



Erasmus+



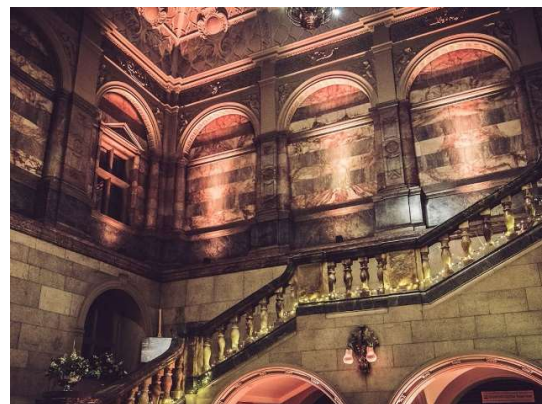
## National Gathering Report

Organization in charge of co-implementing the activity: Care for Young People's Future CIC

Date of the Gathering: 17/11/2023

Place: Sheffield,UK Hosting institution: Sheffield City Council Town Hall

Attendance: 45 Roma Women and 10 local authority and NGO's representatives ( health, politics , employment and volunteering)





Erasmus+



**Figure 01, 02& 03: Showing Roma women and Town Hall building**

**Location** Sheffield City Council – Town Hall

Sheffield Town Hall is an impressive Grade 1 listed Victorian building built in 1897 and is located right in the heart of the city. This unique venue is comprised of four large adaptable function areas and six stunning meeting rooms to complement our unique surroundings and exceptional service,

The Sheffield City Town Hall stands not merely as an architectural marvel but as the very pulse of community belonging. Nestled in its regal walls is a tapestry woven with threads of history, civic pride, and collective identity. It's more than a structure of stone; it's a sanctuary where the past whispers its tales and the present orchestrates a symphony of togetherness. Within these hallowed halls, diverse voices converge, embracing the tapestry of cultures, dreams, and aspirations that make Sheffield vibrant and alive. It's a compass guiding the communal spirit, a sanctuary where belonging transcends mere existence, where every soul finds solace, and every heart finds its home within the beating heart of the city, hence why the Roma Women have chosen to have the 3<sup>rd</sup> Roma Women Gathering in the heart of the city.

The Roma Women were hugely proud of sharing their stories, future and belonging to Sheffield and the UK in such a welcoming environment hosted by our local councilors, local authority representatives, NGO's and our Rtransform family.

The Roma Women, felt that Sheffield City cares about them, their stories and their dreams, by welcoming them and listening to them as well as committing to continue to work together to address our challenges, strengths and ambitions for our community, cities and society.

## **PREPARATION PHASE BEFORE THE GATHERING**

In 2023 our Roma women and CYPF continued to do a lot of work around 3 main needed themes which emerged from the previous Gathering and the women's needs and from RTransform main aims.

- Strengthen Roma Women Movement
- Improve educational expectations
- Make the voice of Roma Women heard



**Erasmus+**



**RTransform**

Through the following 3 main topics: **Fostering an Environment of Inclusion in Education, Culture Climate Justice , Health and Wellbeing and increase workforce in the community for the Roma Women**

We have held the following face-to-face and virtual meetings and workshops to prepare the topics for the Gathering and to demonstrate to ourselves and to the society that **“We belong here”**.

Since April 2023 and November 2023 – weekly meetings and preparing events to sustain our Gathering’s topics. with NCC and Role model in Manchester Ramona Constantiu.

Our weekly prep sessions, successfully allowed us to host a similar event to the Gathering in July called ‘‘ Roma Health Inequalities’’ where our Roma women took part as panel experts and shared with the city , health professionals, institutions, public health how Rtransform is making this happen. We had a room of 100 professionals, and community members successfully engaging with our recommendations and adopted them in their policy work.

We have brought a partnership of researchers from University of Sheffield too that have worked with us to support the Roma women’s needs, health literacy and research.

We have been able to demonstrate how successful partnerships happen with grassroots Roma Women and as a result of that , 2 Roma women became community peer researchers at the university, and 3 others regular interpreters.

