

**Sweden**

FRANET National Focal Point

Social Thematic Study

The situation of Roma

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## Executive summary

### Education

Many Roma children do not attend **pre-school** and therefore lack important experience that most other children attain in pre-schools.

Little statistical information on the situation of Roma in **compulsory school** has been gathered. The dropout rate in primary schools is high, especially among girls and very few girls attend secondary school (*gymnasiet*).

Roma children have a **high level of non-attendance** at schools. Many Roma do not have complete grades when they leave compulsory school to move on to secondary school (*gymnasiet*).

The School Inspectorate Board has critiqued the lack of proper assessment of national minorities' access to tuition in their mother tongue and the Council of Europe has criticized the **lack of disaggregated data** on Roma pupils.

Several studies have pointed out that Roma students rarely study their native language. It is believed that one of the reasons for this is that they do not disclose their **Roma identity** at school in order to avoid negative treatment.

The National Agency for Education recommends that **Roma parents** need to be better informed about Roma students' right to study their mother tongue and to acknowledge the benefits of this.

Roma children have stressed the importance of having proper tuition in their mother tongues and that it should be available in all the varieties of the Romani language.

The question of **national minority language** development has been a low priority in many municipalities. The majority of the reviewed municipalities (19 of 34) have rather poor knowledge of how to develop tuition in the languages of the national minorities.

Having **Romani assistants** at school has consistently been reported as very positive, but unfortunately it is often a temporary investment.

A review of the country's **universities and colleges** shows that only a few colleges/universities offer public courses about Roma culture and history with some elements of the language. Additionally, research on Roma is very limited.

Factors that influence the **educational attainment** of Roma children include, for example, bad performance, family reasons, the cost of education, the need to work, and problems with language.

Roma children often **lack adult role models** since few Roma are employed and a very small number of Roma have completed primary and secondary education.

The Roma minority in schools with pupils mostly from the majority society are often **subjected to racism**, which has negatively affected Roma children and their families and contributes to an animosity towards school institutions.

The problems identified by researchers include the **stigmatization of Roma youth/children** in schools, a lack of knowledge about the Roma in the curriculum, a lack of access to tuition in Romani. These are issues that show that the rights of Roma children as a minority are ignored.

There is a **lack of parental support** and guidance in combination with the stigmatization of the Roma that makes it very difficult for Roma youth to succeed in school.

The problem of **bullying and harassment** of minority children is almost invisible to school staff.

The Equality Ombudsman receives **few complaints** concerning the conditions of Roma children at school, and attributes this to Roma being affected by low confidence in the authorities and fear that a complaint against the school could increase the vulnerability of the child.

## **Employment**

In Sweden, no public unemployment rates are available by ethnicity and it is not known how many Roma are enrolled at the job centre. The **unemployment rate** among the Roma is high. It is estimated that up to **70-80%** of the adult Roma population in Stockholm are outside the open labour market.

Roma often work as welders, personal assistants, carers, cleaners, and child or youth workers such as **mediators and home language teachers**. Of these professions, only cleaners and welders are professions that have a direct connection to the Roma employees' past work experience. Personal assistants and carers get their jobs mainly by taking care of Roma persons who need assistance from someone with knowledge of Roma traditions, language and customs. It is difficult to estimate who among the unemployed Roma are in labour market policy measures, study or receive social assistance.

## **Housing and neighbourhood**

In Sweden, the Roma predominantly live in residential, segregated, and migrant-dense urban areas. There are no precise statistics about the living conditions of the Roma since no official statistics on people's ethnic origins other than citizenship and country of birth are available. As a main rule, pursuant to the Swedish Personal Data Act, the collection of ethnic data is prohibited.

There are no national, regional or local housing and accommodation policies specifically related to Roma.

The poor socioeconomic situation of Roma affects their security of tenure and this is why they frequently have to rely on the municipal social services to sign housing contracts on their behalf or to assist them in finding a home through some other means.

Due to exclusion from the labour market, many Roma are obliged to contact social services in order to receive a social welfare allowance. Many landlords use employment as one of the selection criteria when letting housing. Some landlords do not count social welfare allowance as a source of income, so applicants who cannot show a clean financial record have difficulties finding a dwelling.

Cases of discrimination and eviction of Roma have been reported to the Equality Ombudsman.

The Equality Ombudsman also revealed in its 2010 annual report that complaints from Roma constitute 20% of the complaints on discrimination in the housing market, both in terms of provision of apartments for rent and purchase of private apartments.

## **Health**

The health reports of Roma show that cardiovascular disease, physical inactivity and a high fat diet are more common among the Roma than among the majority population. High alcohol consumption is common among men and young people, and gambling, tablet and drug abuse are a growing problem. Due to distrust of medical personnel, the Roma generally wait a long time before seeking health care and assistance.

In July 2012 the Government has tasked the National Institute of Public Health (Folkhälsoinstitutet) to conduct an in-depth study on Roma women's lives and health. In this study, the **unmet needs** of Roma in the area of health and circumstances around giving **birth** will be investigated.

A large proportion of Roma who have lived in Sweden for a long time are in **early retirement** due to illness and sometimes disabilities. They often feel that they do not get enough time or help from the Swedish health care system.

**The medical conditions** of the Roma population can be associated with their marginalisation in the society, poor diet and poor exercise habits, and poor vaccination protection. Widespread medical abuse among the Roma population is also a problem.

**Roma women** experience a lot of stress, which is associated with high workload at home. Poor self-esteem is common among Roma women due to lack of education, work, and isolation from the mainstream society, which contribute to isolation and increasing addiction to sedatives and/or alcohol as a way of handling the pressure of family obligations and escaping from the pressure from society.

It is assumed that there are many people among **Roma travellers** who suffer from rheumatic conditions, but also from the consequences of not visiting health care providers.

**Issues of sexuality** are sensitive or outright taboo in some Roma communities. The Delegation of Roma Rights suggests that sex education should be an important health measure to support Roma youth, and that this education should be adapted to the Roma culture in a sensitive way.

## **Poverty/Economic situation**

There is lack of official data about the economic/poverty situation of Roma. Although several studies point to a high unemployment rate among Roma adults (70%), very little research is available specifically about Roma and poverty. As a main rule, pursuant to the Swedish Personal Data Act, the collection of this kind of data is prohibited. One of the few qualitative studies available shows that Roma children and young people are affected by their parents' poor financial situation. For example, many parents cannot afford to have their children participate in recreational activities. Poverty is also said to be the reason why some young people are drawn to gangs that commit crimes and abuse.

## **Active citizenship/Rights awareness**

On 16 February 2012, the Government adopted a coordinated and long-term **strategy for the inclusion of Roma** for the period 2012–2032. The implementation of the strategy involves Roma participation and focuses on enhancing and continuously monitoring Roma people's access to human rights at the local, regional and national level. The awareness of rights at the local, regional and national level is high among the Roma, but what is missing is a unified Roma voice through a **central Roma organisation**. For several years the Equality Ombudsman has held rights-based awareness raising seminars with the Roma community. **Cooperation with Roma**

**reference groups** has been established through a knowledge-building process throughout the years and it has been instrumental in identifying problems and measures that show the existence of discrimination.

Few municipalities have established forms of **consultation with the Roma community**. Very few municipalities have broad consultation groups, where all national minorities are included.

Data and information about the participation of Roma in European, national, regional and local elections are not available according to the Election Authority (*Valmyndigheten*).

Roma are not yet represented in **elected assemblies** according to the percentage of their share of the population.

Very **few elected officials were Roma** and in many cases they might have not disclosed their Roma identity.

The **Roma organisations** are divided broadly along nationality, group and family. This division is common and contributes to how Roma relate to one another in their communities.

The Equality Ombudsman noted that there is a clear improvement regarding Roma filing **complaints** and asserting their right to non-discrimination by reporting abuses to the authorities. Roma **unwillingness to report discrimination** is due to doubting the anti-discrimination legislation as a tool for redress.

# 1 Roma population

In Sweden, the Kalee, Sinti, Lovare, Kelderari, and Arli groups of Roma are recognised as national minorities since 1999 and Romani Chib is an official minority language. There are about 20 different varieties of Romani Chib in Sweden.<sup>1</sup> Following a decision by the Swedish Government, Romani Chib is considered a uniform language, including all the dialects spoken by the Roma.<sup>2</sup> The Roma are one of the five recognised national minorities, and Swedish policy on minorities applies to all those who identify themselves as Roma.<sup>3</sup> Ethnicity is not recorded in the Swedish census and therefore, authorities neither record the ethnicity nor the nationality of Roma, which means that there are no relevant ethnically differentiated statistical data. Pursuant to section 13 of the Personal Data Act (PDA), it is prohibited to process personal data revealing, for example, race or ethnic origin.

According to the Government Bill on national minorities in 1998, there are about 35,000-40,000 Roma in Sweden.<sup>4</sup> According to the Government Bill, the Roma population is divided into five major groups: the Swedish Roma, the Finnish Roma, the non-Nordic Roma, travellers and the recently arrived Roma who mainly come from the former Yugoslavia.

