

Policy Practice Gap Studies

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BEST PRACTICES
for
ROMA INTEGRATION
in the Western Balkans

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What is a policy-practice gap study?

- Studies that identify **gaps between the legal / policy standards and the practice in the field.**
 - I.e. Every child has the right to education – but is this really happening?
- Problems being addressed:
 - **Lack of data about the integration of Roma in different fields of life.** This is affecting policy making – what problem should be addressed first? How much funding should be allocated to different areas?
 - **Lack of experienced Roma researchers** working in this field – not just as data collectors but also as analysts

Process

- BPRI recruited **7 Roma researchers (only one woman) and 5 Research Advisors** (non-Roma, members of the academia/think tanks from the Western Balkans).
- The objective was to complete one study in each jurisdiction. Research proposals and questionnaires were cleared by BPRI before field work started.
- Topics and settlements selected by the Roma Researchers, preference given to issues of relevance for BPRI. Focus on concrete issues and field work.
- Working in local language or English. Final studies are translated into local languages, English and Romani.
- Programme budget: 40,000 euros in total.

Results

- **4 studies completed:**
 - *Report on healthcare services for Roma communities in the commune of Shushicë, Vlorë (Albania)*
 - *Access to Housing and Public Services for Repatriated Communities in Fushe Kosove/Kosovo Polje*
 - *Registration and Possession of Personal Identification Documents as Preconditions for Better Education of Roma (case Studies of the Settlements of Topaana and Sredorek in Skopje and Kumanovo)*
 - *Possession of identity documents as a requirement of social integration of young Roma in the settlement of Veliki Rit (Serbia)*
- **2 more on-going:**
 - *Use of the Romani Language in the Education System (case study of Niksic, Montenegro)*
 - *Causes for (under)representation of Roma women in Roma National Minority Councils in Croatia*

Challenges and advantages

- Mentoring remotely
- General lack of research/writing experience among students in the Western Balkans
- Fitting individual goals/research interests into the BPRI (regional) framework
- Taking it to the next level

- Enthusiastic researchers
- Authentic choices
- Clear guidance / comprehensive mentoring
- Tangible result in short time frame

Next steps – what you can do?

- **BPRI** will promote research findings, in co-operation with the **CoE, UN, EC and other stakeholders**. We welcome co-operation with any research institution / project that would like to give a similar opportunity to other Roma academics and activists.
- **Municipalities** can support local Roma university (or even high-school) students in organizing research projects. This really does not cost much – only time & patience 😊
- **Policy makers (national and local)** – if the study was done in your jurisdiction, think about solutions for improving the situation.
- **(Roma) NGOs** can initiate new research projects, raise awareness about problem areas.

Read the studies at: www.bpri-odihr.org



Muhamet Arifi:
*Repatriation
before
reintegration*



Marina Simeunovic:
*From exclusion to
inclusion through
identification*



Ajnur Sulejman:
No money, no ID



Bledar Taho: *No
access to the health
services for the Roma
without health cards*