Another 30 Roma women have engaged in education at college and 5 Roma women are providing regularly catering.

From September to November we have met and have chosen our role models, topics and rehearsed speeches.

*Figure 04: Images with NCC and Roma community members discussing about preparation of the Gathering and topics*



Erasmus+



RTransform

We

have continued workshops specific with women and young girls on raising aspirations and talks about dreams-led by CYPF – Sheffield Park Academy, Fir Vale School, and Endeavour Youth club. Here we have reached over one thousand young people talking, discussing about their aspirations, support needed and producing resources in partnership with schools, Rosa Cisneros-Coventry Uni and our local schools. This year we have co facilitated a program called Youth in community leadership, where 15 Roma students, of which 8 were girls have been involved in Sheffield park academy and in Firvale another 15 mix students.

We have also hosted an event ROMFEST where the Roma girls have performed at Oasis Don Valley and more than 500 family members have come.

All these events, were in connection and preparing the Roma girls for our Gathering

***Figure 05: School sessions at Sheffield Park Academy and Fir Vale School discussing about raising aspirations***

**Ongoing weekly sessions – October- November- Women talking about their needs- health, under SOAR-wellbeing and mental health as well as employment and educational aspirations.**

***Figure 06 : Ongoing sessions with Roma women discussing about wellbeing and health at SOAR***

Role models- met with each of them – prepared for the Gathering speech and presentation.

-September -December weekly Educational Art workshops in October to express our dreams – jobs, careers, dance, arts and Roma heritage.



Erasmus+



RTransform

Throughout these sessions we have explored ways of achieving our dreams, followed up action plans in partnership with 3 main secondary schools at local level Astrea Academy, Sheffield Park Academy and Fir Vale Secondary school.

We have ongoing mentoring through dance, Roma language and history at Sheffield Park Collaborated with Fir Vale Secondary school on supporting the Roma girls to produce educational videos in the health system.

Attended 6 sessions at Astrea – Getting to know your roots and my history – promoting pride in our heritage and culture.

***Figure 07 & 08 educational workshops Roma young girls and families preparing resources and rehearsing for the Gathering in partnership with HAF Healthy Holidays and RTransform . Figure 08 Roma Cultural outfit exhibition***

## **2- ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION: THE GATHERING**

**Title of the main conference:**





Erasmus+



RTransform

**Roma Women Transforming the educational systems in the UK and political mobilization.  
Reimagining social/educational/ health inequalities**

**3rd<sup>nd</sup> Roma Women Gathering – Sheffield - Becoming an inclusive city !A dream for our community!**

**See Official video here .....**

“On the 17<sup>th</sup> of November for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time , over 45 Roma Women gathered in Sheffield, UK at Sheffield City Council Town Hall located in the heart of the community ,to discuss education evidenced-based examples and to dream together for a brighter future and about their dreams/ belonging in the city.

***Figure 09 & 10 : Roma Women and officials in Town Hall***

The day opened with a review of the past three years and our Roma Women Recommendations the “3 Generations Dream Table” video ([\(25\) RTransform Gathering Short trailer- CYFP \(Sheffield, UK\) November 2021 - YouTube](#) from the 2021 Sheffield Gathering and our NCC welcoming everyone.



Then we had evidenced-based examples from experts in the field of education Rosa Maria Kostic Cisneros – PhD Sociology and Dance Researcher, Terezia Rostas- graduated in Law- Human Rights and Secondary school teacher also Health and Wellbeing Coach, Olga Fuseini -studied Politics and currently working as a Research Associate in Health inequalities, Ramona Constantin



Erasmus+



RTransform

lived experience role model and Manchester University student , Katarina Dome European Drom –master’s in social work and cofounder of European Drom – Bradford and Iveta Bangova European Drom – Roma Interpreter ,trainer and cofounder of European Drom and Monika B–grassroot Roma women – climate justice activist and nature connector.



**Figure 11 a and 11b :Participants and Role model table**

The grassroots Roma women gathered to discuss and to explore the importance of inequalities in education, health and wellbeing as well as climate justice , arts and culture as well as feminism and seeking solutions to the problems they face.