According to the 2010 report from the Delegation for Roma Issues, there are about 50,000 Roma in Sweden.<sup>5</sup> The Delegation for Roma Rights estimates that half of the Roma in Sweden are travellers and half belong to the Kelderasha, Lovara, Kaale, Arli and other groups.<sup>6</sup>

A report published by the County Administrative Board (*Länsstyrelsen*) estimates that of the five major Roma groups, about 4,000 are Swedish Roma, 4,000 are Finnish Roma, 5,000 are Roma refugees or non-Nordic Roma who arrived in Sweden in the 1970s with their families, 10,000 are newly arrived Roma from the Balkans and 20-30,000 are travellers.<sup>7</sup> The report also mentions that there is a growing group of Roma who are asylum seekers or non-documented refugees, but there are no estimates about the size of this group.<sup>8</sup> About 5-10% of the Bosnian Muslim refugees in Sweden, who came during the war in the former Yugoslavia, have a Roma background, but many hide their Roma identity out of fear.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [Sweden], Allmänna Arvsfonden, Christina Rodell Olgaç (2009) Kulturell och språklig revitalisering bland romska barn och ungdomar– en väg till självorganisering (En uppföljning av Allmänna arvsfondens 27 romska projekt åren 1996-2009), Södertörns Högskola:Stockholm, [p. 5].

<sup>2</sup> Bet. 1999/2000:KU6, rskr. 1999/2000:69.

<sup>3</sup> SFS 2009:724

<sup>4</sup> *Regeringens proposition* (1998/99:143), *Nationella minoriteter i Sverige*, <http://www.regeringen.se/content/1/c4/22/18/f5c9eed7.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> [Sweden], Swedish Government Report, SOU 2010:55 (2010), “Romers rätt – en strategi för romer i Sverige” [Roma rights: A strategy for Roma in Sweden], report from the Delegation for Roma Issues, Stockholm, p. 205 available at: [\[http://regeringen.se/content/1/c6/15/00/25/baf09ba7.pdf\]](http://regeringen.se/content/1/c6/15/00/25/baf09ba7.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> [Sweden], Swedish Government Report, SOU 2010:55 (2010), “Romers rätt – en strategi för romer i Sverige” [Roma rights: A strategy for Roma in Sweden], report from the Delegation for Roma Issues, Stockholm, [p. 205] available at: [\[http://regeringen.se/content/1/c6/15/00/25/baf09ba7.pdf\]](http://regeringen.se/content/1/c6/15/00/25/baf09ba7.pdf).

<sup>7</sup> [Sweden], *Socialstyrelsen* (2006) *Omhandertagandet av romska barn*, available at: [\[www.socialstyrelsen.se/Lists/Artikelkatalog/Attachments/9746/2006-131-36\\_200613136.pdf\]](http://www.socialstyrelsen.se/Lists/Artikelkatalog/Attachments/9746/2006-131-36_200613136.pdf).

<sup>8</sup> *Romsk Kraft- En inspirationsbok om vägar till arbete och utbildning*, [p. 12] available at [\[www.lansstyrelsen.se/stockholm/SiteCollectionDocuments/Sv/manniska-och-samhalle/nationella-minoriteter/handbokromer\\_low\[1\].pdf\]](http://www.lansstyrelsen.se/stockholm/SiteCollectionDocuments/Sv/manniska-och-samhalle/nationella-minoriteter/handbokromer_low[1].pdf).

<sup>9</sup> [Sweden], Allmänna Arvsfonden, Christina Rodell Olgaç (2009) Kulturell och språklig revitalisering bland romska barn och ungdomar– en väg till självorganisering (En uppföljning av Allmänna arvsfondens 27 romska projekt åren 1996-2009), Södertörns Högskola:Stockholm, [p. 5].

According to the Personal Data Act (*Personuppgiftslagen*, 1998:204),<sup>10</sup> there is a general prohibition to register “sensitive personal information” such as ethnicity, religion or other belief and information concerning health and sexual life including sexual orientation. Therefore, it is difficult to assess statistical data on Roma and their geographical dispersion in Sweden.

Roma live in most of the Swedish municipalities, and some municipalities, such as Malmö, have reported the number of Roma residing in the municipality. In 2008, Malmö reported that there were about 8,000-10,000 Roma residing in the municipality. According to the report, the Roma in Malmö have 9 different nationalities: Swedish (250-300), Hungarian (250-300), Polish (400-500), Czech and Slovakian (1,500), Romanian (500), Ukrainian (20-30), Roma from the former Yugoslavia (1,000), Roma recently arrived from the Balkans (2,000) and about 100 Roma with other nationalities and finally around 2,000-3,000 travellers.<sup>11</sup>

The existing Roma groups in Sweden have come from different parts of Europe in successive waves since the mid-1500s and the beginning of the 1900s. The Roma travelling-people, the Sinti, are considered to be the first of the Roma to have arrived in Sweden in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The Swedish Roma who arrived to Sweden during the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century came from Russia and Central Europe. The Finnish Roma came to Sweden during the 1950s and the non-Scandinavian Roma first arrived in Sweden in the middle of the 1960s.

In 1914 the expulsion law was passed. The county administrative board could expel a Roma person who had stayed in Sweden for a long period of time or who was even born in Sweden. In 1923, the Poor Law report was published. In conjunction with this report, a special unofficial decree was passed which stated that the *Zigenare* (Roma) and vagrants may not stay in the same town or municipality for more than three weeks and thereafter they have to leave. This decree was applied until as late as the end of the 1960s. In Sweden, *tattare* is now considered a disparaging term and it has been completely abandoned in official use. Since 2000, Swedish travellers are officially referred to as *resande* (travellers), and counted as one of several groups within the Roma national minority. They often refer to themselves as *resandefolket* (travelling people), or *dinglare*.

There are about 20 varieties of Romani Chib in Sweden<sup>12</sup>, including Kelderash, Kalé (Kaale), Gurbeti, Tjurari, Arli, Romungr and Swedish Rommani.<sup>13</sup> A milestone for the Roma in Sweden was reached in 2007 when the Language Council presented a Swedish-Romani/Arli lexicon. According to the Language Council’s website, this work is “a pioneering work in Romani lexicography and the largest dictionary of its kind.”<sup>14</sup>

The relations between the Swedish authorities and the Roma are primarily reflected in the laws and regulations and other types of official documents and reports that have been produced in increasing numbers since the 1900s. On the other hand, nothing is known about the aspirations and views of the Roma themselves until the 1930s, and it was not until the 1960s that the Roma participated in the public debate about their own situation. Katarina Taikon made the views and aspirations of the Roma known during the 1960s when she became the first Roma to participate in the public debate.

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<sup>10</sup> The Personal Data Act (*Personuppgiftslagen*, 1998:204), <http://www.notisum.se/rnp/sls/lag/19980204.htm>

<sup>11</sup> Söderman, Emma i samarbete med Ström, Britta (2008) Romers situation i Malmö. En rapport om Malmös minoritetspolitik utifrån romernas perspektiv: Malmö stadskontor, avdelningen för Integration och arbetsmarknad, p. 3-4

<sup>12</sup> Bijvoet, E. & Fraurud, K., 2008: Det romska språket och romsk språkvård i Sverige 2007 [The Romani language and Romani language planning in Sweden 2007], available at [http://www.sprakradet.se/servlet/GetDoc?meta\\_id=2614](http://www.sprakradet.se/servlet/GetDoc?meta_id=2614), p. 15-22

<sup>13</sup> The Swedish Language Council (*Språkrådet*), <http://www.sprakradet.se/romanichib>

<sup>14</sup> The Swedish Language Council (*Språkrådet*), <http://www.sprakradet.se/lexin>



In its 2012 annual report, Amnesty International reported that the situation of the asylum seeking Roma from the Balkans is unacceptable due to a lack of sufficient examinations of their asylum claims. In the report, Amnesty argues that the Swedish Migration Board regards a large number of asylum applications as “manifestly unfounded”, of which just under half were from Roma from Serbia. Amnesty concluded that the procedure in which these cases were decided did not meet international standards for a legally secure asylum process; the asylum seekers did not receive a fair individual assessment of their need for protection nor access to public counsel.<sup>15</sup>

In an article published by *Dagens Eko* in July 2010, it was reported that the police had deported begging Roma from Sweden even though they were EU citizens and begging is not illegal in Sweden. *Dagens Eko* reports that during 2010 over fifty Roma, mostly from Bulgaria and Romania, were put on buses back to their home countries. The police has stated that according to the Aliens Act, it’s possible to deport a foreigner if that person “might not support himself or herself by honest means”(Chapter 8, section 8:2) in Sweden.<sup>16</sup> The legal situation is unclear and there is no praxis.<sup>17</sup> EU citizens have a right to reside in Sweden for up to three months according to the EU Directive, which is transposed into the Aliens Act. However, there is an issue of police districts around the country making different assessments of the legislation.<sup>18</sup> When the minister of migration was asked to comment on this issue he stated that “the free movement within the EU was not created for people to cross borders with dishonest intentions”.<sup>19</sup>

