheim, Stuttgart, Ulm and Freiburg, and with the support of Heidelberg University of Education, the situation as regards equality, inclusion and participation of Roma migrants is being researched in the aforementioned four core areas in the four municipalities. Strategies for sustainably improving the situation will be elaborated on the basis of that research.</p> <p>Existing federal- and Länder-level information-sharing with Sinti and Roma self-organisations provide an appropriate setting for together discussing and moving forward on research.</p>
Trends and Potential Benefits	



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<p>from this Best Practice (250 words max)</p>	<p>Promoting research cooperation projects between self-organisations and research facilities is thus to make a key contribution to developing and improving methods for researching the social situation.</p> <p>It has participatory approach by setting up of a national working group with representatives from the Federation, Länder, local authorities, academics and foundations, as well as Sinti and Roma self-organisations.</p> <p>Involving Sinti and Roma self-organisations – wherever possible – in research projects on topics relevant to them leads to better research, not by controlling results but by means of having an informative consultation process.</p>
<p>How this Best Practice could be used/ transferred (250 words max)</p>	<p>ReFIT is thus a pilot project whose analyses and approaches could, possibly, also have an impact on other municipalities, too.</p> <p>This is useful because, for example, by investigating the Federal Government’s mainstreaming measures in regard to housing, employment, education and health through studies, interviews with experts, anonymised data surveys and other research studies it is possible to conduct more precise research on the extent to which Sinti and Roma in particular benefit and where adjustments may need to be made. This also corresponds to one of the concerns raised by civil society during consultations.</p>
<p>Website link:</p>	<p>https://www.mannheim.de/de/service-bieten/integration-migration/neuzuwanderung-erstintegration/neuzuwanderung-aus-suedosteuropa/refit-regionale-foerderung-von-inklusion-und-teilhabe</p>
<p>More info:</p>	<p>NA</p>

No5.

<p>Name of Best Practice:</p>	<p>Modellprojekt Roma</p>
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Country:	Germany
Short Description: (300 words max)	<p>Model project is about the integration of young Sinti and Roma in Berlin Neukölln</p> <p>Integration in the new homeland - a real challenge if you don't understand the language and don't know how people live!</p> <p>In a unique cooperation project between the Kepler School and the Zuckmayer Oberschule (both Berlin Neukölln) and KUBUS gGmbH, young Sinti and Roma, mainly from Romania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia and Poland, who had moved to Berlin in mid-2010, studied every Wednesday get to know the world of work in the wood, metal and textile workshops of KUBUS gGmbH.</p> <p>While on the other days of the week they go to school and learn German in small classes specially set up by the Berlin school administration, they have the opportunity of practical application in manual work in the workshops of KUBUS gGmbH. You get to know working life, to work together with others, to communicate and to orientate yourself for a future job.</p>
Trends and Potential Benefits from this Best Practice (250 words max)	<p>Using the information from the research it would be easier to create the practical activities of the training material under IO2. Moreover, the following benefits were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acceptance and respect, either of their identity or of the institution that or the entity they represented, - Understanding of the problems they face either from a position - or in their everyday life
How this Best Practice could be used/ transferred (250 words max)	<p>This comprehensive approach and localy authority`s funded is in line with the integration and civic participation of Roma at local level, where a real inclusion is supposed to happen. The management team of the school is willing to share their experience cooperating with other schools. This a insight that this good practice might have multiply effect.</p>
Website link:	https://kubus-berlin.de/archive/883
More Info:	NA

Resources

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