Erasmus+



The space for this event from Town Hall was crucial for us in order to empower and build their confidence dreams and belonging. Fir Vale is one of the most known secondary school by our Roma and local secondary schools where Roma pupils attend education and our Roma community access English courses too.

Working at grassroots for the past 15 years in this specific area, and as organizer of the Gathering, I cannot stress how grateful we are to Fir Vale Secondary for hosting us and the Roma community and giving us the space for our Gathering. This was an opportunity to improve the relationships between the Roma community and the local school, also it enabled the school to share their common dream with our Roma community, which is to support the Roma students to achieve their best in life. It also helped the Roma Women and families to share their view, concerns and see support and allyship from the teachers at Fir Vale school and the Headteacher too.

Massive thanks to Fir Vale Secondary school staff, Miss Jorden Spurr and Headteacher Rachel Smith who kindly approved and understood how important it is for the Gathering to happen and in this space as well as technical support and schools staff coming in to help on Saturday.

Having the support during the weekend from the school staff at the Gathering created a strong example of partnership, support and willingness to go the extra mile when is needed.

This enabled us to organize, prepare and to deliver the workshops on the day and to achieve our event's goals.

In December 2023 a new type of Corona virus was spreading in the UK. The week when we delivered the Gathering despite the weather conditions, which caused a common virus and many families were not able to come, up to 40 families have managed to come to the Gathering with lots of excitement and desire to make a change.

This project and our partners, and the community itself, have given our Roma youth and Roma women from the grassroot level the opportunity to feel that they belong to this world, this space and that they we are not invisible, that our voice and our dreams matter too for the society.

“Ivana Gombarova – This Gathering with our Roma Women shows me that we can do it all. Being here, it shows me that there is definitely a chance for a better life for us and to study if this is our dream”. Hany M “ I want to thank you all for supporting me, for bringing me in this space, for believing in me and for giving me the opportunity to share my dream with all of you”, Terezia always shows us that daring to dream and making it real is how things should be in life.

### **Why did the Gathering?**





**Erasmus+**



**RTransform**

Because this is a very powerful

educational opportunity which involves preparation, dedication and discussions about the real needs of our Roma Women and the Gatherings has proven to contribute to improving the education for Roma Women and the community.

Direct feedback from our Roma Women and Girls tell us that being part of the Roma Women Gathering enabled them to dream again and to have hopes and ambitions for their future.

Emilia Mizigarova'' Thanks to the Gathering, seeing role models, seeing how we listen and support each other, I have bigger hopes and ambitions now. I want to become a BSL teacher- Sign language teacher to support our Roma young children who suffer from hearing impairment.

### **Agenda with our role models and topics chosen by our women and girls.**

---

---

**10:00-10:30 Rosa Cisneros – Coventry University and Drom Kotar Mestipen President**

**Terezia Rostas – founder of Care for Roma Yong People’s Future**

**Welcoming remarks, Introduction of RTRANSFORM Project and CYPF**

**Virgil Bitu and Florin – introduction on the aims of the Political training and ROOTA for the afternoon session .**

**The dream of 3 generations: Lucia, Hany and Blajena sharing video from our 1st Gathering and outcomes.**

**10:30-11:10 Roma women role models :**

- **Ramona Constantin- Roma Rights activist and Roma Women expert/consultant Empowering the Roma community and Women to have a voice (NCC member too)**
- **Melinda Mo Martinez – Roma Rights and Refugees activist Lawyer expert on Human Rights**
- **Katarina Dome European Drom –master’s in social work and cofounder of European Drom – Bradford**



Erasmus+



RTransform

Iveta Bangova European Drom – Roma Interpreter ,trainer and cofounder of European Drom

11:10-11:20 Short break

11:20- 12:20 Working Groups /topics – dialogical conversations and critical reflections on learning and views on topics.