There have been two cases that received much attention in 2010. In the first case, the Police expelled 29 Roma in February 2010, including three children, after a police operation in a flat in Vårberg in Stockholm. The police suspected that there was organized begging, but evidence was lacking. The Roma were put on a bus back to Romania that same day. In another case in April 2010, the police in Gothenburg deported three Roma women who had been in Sweden for just three weeks. They said in interviews that they were in Sweden to earn money for feeding their children back home in Romania.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> Amnesty International, annual report 2012, <http://www.amnesty.se/nyheter/amnestys-arsrapport/>

<sup>16</sup> The Aliens Act (SFS 2005:716), <http://sweden.gov.se/content/1/c6/06/61/22/bfb61014.pdf>

<sup>17</sup> Swedish Radio, Ekot, 30 July 2010, <http://sverigesradio.se/sida/artikel.aspx?programid=83&artikel=3888124>

<sup>18</sup> Swedish Radio, Ekot, 30 July 2010, <http://sverigesradio.se/sida/artikel.aspx?programid=83&artikel=3886894>

<sup>19</sup> Swedish Radio, Ekot, 30 July 2010, <http://sverigesradio.se/sida/artikel.aspx?programid=83&artikel=3888628>

<sup>20</sup> Swedish Radio, Ekot, 30 July 2010, <http://sverigesradio.se/sida/artikel.aspx?programid=83&artikel=3886894>

## 2 Education

Sweden has a nine-year compulsory state school system (funded 100% by the municipalities) wherein pupils start at the age of six or seven. Virtually all children are enrolled in the nine-year system. Up until the 1990s, there were only very few private schools. After compulsory schooling, there is a voluntary gymnasium (normally 2-3 years) that the municipalities are obliged to offer for all youth between 16-20 years of age. More than 98% of the pupils continue their studies at the gymnasium level. About 13% of the pupils in gymnasiums have an immigrant background. The National Agency for Education (*Skolverket*) is responsible for the National Curriculum in primary school and gymnasium. Every private and state school must adopt the national curriculum as part of its educational plan.<sup>21</sup>

### a) Pre-school/kindergarten

Access to pre-school/kindergarten is offered to children from the age of one, provided their parents work or study (Education Act 5§).<sup>22</sup> The right to pre-school is provided, taking into account the parents' employment or studies. Pursuant to section 6 of the Education Act, children whose parents are unemployed should be provided pre-school for at least three hours a day or 15 hours a week.<sup>23</sup> The unemployment rate for Roma is 80%, which means that most of them do not work and therefore, their children are offered less time at pre-schools. The right to pre-school is offered when parents are actively seeking employment.

A study by the National Agency for Education on Roma children at school (*Skolverket*) found that the Roma do not attend pre-school, and therefore, they lack important experience that most other children attain in pre-school.<sup>24</sup> Based on conversations with Roma students and parents, the study also showed that primarily refugees from Yugoslavia had had experience with kindergarten, and that these experiences were for the most part positive.

The municipalities of Malmö and Gothenburg have started special pre-schools for Roma children to increase their attendance at pre-schools, but also to promote the development of Roma children, and to give them a good foundation before starting school.<sup>25</sup> In April 2006, the Roma Youth Association started the first Roma pre-school in the country. Half of the children at the kindergarten *Musikanten* are Roma and the remaining students are Swedish and migrant children. Pupils are taught in both Swedish and the Romani language.<sup>26</sup> The pre-school follows the Swedish curriculum with elements of Roma culture, language and history.<sup>27</sup> In Gothenburg, the pre-school *Romano ilo* is operated by Roma women as a staff cooperative. All children are welcome to the pre-school, irrespective of their ethnicity or background. *Romano ilo* has a Roma profile, but it is driven by the existing guidelines and the curriculum for all pre-schools. The focus is on the Swedish language and on providing basic knowledge, as well as teaching Roma culture. The staff is composed of both Roma and Swedish teachers.<sup>28</sup>

### b) Compulsory school attendance

The problem with Roma children's compulsory school attendance is linked to the perception among the Roma that the Swedish school is a threat to the Roma culture, and therefore many Roma parents

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<sup>21</sup> Kaplan, Robert B. and Baldauf Jr., Richard B. (2005), *Language Planning and Policy in Europe: Finland, Hungary and Sweden*, Clevedon, Multilingual Matters Limited, [p. 292].

<sup>22</sup> [Sweden], *Skollagen* (SFS 2010:800), available at: [<http://62.95.69.3/SFSdoc/10/100800.PDF>].

<sup>23</sup> [Sweden], *Skollagen* (SFS 2010:800), available at: [<http://62.95.69.3/SFSdoc/10/100800.PDF>].

<sup>24</sup> [Sweden], *Skolverket*, (2007), *Romer i skolan – en fördjupad studie*, report 292, [p. 55] available at: [[www.skolverket.se/publikationer?id=1672](http://www.skolverket.se/publikationer?id=1672)]

<sup>25</sup> Kaldaras Nikolizsson, Erlend (2005) Behovet av en romsk förskola i Malmö. Romska ungdomsförbundet, December 2005

<sup>26</sup> Förskolan Musikanten, available at: [[www.forskolanmusikanten.se/](http://www.forskolanmusikanten.se/)].

<sup>27</sup> *Romska Ungdomsförbundet*, available at: [[www.rufs.org/rufsverksamhet/](http://www.rufs.org/rufsverksamhet/)]

<sup>28</sup> [Sweden], Lindgren Lars, (2011) *Romers kulturella och språkliga rättigheter – vägar mot ett förverkligande*, available at: [[http://arkiv.minoritet.se/romadelegationen/www.romadelegationen.se/extra/pod/index0e95.html?id=43&module\\_instance=1&action=pod\\_show&navid=43](http://arkiv.minoritet.se/romadelegationen/www.romadelegationen.se/extra/pod/index0e95.html?id=43&module_instance=1&action=pod_show&navid=43)].

do not trust the Swedish school to educate their children properly. Despite this, many Roma parents have gained a greater understanding of the importance of school and education.<sup>29</sup>

In Sweden, the problem with accessing compulsory school is not a direct issue for Roma children, since pursuant to section 8 of the Education Act (*Skollagen*), all children must be given a chance to attend a school closest to their home and the parent's wishes must be taken into account as much as possible.<sup>30</sup> It is important for Roma children that their parents are informed about how to choose a school for their children.

Public transportation to schools and pre-schools is available in municipalities if the child lives more than 3-4 km away from the school. Municipalities also hand out bus/train cards to all students each term in compulsory schooling.

Roma children attend regular compulsory school. Specific measures only for Roma pupils consist mainly of employing Roma assistants for Roma pupils. The assistants' tasks are to increase contact between Roma parents and the school, and to support Roma pupils at school. In a study carried out by the Language Council (*Språkrådet*), the interviewed Roma children argue that Roma teachers and assistants act as role models.<sup>31</sup> The experience of having Roma assistants at the school is consistently very positive, but unfortunately it is often a temporary investment.<sup>32</sup>

The study from the National Agency for Education (*Skolverket*) confirms that Roma girls often discontinue compulsory school after 7<sup>th</sup> grade and rarely attend secondary school (*gymnasiet*). They often drop out of school because they get married at an early age.<sup>33</sup> The study also confirmed that the majority of Roma children lack basic primary school knowledge compared to other children. The reasons why Roma children do not finish primary school include: discrimination, Roma communities and Roma children being excluded from schools, and a lack of a studying tradition in many Roma families. Therefore, parents find it hard to support their children's needs. Furthermore, Roma students in compulsory school rarely study their native language. It is believed that this is because they do not disclose their Roma identity at school as a strategy to avoid negative treatment. Teachers might speak different dialects/varieties of Romani Chib, which not all Roma children may understand. The National Agency for Education recommends that Roma parents need to be better informed about the Roma students' right to study their mother tongue and the benefits of doing so.<sup>34</sup>

In 2007, the Language Council carried out a qualitative study to get a picture of the current situation of Romani Chib in Sweden and how it can be improved. The study consisted of a questionnaire and interviews with 26 Roma representatives, among them journalists, officials of various agencies and administrators at state and municipal level, native language teachers, teaching assistants, and parents who identify themselves as speakers of Romani Chib. The following varieties were included: Arli, djambazi, gurbeti, kaale, Kelderash, lovani, romungri and Swedish Romani. The interviewees were asked about different ways of using knowledge of and being contact with different Romani Chib varieties spoken in Sweden today, access to mass media and literature on Roma, language use, and language promotion. The results from the study showed that Roma children in compulsory school need proper tuition in their mother tongue and that covers all the varieties of the Romani language.

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<sup>29</sup> Rodell Olgaç, Christina (2006), *Den romska minoriteten i majoritetssamhällets skola. Från hot till möjlighet, möjlighet*, PhD thesis, Stockholm, HLS förlag.

