



RTransform

2023

# POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS DOCUMENT

RTRANSFORM EUROPEAN PROJECT



Coordinated by:



Associació Gitana de Dones  
Asociación Gitana de Mujeres  
Romani Association of Women



Amalipe



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# 1.EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Roma women transforming the educational systems around Europe through their social and political mobilizations (RTransform) explores how Roma women are transforming educational systems through social and political mobilisation.

The project addresses a main challenge, which is social inclusion with the potentiality of promoting education among Roma women and girls. The European Union has taken action to implement Roma integration strategies and sets of policy measures aimed at improving the situation of Roma population and closing the existing gaps between Roma and the general population.

The purpose of the project is to influence policies using a bottom-up approach by disseminating and scaling up an evidence-based practice that has been shown to contribute to Roma women and girls' educational and social inclusion through the promotion of high and quality education and the creation of a space for debate for this socially disadvantaged group. This evidence-based practice is the "Roma women Students' Gathering" (RWSG), an initiative that has been organized, with the active involvement of grassroots Roma women for twenty-two years. The project has transferred the RWSG to diverse environments and measured its impact and use the information gathered to generate a toolkit, guide, video book policy recommendations, and scientific article.



## 2. INTRODUCTION

In each Roma women Students' Gathering the number of participants varies, they can be as less as 20 people or as much as 350 people. There are two key elements: the intergenerational aspect and the visibility of role models to inspire other Roma women.

As the project is grounded in employing Communicative Methodology there is an egalitarian and dialogical mode of working that has been employed in putting this document together. There were a series of conversations that took place to ensure that the partners contributing understood the task and could ask questions as and when. Since each context is extremely different and each partner is working with a varied team, the WP leader and project coordinator was providing regular check-ins for the contributors.

The Roma women Student Gatherings is an educational activity for Roma girls, teenagers, adult women, mothers, and grandmothers who traditionally and, unfortunately also nowadays, have not had the opportunity to participate in deciding about their education and their future. The activity is open to all Roma women - regardless of their level of education or whether they currently participate in education and training activities. The participants of the Gatherings are very diverse women: of different ages, with different interests and who have taken very different paths in their professional and personal lives.

The findings through the participation along the gatherings highlight that there are a number of educational and societal barriers, including poverty, exclusion and discrimination, which continue to prevent Roma students (especially women and girls) from accessing the possibilities offered by higher education institutions in Europe.

## 3.PROJECT RTRANSFORM/OVERVIEW

The objectives that are achieved with the Roma women Students' Gathering are the following:

1

Ensuring that Roma women themselves play an active role throughout the process of organising the Gatherings, mobilising the women of their communities, and involving them directly. This is why the Gatherings are organised where there are Roma women motivated to get involved in preparing and carrying out the activity.

2

Transforming the expectation of Roma families regarding the opportunity that implies the fact of supporting the roma students in order to increase the possibilities to achieve more working opportunities and more chances to have better well-being when become adults. The Gatherings are attended by Roma women who explain their personal stories of success and overcoming difficulties, in order to facilitate referents within the roma community.

3

To support women to act and organise themselves for social transformation and to make their voices and experiences heard by society as a whole. The Gatherings create links between Roma women that generate relationships of solidarity that can be activated and generate support for future situations of difficulty or disseminate initiatives for change in the face of any situation of discrimination.

4

Bringing women's voices to political decision-making spaces. The media and organisations have a very important role to play in disseminating women's voices by publicising the demands and solutions proposed by the women themselves at the Gatherings.








5

Democratising access to scientific knowledge. Scientific knowledge must be applied and used to improve education and people's lives. Unfortunately, many times, this knowledge is restricted to academic circles. The Gatherings serve to disseminate this knowledge to women so that they themselves can find out what practices or elements have enough scientific evidence to show that if they are implemented, there is an improvement in quality education for all students.



## 4.CONCLUSION OR RECOMMENDATION

The main recommendations shared by Roma women Students' Gathering are:

-  No segregation in lower-level classrooms. All schools must to have and ensure the highest quality level for all students. We do not want to go to schools outside our neighbourhoods to get quality or to be paid more attention, we must ensure quality education for all.
-  It is important to promote the presence of more Roma referents/Role models in schools (teachers, monitors, promoters and Roma students).
-  Schools must facilitate the participation of all families in the AMPA/AFA (parents' association), school decisions, and in all educational spaces, greater representation, and involvement of families in schools.
-  It is essential that parents support the educational process and that families become involved in the schools, that we become part of them.
-  For the Roma Women it is relevant to defend that being Roma women is not synonymous with being mediocre, they want the educational system to ensure that roma girls and boys reach where they have not been able to.
-  For the Roma women it is very valuable to include their history in the school curriculum as part of the joint history and to give visibility to the contributions and cultural elements of the Roma people in educational spaces.
-  It is important to increase visibility of roma women who have succeeded in terms of education and professional career.

## Effects that the project findings could have in the future



Include the main recommendation and make a priority in the political planning of the public policies that will be addressed to the Roma population in general and in particular women.



Increase the critical mass of citizens claiming for specific policies of positive discrimination in order to reduce the main gaps of the Roma population (in terms of employment, education, housing access, health, and so on).



Consolidate a group of referents Roma women who have already experienced the way from having low expectation when they were children to breaking barriers and difficulties and being able to develop successful academic background and professional career.



Increase the visibility of the discrimination of the European Roma population and their history and culture.



Raise awareness of the racism that still exist in the European society that will enable specific policies to address this reality.



For example, in the case of Catalonia Government, all the main conclusion and recommendation have been articulated to the policy making process of the current design of public policies to be implemented in the following years.