**Topic 1. Reimagining Social Health and Health Inequalities. A dialogue about health , wellbeing , climate justice by Olga Fuseini and Lois Orton – Roma Health inequalities Rosa Cisneros- Climate justice activist, Arts and Dance historian/ teacher and Monika – reconnecting with our nature.**

**Group 2 . Education inequalities and Identifying solutions towards a more inclusive approach in education, employment, volunteering and training Led by Terezia Rostas – Educational consultant/teacher**

**Group 3. Fostering an environment of inclusion for Roma Dada Felja – Law for Life Head of Education and Training**

Exploring ways of fostering an environment of inclusion for the Roma community

Feedback from working groups

12:20-12:30 pm Feedback and conclusions

12:30- 13:00 Lunch

13:00-15:00 Regional Political Training

15:15 -16:00 Reflections and next steps

End

Our current NCC- National Committee Members

Blazena Horvathova



# Erasmus+



## RTransform



**Blazena Horvathova** has been our NCC

member and community grassroots expert involved from the beginning of the project. Blazena is a mother of 9 children, an amazing role model who continues to support her children in attending education and having higher aspirations for them and for the Roma community.

Blazena broke the cycle of poverty and illiteracy, by coming abroad in the UK over 10 years ago, to follow her dream with her husband of offering a better life to her family. Having children with hearing impairment, speech and language needs, determined Blazena to fight for inequalities and learn in different ways how to support her children's needs.



**Hany Mohamad – our aspiring NCC member and active role model**

Hany is always passionate about learning and sharing her knowledge and skills with others. Hany one day, will become a doctor and help changing people's lives. What she doesn't know, is that she is already doing it 😊.



**Ramona Constantin**

Roma Rights activist and Roma Women expert/consultant Empowering the Roma community and Women to have a voice. NCC member too.

Ramona has been involved at local, national and international level in women empowerment activities and training. Supporting the Roma Women to have a voice and empower them through her own example of overcoming barriers in life when we do not have an educational background at a minimum- to superior level.

## Our Speakers

**Dr Rosa Cisneros**



**Dr Rosa Cisneros** is a professional dancer, Dance Historian and Critic, a Romani studies Scholar, a Flamenco historian, sociologist, curator and peace activist.  
[www.rosasencis.org](http://www.rosasencis.org)

Twitter: @RosaSenCis



**Erasmus+**

**Olga**



**RTransform**

**Fuseini** – is a Roma advocate, freelance consultant and a Research associate. In 2021, I have graduated from politics and sociology at University of Sheffield. Olina has years of experience in family support and community development work and I have worked on various projects focused on Roma population, specifically, their migration and integration in the UK.



**Lucia Mohamad** has been a strong link and supporter within RTransform project and an amazing Roma Role model. Lucia was part of the National Committee, prior to become the Coordinator in the RTransform project .

Lucia is a mother of 5 amazing children, runs various successful businesses and her dream is to become an engineer. Lucia is an amazing Roma Women ,always going beyond any barriers to support a Roma family in achieving their best in life or in accessing essential services.



**Terezia Rostas – Founder of Care for Young People's Future CIC.**

Romanian Roma from the Gabor community. Mother of two amazing boys and grew up in a family of 6 sibling – 2 boys and 4 girls. This shaped a lot the way she thinks and views things in life from different perspectives. Always ensuring and learn not to forget about anyone being included .

Passionate about empowering women, young people and communities to achieve their best in life and their true potential. Advocates against inequalities and loves all about heritage, arts and culture. Peace activist.

Add Dada, Iveta and D,Monika , Melinda and the key points

## **Health Inequalities / Wellbeing and climate justice**

This was one of the topics which we have worked for more than 4 months with our Roma women through weekly sessions, focus groups and workshops.

In this section you will find challenges and recommendations from the Roma Women and Researchers to tackle inequalities in health and educational systems.

Roma Women have shared how society and policies create barriers , inequalities and the access to wellbeing for us is often seen as a luxury or feeling guilty for accessing it.

Mental health is a topic very well know by our Roma Women but in other terms.

When Roma Women often feel stressed, concerned or overwhelmed they would pray .



**Erasmus+**



**RTransform**

Seeking or accessing professional

support for mental health , stress, anxiety , maternity , menopause is often not even considered due to other priorities such as : ensuring food is on the table, looking after the children and family or fear of not being supported and language barriers.