<sup>30</sup> [Sweden], *Skollagen* (2010: 800), available at: [ <http://62.95.69.3/SFSdoc/10/100800.PDF>].

<sup>31</sup> [Sweden], *Språkrådet*, Ellen Bijvoet & Kari Fraurud (2007), available at: [ [www.sprakradet.se/servlet/GetDoc?meta\\_id=2614](http://www.sprakradet.se/servlet/GetDoc?meta_id=2614)].

<sup>32</sup> [Sweden], *Skolverket*, (2007), *Romer i skolan – en fördjupad studie*, report 292, [p. 8-9] [ [www.skolverket.se/publikationer?id=1672](http://www.skolverket.se/publikationer?id=1672)]

<sup>33</sup> [Sweden], *Skolverket* (2007), *Romer i skolan – en fördjupad studie*, report 292, [p. 39] [ [www.skolverket.se/publikationer?id=1672](http://www.skolverket.se/publikationer?id=1672)]

<sup>34</sup> [Sweden], *Skolverket*, (2007), *Romer i skolan – en fördjupad studie*, report 292, [p. 8-9] available at: [ [www.skolverket.se/publikationer?id=1672](http://www.skolverket.se/publikationer?id=1672)]

The time allocated to mother tongue tuition for most children who take Romani Chib classes is only 40 minutes a week, which is believed to be too limited.<sup>35</sup>

### c) Educational attainment

Factors influencing the **educational attainment** of Roma children include factors outside of school, such as the lack of adult role models for Roma children, since few Roma are employed and a very small number of Roma have completed primary and secondary education.<sup>36</sup> The Swedish Language Council (*Språkrådet*) has reported that there is a very strong request from the Roma community to have Roma role models at schools. Roma role models help students stay connected to their language and cultural background, not only by an increased presence, but also by increasing their well-being and motivation in their school work.<sup>37</sup>

The National Agency for Education noted in their reports from 2005<sup>38</sup> and 2007<sup>39</sup> that a high level of non-attendance at school was still a big problem among Roma pupils. Many Roma do not have complete grades when they leave compulsory school to move on to secondary school (*gymnasiet*). The Ombudsman for Children (*Barnombudsmannen*) confirmed in a report that Roma children are particularly vulnerable at school (*De vill att jag ska vara osynlig*). A roundtable discussion with Roma children revealed that Roma children were rarely contacted by the school when absent from lessons, the knowledge of Roma children and young people about their rights was low, and Roma children often felt ambivalent about their identity.<sup>40</sup>

The problems of educational attainment for Roma were also discussed in the report 'Living conditions of the Roma youth' (*Unga romers livssituation*). The study is based on three types of source material: interviews with a strategic sample of young Roma, interviews with key respondents, and surveys and follow-up conversations with managers in selected municipalities. A sample of sixteen municipalities with a high percentage of Roma inhabitants or active Roma associations was chosen for the study. Key respondents linked to Roma youth organizations were interviewed. The results from the study show that schools hinder Roma children's educational attainment when they do not take the absence of Roma children from school seriously or find it acceptable for Roma children to under-perform compared to other children.<sup>41</sup>

The Language Council's report (*Språkrådet*) noted that one of the problems with low school attendance of Roma children is that their parents are not involved in their children's education. According to the Agency, there is a great need to inform parents about the value of education.<sup>42</sup> To improve the school attendance of Roma pupils, the Language Council suggests increasing the number of Roma role models at schools, to help students stay connected to their language and cultural background, increasing their wellbeing and motivation for doing schoolwork.<sup>43</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> [Sweden], Skolverket, (2007), *Romer i skolan – en fördjupad studie*, report 292, [p. 28] available at: [\[www.skolverket.se/publikationer?id=1672\]](http://www.skolverket.se/publikationer?id=1672)

<sup>36</sup> [Sweden], Swedish Government Report, SOU 2010:55 (2010), "Romers rätt – en strategi för romer i Sverige" [Roma rights: A strategy for Roma in Sweden], report from the Delegation for Roma Issues, Stockholm. [p. 342] [\[http://regeringen.se/content/1/c6/15/00/25/baf09ba7.pdf\]](http://regeringen.se/content/1/c6/15/00/25/baf09ba7.pdf)

<sup>37</sup> [Sweden], Swedish Government Report, SOU 2010:55 (2010), "Romers rätt – en strategi för romer i Sverige" [Roma rights: A strategy for Roma in Sweden], report from the Delegation for Roma Issues, Stockholm. [p. 343] [\[http://regeringen.se/content/1/c6/15/00/25/baf09ba7.pdf\]](http://regeringen.se/content/1/c6/15/00/25/baf09ba7.pdf)

<sup>38</sup> [Sweden], Skolverket (2005). *De nationella minoriteternas utbildningssituation*. Rapport 272. Stockholm: Skolverket. available at: [\[www.skolverket.se/publikationer?id=1512\]](http://www.skolverket.se/publikationer?id=1512).

<sup>39</sup> [Sweden], Skolverket, (2007), *Romer i skolan – en fördjupad studie*, report 292, available at: [\[www.skolverket.se/publikationer?id=1672\]](http://www.skolverket.se/publikationer?id=1672).

<sup>40</sup> [Sweden], *Barnombudsmannen* (2005) *De vill att jag ska vara osynlig* [p. 16,] available at: [\[ www.barnombudsmannen.se/Global/Publicationer/Romska%20barn%202005.pdf\]](http://www.barnombudsmannen.se/Global/Publicationer/Romska%20barn%202005.pdf).

<sup>41</sup> [Sweden], Ungdomsstyrelsen (2009), *Unga romers situation – en intervjustudie*. Delegationen för romska frågor, [p. 20].

<sup>42</sup> [Sweden], Språkrådet, Ellen Bijvoet & Kari Fraurud (2007), available at: [www.sprakradet.se/servlet/GetDoc?meta\\_id=2614](http://www.sprakradet.se/servlet/GetDoc?meta_id=2614)

<sup>43</sup> [Sweden], Swedish Government Report, SOU 2010:55 (2010), "Romers rätt – en strategi för romer i Sverige", Stockholm available at: [\[ http://regeringen.se/content/1/c6/15/00/25/baf09ba7.pdf\]](http://regeringen.se/content/1/c6/15/00/25/baf09ba7.pdf). [p. 343].

#### **d) Vocational training/qualifications**

The Region of Västra Götaland in western Sweden is responsible for Scandinavia's first Roma Folk High School, *Agnesbergs folkhögskola*. The school has developed methods for accelerated learning for Roma participants to help Roma adults and youth to complete their education. The school also develops its methodology in collaboration with the University of West Sweden. Today the school has 78 students. The focus is on basic subjects and Roma history and culture.<sup>44</sup>

Another Folk High School that offers education for the Roma is *Sundbybergs folkhögskola*, which has offered vocational training for the Roma since 1992. The courses are aimed at Roma from different language groups. Experiences from these mixed Roma language groups have increased awareness of the Roma culture among the teachers. The school tries to build a connection between the students' situation, and the Roma culture versus the Swedish culture. The pedagogy is based on the idea that all people can improve their study skills if given the right guidance. The folk high school methodology is to build the students' self-confidence and to see each student as an independently thinking individual.<sup>45</sup>

At the Adult Education Association in Gothenburg (*Studieförbundet Vuxenskolan i Göteborg*) there is tuition for Roma who have not completed primary or secondary school education. The course is a basic training, full time for those who are 18-45 years of age. The course helps students to improve skills at the basic level, with the goal to prepare them for other studies or professional life. The course is conducted in collaboration with the Adult Education Association in Gothenburg.<sup>46</sup>

The Government has announced that one of the measures in the new Roma strategy adopted on 16 February 2012 (see section 6a) will be focused on the development and production of books and other learning tools in all varieties of Romani for children, young people and adults, telephone counselling on sexual and reproductive health for Roma girls and women as well as increased knowledge about issues related to equal opportunities among Roma.<sup>47</sup>

#### **e) Different types of schooling (home education, special schools, etc.)**

A study from the Swedish Schools Inspectorate (*Skolinspektionen*) takes up several issues regarding the implementation of tuition in national minority mother tongues. The report suggests that there are many more eligible Roma students than those already involved in tuition in their mother tongue. According to the agency's statistics, nearly 1,300 students had the right to tuition in Romani Chib in 2006, and of these only 26% attended these courses.<sup>48</sup> The Schools Inspectorate review looked at how principals and headmasters fulfil their obligation to offer instruction in the national minority languages. The review consisted of 34 municipalities and five so-called bilingual activities in the country, including interviews with the principals and a web survey that 1,300 teachers responded to. The assessment showed that:

- There were over 400 students in 22 municipalities who would have liked to be taught in their mother tongue, Romani Chib. Only four municipalities offered tuition in Romani Chib. Only

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<sup>44</sup> [Sweden], Västra Götalandsregionen, Romer utbildas på unik skola, 11 February 2010, available at: [[www.vgregion.se/sv/Vastra-Gotalandsregionen/startside/Om-Vastra-Gotalandsregionen/Nyheter/Nyhetsarkiv-2010/Romer-utbildas-pa-unik-skola/](http://www.vgregion.se/sv/Vastra-Gotalandsregionen/startside/Om-Vastra-Gotalandsregionen/Nyheter/Nyhetsarkiv-2010/Romer-utbildas-pa-unik-skola/)].