Findings from Olga Fuseini and work delivered by Terezia Rostas in the Wellbeing sessions and focus groups with the Roma Women

Often Olga Fuseini has found throughout her focus groups that Roma Women need and want a change .

Why? Because change needs to happen, and it needs to happen now.

Roma have the lowest outcomes in all areas such as , health, education, housing, employment and integration.

What does the community think and feel about it?

Some of the main reasons which cause inequality described by the Roma community due to their lived experience.

1. Corrupted government.
  - a) Some local authorities, institutions and services put on paper /policies that they include Roma, when actually they are “ashamed of having us , even on paper , don’t event mention in person, around them or in the same room with them” – Participant at Gathering.
  - b) Denying access to Roma
  - c) They don’t bother to help
  - d) No one cares about Roma, and it suits them that Roma have low education or not education at all.
2. Privileged backgrounds
3. Denied access to basic human rights and misused funding allocated for Roma Integration.
  - a) No access to water ( education, employment, training, gas , electricity)
  - b) Roma being described as having poor health hygiene( some area Roma don’t even have access to a fountain , don’t even dream about having access to running water).
  - c) Roma have not been supported when complained about their rights being violated.
  - d) How can we expect from Roma families that live in poor conditions without acceding education, to ensure that their rights are not violated.

How ? How can this be changed?

We need HELP!

Policies need to include us.

Racism needs to be taken seriously.





Erasmus+



Institutions, policy makers, governments need to be accountable.

Roma representation from the Roma community to ensure Roma rights are not violated.

Olga Fuseini says "Roma disadvantage " is a result of "their " lack of integration into social, educational, cultural, and economic structures of a just and civilized society.

Through policy process Roma are racially discriminated against, this results in Roma not having access to the service.

How can Roma integrate into a system that was set up to exclude them ???

We live in a society where Roma are largely invisible unless there is a "problem" , Olga Fuseini says, there's a saying about us, Roma : "Where Roma step, there's no green grass".

Life expectancy up to 20 years less, more likely to get into care system, criminal system, excluded from school and the data in Sheffield shows that Roma have the highest DNA (Did Not attend appointments in NHS ) ,however it doesn't look at the factors.

After carrying out various focus groups with Olga Fuseini and within the wellbeing sessions, the Roma community have shared how many of them feel excluded digitally , linguistically , and how assumptions are being made by services that accessibility is not an issues for them.

#### **Reasons for DNA:**

High grade of illiteracy

Language barriers

Financial and digital poverty

Assuming everyone has a phone or is able to understand a written letter.

Lack of education

Mobility issues

Historic mistrust

What needs to be done

Look at the roots of the problem , there is a long history of exploitation, exclusions and assumptions.

Terezia says " We often think, we have time, the truth is that we don't know how long we have left, so we need to act now".

STOP all of them and allow little opportunities for meaningful participation or change(Kocze 2009.

Ask yourself what can you do so that these existing systems don't keep failing?

Create "Real Partnership" with the community , us as Roma we are partners not a problem.

We should remember that Roma are not a problem, rather a solution.

You are not the problem, but part of the solution!

Use your own voice!

Prepare the next generation by using the most beneficial toolkit for us and for the society " Education" as no one can take this away.



Erasmus+



RTransform

As a

service, institution instead of focusing on the DNA number, perhaps we should look at the factors causing this to happen and focus on overcoming those barriers by putting the right support to people who access the service.

### 3- IMPACT OF THE GATHERING

We work very closely with our Roma Women, and we are part of the community and feel like a family. We always measure impact starting from small steps to bigger decisions.

We have Roma Women who were not even considering attending our local workshops, due to fear, wife and mother duties and lack of confidence.

After the first and the second Gathering, all Roma Women have shared with us that it impacted positive on them, on their life and decision making to go back into education, employment or becoming a Roma activist and support their children and girls to continue education.

Emilia Mizigarova says for example, is now attending regular educational workshops, events together with the NCC members too and they talk to Roma and non-Roma professionals about our Roma community, culture, values and dreams.

This was our 3<sup>rd</sup> Roma Women Gathering , and we have been able to see immediate impact from our 1<sup>st</sup> Gathering.

We have had Roma Women who got into employment in schools as Teaching Assistants, Role models who became a Research Associate advocating for our Roma community and raising awareness of inequalities, mums who are now collaborating with CYPF on a paid capacity as a translator, BSL British Sign Language, dancers and mentors.

The impact of the gathering was very powerful as we have achieved the following:

- Roma women felt more confident in attending education
- Challenging conversations and their rights
- Continuing weekly activity sessions with the Roma girls and women
- Organize further events where Roma women can meet role models and explore opportunities
- Organize University and college visits
- Raise aspirations
- Follow up education advocacy training
- Look into educational formal qualifications for Roma mums - such as TA .

I cannot express the joy and happiness that the Roma women and teenager girls had to be in this space. The excitement in the way that they have prepared for the event knowing that it's their 2<sup>nd</sup> time attending or even organizing a Roma Women Gathering event in an academic space. Being able to hold the event in this space, it made our dreams more real, it showed the Roma Women that this can be the beginning of their journey if they should wish so and their children too.



Erasmus+



RTransform

It

made us feel that we belong to these spaces and we should start feel and be more visible.

I believe that universities should continue to work together and closer with hard or difficult to reach communities and we should help each other in achieving their, our dreams; to live in a society where we feel we belong too and we value everyone's heritage, background.

I truly believe that it was a powerful experience for the community and for the University too.

If educational institutions want to play part of social change, they should come to people more and the inspiration to change will happen.

Roma women and girls' engagement in the activity as participants and role models.

As described above in the opening of the Gathering report document , CYPF staff, NEC committee and Coventry University has worked together in partnership with the Roma grassroots women to select the role models and facilitators. We have decided together that it was extremely important to bring different generations together, therefore we have decided that it is a great opportunity to open the gathering with the three generations table so that we have a mixed group of Roma women and Roma young girls sharing their dream together .

### **What do our Roma Women want?**

1. Better visual and in person representation in educational settings, cultural and health sectors .
2. Our Roma history and language to be visible, accessible and recognized in educational institutions
3. Create a Romani studies program which will increase to more Roma students in accessing Higher University
4. Create resources for Roma and Non Roma-to recognize our heritage ( Library, My mum is a teacher, recognize lived experience of our Roma community, heritage and culture)
5. Financial support, mentoring for Roma students/ women /girls – bursaries
6. Attend , visit and collaborate with local colleges, universities, museums, arts and educational settings and health system.
7. To be recognized , encouraged and welcomed in higher education, colleges and museums also health institutions.
8. To receive mentoring, needed support for us as Roma in accessing and finding our belonging in educational, cultural spaces.
9. Financial help when enrolled into a higher education programme, Roma Education Fund or bursaries to enable us to tackle the existing inequalities and gaps.
10. To commit into existing pledges that support Roma in education, health and arts.



Erasmus+



RTransform

11. To create a partnership with lived experience communities where we can celebrate through a community calendar our heritage, arts and values that we bring into the society or specific sectors.
12. Remove barriers such as requirements for Diploma, Certificates and recognise lived experience as an alternative or help Roma community to build on the requested certificates( foundation courses)
13. Create in partnership with us a Cultural Roma Studies course which can be studied by Roma and Non Roma to tackle inequalities, lack of representation empowering Roma community to find more educational resources about their own history.
14. Create educational resources , incorporate Roma history and Roma language into your existing courses and make it available to our Roma and non Roma students.
15. Train Roma academic mentors- so that we increase aspirations for attending academic courses or vocational as well as Phd opportunities
16. Train and create Roma health champions, doctors , nurses from the Roma community to support those with language barriers, illiteracy and who need support for their wellbeing.
17. Train Roma to become interpreters, teachers, business, sports, doctors, artists and be visually , physically in different sectors where our young people are constantly exposed to through school and in life.

#### Challenges and needs to prepare the Gathering

Working on preparing the Gathering, workshops and activities with the Roma mums and young girls , has enabled us to develop our organisational skills, get a better understanding of the work behind a Roma women gathering or an even, finding alternative ways of creating opportunities without a financial budget to cover the required aspects.