<sup>45</sup> [Sweden], Delegationen för romska frågor, Sundbybergs folkhögskola, [[http://arkiv.minoritet.se/romadelegationen/www.romadelegationen.se/extra/pod/index4158.html?id=94&module\\_instance=1&action=pod\\_show&navid=94](http://arkiv.minoritet.se/romadelegationen/www.romadelegationen.se/extra/pod/index4158.html?id=94&module_instance=1&action=pod_show&navid=94)].

<sup>46</sup> [Sweden], Delegationen för romska frågor, Vuxenskola- Grundutbildning i Göteborg, available at: [[http://arkiv.minoritet.se/romadelegationen/www.romadelegationen.se/extra/pod/indexf32d.html?id=117&module\\_instance=1&action=pod\\_show&navid=117](http://arkiv.minoritet.se/romadelegationen/www.romadelegationen.se/extra/pod/indexf32d.html?id=117&module_instance=1&action=pod_show&navid=117)].

<sup>47</sup> [Sweden], Ministry of Employment (2012) A strategy for Roma inclusion for the period 2012–2032 (official communication 2011/12:56).

<sup>48</sup> [Sweden], *Skolinspektionen* (2011b), *Litteraturoversikt för modersmålsundervisning och tvåspråkig undervisning i de nationella minoritetsspråken*, [p. 6], available at: [[www.skolinspektionen.se/Documents/Kvalitetsgranskning/min/kvalgr-min-litoversikt.pdf](http://www.skolinspektionen.se/Documents/Kvalitetsgranskning/min/kvalgr-min-litoversikt.pdf)].



200 students received tuition in Romani Chib in Stockholm (50 pupils), Vanersborg (less than 90 students), Karlstad (6 students) and Tranemo (24 pupils). Teaching was conducted in the following Romani Chib varieties: Iovari, Kelderash and Arli. 14 students had classes in their second language. Not every municipality is aware of this option. Even within the framework of the Swedish-Finnish schools there are some Roma pupils receiving tuition in Romani Chib, in Kalé variety.<sup>49</sup>

- Knowledge about the Roma pupils living in the municipalities varies. In several municipalities, it is believed that some Roma pupils use other languages, such as Serbian or Bosnian, but no one knows for sure. Vanersborg, Stafford and Tranemo are municipalities received better reviews in terms of giving Roma students the opportunity to develop their language and culture.<sup>50</sup>
  - The Roma culture class in Stockholm offers bilingual teaching in Romani Chib, in Kelderash variety and 31 students are enrolled in the class.<sup>51</sup>
  - The majority of the reviewed municipalities (19 out of 34) had rather poor knowledge of how to develop tuition in the languages of the national minorities.
  - Of those who responded to the teachers' survey, 63% lacked knowledge about the importance of the minority policies for their school activities. Only 8% said that they felt very familiar with the school's responsibility when it comes to meeting the minority policy.
  - In one of the reviewed municipalities there was no tuition in mother tongue offered, although the municipality received asylum-seeking children, including Roma. The municipality has not taken any actions except searching for a teacher in Romani Chib, but without getting any applicants.<sup>52</sup>
  - 18 out of 34 municipalities responded that they were aware of the national minorities and their rights, however, the Schools Inspectorate showed that this knowledge rarely leads to any concrete practical consequences for students' opportunities to learn in their national minority language.<sup>53</sup>
  - The quality assessment also showed that national minorities are often mistaken for immigrants and the question of their language development is perceived as having to do with the possibility to integrate into Swedish society. These types of misconceptions may affect national minorities' opportunities to develop their own language skills.<sup>54</sup>
- **Providing any special cultural training (e.g. on Roma culture, language, etc.) for teachers who teach in schools with Roma children;**

The National Agency for Education is one of the eleven agencies mandated by the Government to report their minority policies and experiences.<sup>55</sup> It is noted in the agency's report (2010)<sup>56</sup> that the website *Tema modersmål* (Theme: Mother Tongue) has materials for all national minority languages

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<sup>49</sup> [Sweden], Skolinspektionen, (2012: 2), [p. 54] available at:

[www.skolinspektionen.se/Documents/Kvalitetsgranskning/min/kvalgr-min-slutrapport.pdf](http://www.skolinspektionen.se/Documents/Kvalitetsgranskning/min/kvalgr-min-slutrapport.pdf) ]

<sup>50</sup> [Sweden], Skolinspektionen, (2012: 2), [p. 54] available at:

[www.skolinspektionen.se/Documents/Kvalitetsgranskning/min/kvalgr-min-slutrapport.pdf](http://www.skolinspektionen.se/Documents/Kvalitetsgranskning/min/kvalgr-min-slutrapport.pdf) ]

<sup>51</sup> [Sweden], Skolinspektionen, (2012: 2), [p. 54] available at:

[www.skolinspektionen.se/Documents/Kvalitetsgranskning/min/kvalgr-min-slutrapport.pdf](http://www.skolinspektionen.se/Documents/Kvalitetsgranskning/min/kvalgr-min-slutrapport.pdf) ]

<sup>52</sup> [Sweden], Skolinspektionen, (2012: 2), [p. 13] available at:

[www.skolinspektionen.se/Documents/Kvalitetsgranskning/min/kvalgr-min-slutrapport.pdf](http://www.skolinspektionen.se/Documents/Kvalitetsgranskning/min/kvalgr-min-slutrapport.pdf) ]

<sup>53</sup> [Sweden], Skolinspektionen, (2012: 2), I marginalen-En granskning av modersmålsundervisning och tvåspråkig undervisning i de nationella minoritetsspråken, [p. 54] Skolinspektionen:Stockholm, available at:

[www.skolinspektionen.se/Documents/Kvalitetsgranskning/min/kvalgr-min-slutrapport.pdf](http://www.skolinspektionen.se/Documents/Kvalitetsgranskning/min/kvalgr-min-slutrapport.pdf) ]

<sup>54</sup> [Sweden], Skolinspektionen, (2012: 2), I marginalen-En granskning av modersmålsundervisning och tvåspråkig undervisning i de nationella minoritetsspråken, [p. 14] Skolinspektionen:Stockholm, available at:

[www.skolinspektionen.se/Documents/Kvalitetsgranskning/min/kvalgr-min-slutrapport.pdf](http://www.skolinspektionen.se/Documents/Kvalitetsgranskning/min/kvalgr-min-slutrapport.pdf) ]

<sup>55</sup> [Sweden], Ministry of Integration and Equality, *Uppdrag att följa upp och analysera den egna verksamheten utifrån det minoritetspolitiska målet*, 2010-02-25, available at:

[www.skolverket.se/polopoly\\_fs/1.147466!/Menu/article/attachment/34d9894f.pdf](http://www.skolverket.se/polopoly_fs/1.147466!/Menu/article/attachment/34d9894f.pdf) ].

<sup>56</sup> [Sweden], Skolverket (2010c). *Redovisning av uppdrag att följa upp och analysera Skolverkets verksamhet utifrån det minoritetspolitiska målet*. Skolverket:Stockholm

including five varieties of Romani Chib. In spring 2010, the agency distributed a new anthology of texts in Swedish and the minority languages to be used for teaching in the mother tongue classes.<sup>57</sup>

In 2006, the Swedish Government decided to give Linköping University the mandate to teach and research in Romani Chib in order to maintain competence in the language.<sup>58</sup> The decision to give Linköping University the mandate appears to have been made because many Roma live in the region around the University.<sup>59</sup>

Södertörn University offered a course about Roma history during autumn 2006 and 2007 at the Institute of Contemporary History. The course was planned in cooperation with the Roma Cultural Centre in Gubbängen and it featured guest lectures by Roma and non-Roma, both with and without academic training. Professor Christina Rodell Olgac, who was responsible for the course, said that the course had a highly symbolic value as a first step towards academic education for Roma. Several of the students were Roma.<sup>60</sup>

The Centre for Multi-ethnic Research (CMF) at Uppsala University is an interdisciplinary forum that integrates business, linguistic, cultural, religious and historical perspectives into research, documentation, and information. The Research Centre is linked to CMF's Network Forum for National Minorities in Sweden (Nami), whose aim, among other things, is to serve as a forum for knowledge exchange with minority organizations, government bodies, and agencies dealing with language and cultural issues, as well as practitioners working in the field of cultural and linguistic revitalization. CMF has started a research review of the current literature on Roma and offers independent courses on Roma culture.<sup>61</sup>

Several of the Roma interviewees in the Language Council's report (*Språkrådet*) said that there is great interest in teacher education. Since there is no teacher education for Roma, there are no qualified Roma teachers. Due to a lack of qualified teachers, some municipalities refer to this shortage as a reason for not providing tuition in mother tongues such as Romani Chib. Other municipalities hire under-qualified Roma teachers, but these are rarely permanent jobs because of lack of formal qualification.<sup>62</sup> One of the solutions offered by the Roma interviewees was to consider some form of positive action. The suggestion is that a number of places at the colleges for teachers (*Lärarhögskolan*) should be guaranteed to Roma. Then Roma children can have educated Roma teachers in pre-schools and primary schools.<sup>63</sup>

The problem of a lack of teachers with professional education in Roma Chib was also addressed in the Swedish National Agency for Higher Education report (*Högskoleverket*). The report suggests, among others, that national minority languages should become subjects for teacher-education students specializing in grades 4-6. Another proposal is that knowledge of the national minorities languages and culture should be included in the exams for the four new teacher-training programmes in Sweden.