We have found solutions from our community members who have volunteered to make the Gathering happen.

#### **Financial :**

It was a real challenge for CYPF and the Roma women to do such a great event, despite having the allocated budget quite tight and only covering specific costs such as : food, venue ,transport printing and video.

Our dream for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Gathering is to be able to invite Roma women from various cities in the UK, to come and join us to celebrate our Roma Women Movement and inspire each other at a bigger level.

This budget allowed us to work with the Roma Women at local level.

We felt that compared to other countries the Roma families in the UK required interpreters to work in groups and the budget didn't cover this aspect. The budget also didn't cover any fee for any of our workshop facilitators.

We were expected to have Roma women to volunteer to facilitate ,however, our Roma Women are still , unfortunately not at this level. Ofcourse, we are ambitious and we are hoping that our



**Erasmus+**



**RTransform**

Roma women can help with the

interpreting, facilitating fully and they have helped, however our Roma women are still not at that point where they are fully capable of translating accurately or to fully facilitate a workshop.

As Director for CYPF , I would say we shouldn't underestimate the need to allocate a proper budget for interpreting, facilitating workshops, preparing materials and admin for the workshops and Gathering and a higher budget for translating the final reports in home languages.

We also have learnt for our 3rd Roma Women Gathering to try and find sponsorships and support from external agencies/organizations.

Taking into consideration that in our community our Roma Women will have their children with them, especially if they are not schools age. Therefore, a childcare budget and accommodating our Roma Women's needs regarding cultural values, children's safety, traditional food, music these are some fundamental aspects which we should be taking into consideration when we want to show that we care about everyone's culture and that we are willing to be flexible and work in an authentic environment, this involves allowing children to be part of the space if needed. This is how we also expose the younger children to our common dream and inspire them to raise aspirations.

We have been extremely lucky to receive support in accessing the venue for the Gathering for free.

### **Main reflection of the Day from Terezia Rostas – Care for Young People's Future:**

In order to live in a society where everyone is equal, we need to create these changes and offer chances to our community to be part of the modern society too as a regular, normal option.

If we look at how we have organized our Gathering and the approach we have adopted by all means , it just shows us again how co creation, collaboration, team building and lived experience matters to our Roma women. Roma and English language, Roma and different music, and food , all this is a way to focus on CONNECTION before TRANSFORMATION.

To do so, we will need a different and flexible approach, create safe spaces and recognize our community visibly .

We need to see Roma professionals in key institutions representing our community and empowering our youth to be part of these spaces.

We are all partners into this movement , empowerment and a chance to a better life opportunity. We should seek focusing on solutions , rather than problems.

We could do this by starting to officially welcome Roma in our institutions, recognize our culture, allow us to bring our heritage, culture and values into these key places but also as part of our city's heritage .





Erasmus+



RTransform

Work in partnership to create a place and a space for everyone.

Remember we all carry culture with us everywhere we go, and this could be our biggest strength.

We need to make the places where we live, educate or learn a safe place, a place where we learn about ourselves, our history, because this will allow us to build a better authentic future.

Show that we love to embrace everyone's culture in our daily places where we go, this can be schools, universities, hospitals, museums, streets and the list can carry on.

**Remember, "We belong here".**

**Quotes**



Erasmus+



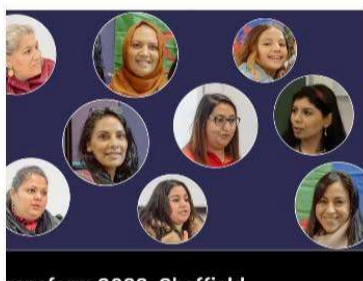
RTransform



RTransform 2023, Sheffield



Transform 2023, Sheffield



ransform 2023, Sheffield



rm 2023, Sheffield



RTransform 2023, Sheffield

Fig 12 Compilation of photos and art done by Roma students highlighting the message that University is also Roma by taking into consideration cultural values, heritage and lived experience as seen in photos.