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<sup>57</sup> [Sweden], Skolverket (2010c). *Redovisning av uppdrag att följa upp och analysera Skolverkets verksamhet utifrån det minoritetspolitiska målet*. Skolverket:Stockholm

<sup>58</sup> [Sweden], Utbildningsdepartementet, (2006), *Förslag till fördelning av särskilda åtaganden inom den högre utbildningen i språk*, available at: [ [www.lu.se/upload/LUPDF/Om\\_LU/Sprak2006dec2.pdf](http://www.lu.se/upload/LUPDF/Om_LU/Sprak2006dec2.pdf)].

<sup>59</sup>[Sweden], Bijvoet, Ellen & Fraurud, Kari (2007), *Det romska språket och romsk språkvård i Sverige 2007*. Stockholm: Språkrådet vid Institutet för språk- och folkminnen, [p. 30], available at. [www.sprakradet.se/servlet/GetDoc?meta\\_id=2614](http://www.sprakradet.se/servlet/GetDoc?meta_id=2614). [p. 32].

<sup>60</sup> [Sweden], Bijvoet, Ellen & Fraurud, Kari (2007), *Det romska språket och romsk språkvård i Sverige 2007*. Stockholm: Språkrådet vid Institutet för språk- och folkminnen, [p. 30], available at. [\[www.sprakradet.se/servlet/GetDoc?meta\\_id=2614\]](http://www.sprakradet.se/servlet/GetDoc?meta_id=2614).

<sup>61</sup> The Centre for Multi-ethnic Research (CMF), available at: [ [www.multietn.uu.se/](http://www.multietn.uu.se/) ] (2007-10-29).

<sup>62</sup> [Sweden], Bijvoet, Ellen & Fraurud, Kari (2007), *Det romska språket och romsk språkvård i Sverige 2007*. Stockholm: Språkrådet vid Institutet för språk- och folkminnen, [p. 33].

<sup>63</sup> [Sweden], Bijvoet, Ellen & Fraurud, Kari (2007), *Det romska språket och romsk språkvård i Sverige 2007*. Stockholm: Språkrådet vid Institutet för språk- och folkminnen, [p. 33].

Economic incentives are also proposed, such as scholarships to anyone who wants to study one of the languages of the national minorities or minority language, society and history.<sup>64</sup>

#### **f) Issues of segregation and integration**

In Sweden, Roma children are integrated in ordinary schools and there are few special schools just for Roma children. These special schools are aimed at helping to integrate Roma children through strengthening their knowledge of their own culture and language and creating a safe place for learning.

There is only one Romani class with only Roma children and Roma staff – the Roma culture class at Nytorpsskolan in Stockholm. This is a 9<sup>th</sup> grade class, which started during the early 1990s. The class follows the regular school curriculum but with a Roma orientation. The school offers tuition in both Swedish and Romani Chib. According to the Language Council report (*Språkrådet*), the school works hard to reinforce Roma children's identity and invests heavily in teaching both Romani and Swedish. The results are encouraging as the children have increased their knowledge in both languages and more children than ever now pass the national exams for 9<sup>th</sup> graders.<sup>65</sup> An evaluation of the Roma culture class showed that this approach is successful.<sup>66</sup> The School Inspectorate review in 2012 showed that the students in the Roma culture class and their parents were very pleased with the bilingual teaching and in particular, with the safe environment within which the class was offered. The report draws the conclusion that municipal efforts to promote opportunities for national minority children to learn about their ethnic culture also need to be accompanied by and coordinated with efforts at the societal level.<sup>67</sup>

The issue of segregation concerns the way in which Roma children are treated within ordinary schools and their access to tuition in mother tongue in these schools. Another issue is that Roma residential segregation determines where Roma children go to school. Since the majority of Roma (national, immigrant or EU citizens) normally live in migrant dense areas, Roma children attend schools in these areas. The segregation issue is then about the quality of education in these areas and the fact that there are many social problems within these areas. A study in 2009 shows that segregation in schools is an effect of residential segregation that affects Roma children in the same way it affects immigrant children in these areas. The problem is often related to the lack of resources and quality of schooling. The study does not specifically elaborate on the situation of Roma and segregation.<sup>68</sup>

Research shows that Roma children can experience segregation at school when teachers choose to place all the Roma in the same class as they assume that Roma children want to hang out with other Roma children. This is confirmed by a study done in Västerås (*Romers situation i Västerås*).<sup>69</sup> Another study conducted by the Children's Ombudsman (2005) showed that the Roma children and youth who responded felt that they are treated differently than their classmates. One girl stated that her teachers always wanted her to work with another Roma girl even though they were not friends.<sup>70</sup>

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<sup>64</sup> [Sweden], Högscoleverket (2011b) *Läraryförsörjningen för de nationella minoriteterna – hur kan den tryggas? Redovisning av ett regeringsuppdrag*, Högscoleverket: Stockholm

<sup>65</sup> [Sweden], Bijvoet, Ellen & Fraurud, Kari (2007), *Det romska språket och romsk språkvård i Sverige 2007*. Stockholm: Språkrådet vid Institutet för språk- och folkminnen. [p. 29], available at: [[www.sprakradet.se/servlet/GetDoc?meta\\_id=2614](http://www.sprakradet.se/servlet/GetDoc?meta_id=2614)].

<sup>66</sup> Rodell Olgaç, Christina (2006). *Föräldrasamarbete, tvåspråkighet och kulturell revitalisering i Roma Kulturklass*. Stockholm: Kompetensfonden.

<sup>67</sup> [Sweden], Skolinspektionens rapport (2012: 2), [p. 31], available at: [[www.skolinspektionen.se/Documents/Kvalitetsgranskning/min/kvalgr-min-slutrapport.pdf](http://www.skolinspektionen.se/Documents/Kvalitetsgranskning/min/kvalgr-min-slutrapport.pdf)].

<sup>68</sup> Ove Sernhede (2009) *Territoriell stigmatisering, ungas informella lärande och skolan i det postindustriella samhälle*, Utbildning & Demokrati, 2009, vol 18, Nr 1, 7-32 available at:

[[www.oru.se/Extern/Forskning/Forskningsmiljoer/HumUS/Utbildning\\_och\\_Demokrati/Tidskriften/2009/Nr\\_1/Ove%20Sernhede.pdf](http://www.oru.se/Extern/Forskning/Forskningsmiljoer/HumUS/Utbildning_och_Demokrati/Tidskriften/2009/Nr_1/Ove%20Sernhede.pdf)].

<sup>69</sup> [Sweden], Löfgren, C. (2009). *Romers situation i Västerås: Slutrapport*. Länsstyrelsen i Västmanland, [p. 51].

<sup>70</sup> [Sweden], Barnombudsmannen. (2005). *”De vill att jag ska vara osynlig” Romska barn och ungdomar berättar om sin vardag*. BR2005:07. Stockholm.



The Swedish Church report shows that children's right to attend school in their minority language is not realized according to the European Language Charter. Although there is no clear evidence of school segregation regarding Roma children, there is evidence of problems for Roma children accessing schooling in their minority language.<sup>71</sup>

### **g) Experiences and perceptions of discrimination**

In the National Agency for Education report (2007), the school leaders noted that Roma children's results were the lowest in the school and, in another school, the headmaster noted that parents were reluctant to send their children to school because there were many Roma children there. Overall, the National Agency for Education concluded that schools are trying to be sensitive with regard to bullying and other forms of harassment of Roma children.<sup>72</sup>

In the new Education Act, which came into effect on 1 July 2011, a reporting duty has been imposed on teachers, pre-school teachers or other school staff who become aware of a child or a student who claims to have been subjected to abusive treatment in connection with school activities.<sup>73</sup>

Roma in mainstream schools are subjected to racism, which affects Roma children and their families negatively and contributes to an animosity towards the school as an institution.<sup>74</sup> Many Roma report experiencing offensive behaviour that is associated with their ethnic background. None of the interviewees believed their Roma culture was an asset at school. Since their parents most often did not attend school, they were often not aware of what compulsory school attendance meant. It is also apparent from the interviews that the only means Roma parents had to protect their children from racist attacks was to prevent the children from attending school. This in turn contributes to the defective schooling of Roma children.<sup>75</sup>

The report *Unga romers situation i Västerås i egenskap av nationell minoritet* highlights the situation of Roma youth. The problems identified by the researchers include the stigmatization of Roma youth/children at school, the lack of information on the Roma culture in the curriculum, lack of access to tuition in mother tongue, issues that show that the rights of Roma children as a minority are ignored. The authors conclude that the lack of parental support and guidance in combination with stigmatization make it very difficult for Roma youth to succeed in school.<sup>76</sup>

In the Schools Inspectorate survey from 2012, municipality representatives and school principals said that students who belong to national minorities are not discriminated against or harassed at school. This is also shown by the teacher survey where nearly all respondents (91%) said that the school targets work against discrimination and harassment. Almost the same number of respondents (84%) answered that there is no discrimination or harassment of students belonging to national minorities.

However, the Equality Ombudsman's investigations show that there is a widespread structural discrimination against Roma. According to the Equality Ombudsman's report on discrimination of national minorities in the education system from 2008, municipalities do not have knowledge of the national minorities and their rights and the school does not sufficiently help to strengthen the Roma identity, language or culture. It appears that children from all minority groups have experienced harassment related to their ethnicity. The report also discusses how the national minorities handle

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<sup>71</sup> [Sweden], *Våga vara minoritet – En rapport om minoritetsrättigheter i Sverige 2012 (Dare to be Minority – A Report on Minority Rights in Sweden 2012)*, available at: [<http://sverigesradio.se/diverse/appdata/isidor/files/2327/11997.pdf>].

<sup>72</sup> [Sweden], National Agency for Education (*Skolverket*), (2007), *Romer i skolan – en fördjupad studie*, report 292, [p. 9].

<sup>73</sup> [Sweden], Skollagen (2010:800), available at: [[www.notisum.se/rnp/sls/fakta/a0100800.htm](http://www.notisum.se/rnp/sls/fakta/a0100800.htm)].

<sup>74</sup> Rodell Olgac, Christina (2006), "Den romska minoriteten i majoritetssamhällets skola – Från hot till möjlighet" [The Roma minority in the majority society's school system: From threat to opportunity], Stockholm Institute of Education.

<sup>75</sup> Rodell Olgac, Christina (2005) *Den romska minoriteten i majoritetssamhällets skola – Från hot till möjlighet*, PhD thesis, Stockholm, HLS förlag.

<sup>76</sup> Ljung, Ulrika & Andric, Ana (2008) *Unga romers skolsituation i Västerås i egenskap av nationell minoritet* Mälardalens högskola, Akademin för hållbar samhälls- och teknikutveckling.

making discrimination complaints to the Equality Ombudsman and how they are affected by low confidence in the authorities and fear that a complaint against the school can increase the vulnerability of the child.<sup>77</sup> Among other things, the Ombudsman notes that discrimination against Roma in other parts of the society, such as the housing market, affects Roma children's access to education and therefore their education and future prospects. The low tendency of the Roma to report harassment and discrimination also means that the number of unreported cases might be quite large.<sup>78</sup> The Equality Ombudsman argues that although the agency receives few complaints concerning the situation of Roma children at school, including harassment, the problem might be that school officials do not take the issue seriously enough. The complaints received were about whether the school had taken sufficient action to address ethnic harassment after an event came to its attention. Other complaints have concerned ethnic harassment and discriminatory treatment by school personnel and municipalities.<sup>79</sup>

The problem of bullying and harassment of minority children is almost invisible to the school staff. The results of a study show that children from all the minority groups indicate fear or discomfort about disclosing their ethnic identity at school and describe experiences of bullying. While these children are affected by bullying, victimization and shame due to their origin, few of the adults interviewed knew about such experiences. The study also points out that an "all equal" perspective is so prominent in the discussion of children's rights that the challenges faced by national minority children in the Swedish society are not emphasized enough, often because of fear of negative stigmatization.<sup>80</sup> Several of the interviewed children also drew attention to the absence of national minorities in schoolbooks and a persistent ignorance of the national minorities culture among teachers and other students. This could lead to teachers teaching inaccurate issues about a minority or asking minority children to take over teaching their own culture. The situation was different for the children who were profiled in classes or schools, such as the Roma culture class, the Sami school, the Jewish school and the Swedish-Finnish private schools. These children said that the school had managed to successfully integrate their minority identity.<sup>81</sup>

The Schools Inspectorate quality review in 2012 showed that there are hidden or unspoken negative perceptions about speaking Romani Chib by a parental generation who were banned from speaking their language and for whom speaking it is associated with feelings of guilt, shame and alienation. The Schools Inspectorate suggests that municipalities where municipal representatives have been brought up in a bilingual environment should address these experiences and attitudes towards minority languages and the ways in which minority issues might be handled.<sup>82</sup>

The question of national minority languages has been a low priority in many municipalities. The problem is also related to hidden discrimination as negative perceptions of multiculturalism and in particular in relation to Roma still exist. In a few municipalities that the Schools Inspectorate surveyed, Swedish parents had opted to take their children out of schools that had Roma pupils.<sup>83</sup>

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<sup>77</sup> [Sweden], DO (Ombudsmannen mot etnisk diskriminering) (2008), *Diskrimineringen av nationella minoriteter inom utbildningsväsendet*. DO:s rapportserie 2008:2. Stockholm: Ombudsmannen mot etnisk diskriminering.

<sup>78</sup> [Sweden], Pikkarainen Heidi (2011) Diskrimineringsombudsmannen, *Romers rättigheter – Diskriminering, vägar till upprättelse och hur juridiken kan bidra till en förändring av romers livsvillkor*.

<sup>79</sup> [Sweden], DO (Ombudsmannen mot etnisk diskriminering) (2008), *Diskrimineringen av nationella minoriteter inom utbildningsväsendet*. DO:s rapportserie 2008:2. Stockholm: Ombudsmannen mot etnisk diskriminering, [p.16], available at: [[www.do.se/Documents/Material/Gamla%20ombudsm%C3%A4nnens%20material/dorapport-nationella-minoriteter-engelska.pdf](http://www.do.se/Documents/Material/Gamla%20ombudsm%C3%A4nnens%20material/dorapport-nationella-minoriteter-engelska.pdf)].

<sup>80</sup> Orama, K. (2011). *"Vi är ju också människor!": ett barnrättsperspektiv på nationella minoriteter i Sverige*. Uppsala: Uppsala Universitet, Forum för nationella minoriteter i Sverige – Hugo Valentin-centrum, p. 7, available at: [[www.valentin.uu.se/publications/recent\\_titles\\_summaries/2011\\_Orama\\_minoritetsbarns.html](http://www.valentin.uu.se/publications/recent_titles_summaries/2011_Orama_minoritetsbarns.html)].

<sup>81</sup> Orama, K. (2011). *"Vi är ju också människor!": ett barnrättsperspektiv på nationella minoriteter i Sverige*. Uppsala: Uppsala Universitet, Forum för nationella minoriteter i Sverige – Hugo Valentin-centrum, available at: [[www.valentin.uu.se/publications/recent\\_titles\\_summaries/2011\\_Orama\\_minoritetsbarns.html](http://www.valentin.uu.se/publications/recent_titles_summaries/2011_Orama_minoritetsbarns.html)].

<sup>82</sup> [Sweden], Skolinspektionen (2012: 2) I marginalen-En granskning av modersmålsundervisning och tvåspråkig undervisning i de nationella minoritetsspråken, [p.14] available at: [[www.skolinspektionen.se/Documents/Kvalitetsgranskning/min/kvalgr-min-slutrapport.pdf](http://www.skolinspektionen.se/Documents/Kvalitetsgranskning/min/kvalgr-min-slutrapport.pdf)].

<sup>83</sup> [Sweden], Skolinspektionen (2012: 2) I marginalen-En granskning av modersmålsundervisning och tvåspråkig

Roma parents and students confirm that Roma children and youth are constantly exposed to harassment and discrimination in the community outside the school, which is also confirmed by several other investigations. These negative attitudes towards Roma might create a negative self-worth and perception of the Roma identity among Roma children which in turn makes it hard for them to develop their bilingualism in the way that, for example, the Swedish-Finnish students do.<sup>84</sup>

In 2009, the Ombudsman made a special effort regarding the students' right for an education free from discrimination. This work has focused on opportunities for children who belong to national minorities to develop the knowledge of their own language and obligation of the municipalities to provide and support tuition in mother tongue.<sup>85</sup>

The Living History Forum received a mandate from the Government in 2011, on the basis of the report 'Roma rights – a strategy for Roma in Sweden', to examine and make suggestions about how the Roma language and cultural situation can be strengthened.<sup>86</sup> The report *Romers kulturella och språkliga rättigheter – vägar mot ett förverkligande* was submitted to the Government with proposals that the legal protection of national minorities and their languages should be reviewed and that a national independent body should be set up to monitor the rights of minorities in line with Sweden's obligations according to the Framework Convention on the protection of minority rights. It was also suggested that the Equality Ombudsman should be given the task of developing programmes to increase knowledge of human rights and mechanisms offering protection from discrimination among Roma. This would increase the propensity to report discrimination. The report also suggested that structural barriers that restrict access to human rights and the use of legal tools must be made visible.<sup>87</sup>

## Major projects and initiatives

Marie's folk high school in Norrköping provides education for Roma groups from former Yugoslavia. The goal of the programme is to increase the students' knowledge of the Swedish language and society. The school also works to raise awareness of the Roma and the Roma culture and traditions among the Swedish public. The language of instruction is Swedish, but also Bosnian/Serbo-Croatian.<sup>88</sup>

### Major EU co-funded projects

Project: "*Nya utbildningsinsatser med och för romer*" (New educational measures with Roma for Roma).<sup>89</sup> The Swedish ESF Council granted Sundbybergs Folkhögskola 7,837,662 SEK (903,810 EUR) to combat Roma exclusion in education. The goal of the project is to create new courses tailored for Roma outside the labour market. The courses will be designed with and for Roma – so that they can develop skills from secondary school leading to employment or further education. The project aims at a larger scale to offer training for Roma and give individuals in the Roma communities' new opportunities to enter the labour market.

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undervisning i de nationella minoritetsspråken, [p.14]

available at: [[www.skolinspektionen.se/Documents/Kvalitetsgranskning/min/kvalgr-min-slutrapport.pdf](http://www.skolinspektionen.se/Documents/Kvalitetsgranskning/min/kvalgr-min-slutrapport.pdf)]

<sup>84</sup> [Sweden], Skolinspektionen (2012: 2) I marginalen-En granskning av modersmålsundervisning och tvåspråkig undervisning i de nationella minoritetsspråken, [p. 31]

available at: [[www.skolinspektionen.se/Documents/Kvalitetsgranskning/min/kvalgr-min-slutrapport.pdf](http://www.skolinspektionen.se/Documents/Kvalitetsgranskning/min/kvalgr-min-slutrapport.pdf)]

<sup>85</sup> [Sweden], Pikkarainen Heidi (2011) Diskrimineringsombudsmannen, *Romers rättigheter – Diskriminering, vägar till upprättelse och hur juridiken kan bidra till en förändring av romers livsvillkor*, [p. 18] Diskrimineringsombudsmannen:Stockholm

<sup>86</sup> [Sweden], Lindgren Lars (2011) *Romers kulturella och språkliga rättigheter – vägar mot ett förverkligande*

<sup>87</sup> [Sweden], Lindgren Lars (2011) *Romers kulturella och språkliga rättigheter – vägar mot ett förverkligande*

<sup>88</sup> Marieborgs Folkhögskola, [[www.marieborg.net/folkhogskola/index.asp?mainID=70&subID=258](http://www.marieborg.net/folkhogskola/index.asp?mainID=70&subID=258)].

<sup>89</sup> [Sweden], Svenska EFS-rådet, *Nya utbildningsinsatser med och för romer*, available at:

[[www.esf.se/sv/Projektbank/Behallare-for-projekt/Stockholm/Nya-utbildningsinsatser-med-och-for-romer/](http://www.esf.se/sv/Projektbank/Behallare-for-projekt/Stockholm/Nya-utbildningsinsatser-med-och-for-romer/)]

The objectives are:

- That 75% of participants achieve primary and secondary school degrees;
- That the partners in the project will increase their cultural competence in order to create the conditions needed for the target group;
- Increased knowledge about education of Roma language and cultural groups;
- The project's overall knowledge will be disseminated to relevant stakeholders such as municipalities, employment agencies, national authorities, politicians, etc.;
- That 50% of the participants are self-sufficient through work or further studies at the end of the project.
- That the participants have developed awareness of the fact that education strengthens their position in the society and provides greater opportunities to participate and influence issues related to the Roma community.

The project runs from 14 June 2011 to 30 June 2014.

### 3 Employment

In Sweden there is a **lack of disaggregated data** on employment of Roma. Pursuant to section 13 of the Personal Data Act (PDA), it is prohibited to process personal data revealing, for example, race or ethnic origin.

**a) Paid employment**

No information available.<sup>90</sup>

**b) Self-employment**

No information available.<sup>91</sup>

**c) Communal work and other forms of payment schemes**

No information available.<sup>92</sup>

**d) Unemployment**

It is estimated that up to 70-80% of the adult Roma population in Stockholm are outside the labour market.<sup>93</sup> The Delegation for Roma Issues 2007-2010 (*Delegationen för Romska frågor*) confirmed these findings in their final report to the Government.<sup>94</sup> In 2008, the Delegation for Roma Issues commissioned a study entitled *Hur blev det med anställningen?* on the access of Roma to employment. The target group was students who had completed vocational training as teaching assistants, child and youth workers and child minders at the Sundbyberg Folk High School. This school was chosen as a case study because its vocational training was designed to meet the specific situation and needs of the Roma pupils. The results of the study show that four of the eleven respondents had jobs in the field of their education after completing vocational training. The study concludes that many Roma who complete labour market programmes do not have a job, despite the great need for trained personnel in the relevant professions (teaching assistants, child and youth workers and nannies). The authors mentioned discrimination as the most likely cause of why the Roma were not hired.<sup>95</sup>

In Sweden, there are no public unemployment rates available by ethnicity or numbers on how many Roma are registered at unemployment job centres. In a report published in 2008 on the situation of Roma in Malmö, Roma representatives estimated that about 10% of the 3,500 Roma who were of working age (21-65 years) had jobs, i.e. about 350 Roma. The figure is estimative only, but may give some indication of the labour market prospects for Roma in Sweden. According to the report, of the 350 workers, there are more men than women working, but the number of women working has increased and continues to increase. The statistics in the report are not differentiated any further to be able to provide more information about the gender balance among Roma workers.<sup>96</sup>

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<sup>93</sup> [Sweden], Stockholm Cultural Department (2006) Stockholm.

<sup>94</sup> [Sweden], Swedish Government Report, SOU 2010:55 (2010), "Romers rätt – en strategi för romer i Sverige" [Roma rights: A strategy for Roma in Sweden], report from the Delegation for Roma Issues, Stockholm. [p. 93].

<sup>95</sup> [Sweden], Westin, Charles & Tan Marti, Manuel (2008), *Hur blev det med anställningen? Uppföljningsintervjuer med romer som utbildat sig till lärarassistenter, barn- och ungdomsledare och barnskötare*. Delegationen för romska frågor.

<sup>96</sup> Romers situation i Malmö (2008), [p. 8], available at:

[[http://arkiv.minoritet.se/romadelegationen/www.romadelegationen.se/dynamaster/file\\_archive/081010/3aa13f282914e49f8fc90e0ba922d2bd/romers\\_situation\\_malmo.pdf](http://arkiv.minoritet.se/romadelegationen/www.romadelegationen.se/dynamaster/file_archive/081010/3aa13f282914e49f8fc90e0ba922d2bd/romers_situation_malmo.pdf)].

#### e) Child labour

No information available.<sup>97</sup>

#### f) Old age pension

No information available.<sup>98</sup>

#### g) Experiences and perceptions of discrimination

The local anti-discrimination agency in Uppsala (DU) received a complaint from a Roma woman who had been prohibited from wearing the traditional skirt at work. The woman had previously completed her internship at a grocery store without receiving any complaints about her traditional skirt. When her internship ended, she was offered to work extra hours in the shop. The new manager requested that she wear trousers at work since skirts were not considered to be in accordance with the company's dress policy. Although the woman explained that she could not wear trousers because of her ethnic origin, the manager insisted with the requirement. The case was forwarded to the Equality Ombudsman who later reached a settlement with the company. The woman was awarded 75,000 SEK (8,654 EUR) in damages.<sup>99</sup>

According to a telephone conversation with the Equality Ombudsman (3 October 2012), it is hard to estimate how many complaints there are in the field of employment concerning Roma because of the restrictions in section 13 of the Personal Data Act (PDA) which prohibits processing of personal data revealing, among others, race or ethnic origin.

In one of the cases concerning discrimination of Roma in employment, a Roma woman received 40,000 SEK (4,615 EUR) in damages from her employer. The woman, who was a municipal employee and had been working in the home help service for some time, lodged a complaint because she felt harassed by her fellow-workers who spoke disparagingly about Roma in her presence. She had complained about the harassment to her employer who had failed to take action.<sup>100</sup>

There is no research that focuses in particular on Roma coming from Romania and Bulgaria in Sweden. For the purpose of this report desk research reviews were conducted through research databases, newspapers, articles and phone calls to national Roma associations. One of the reasons given by a Roma activist regarding the invisibility of Roma from Bulgaria and Romania is that they hide their Roma identity out of fear of being discriminated against or stigmatised.<sup>101</sup>

The employment situation of Roma in Malmö is reported to differ between the Roma groups. The Roma who came to Sweden from the Balkans from the early 1990s onwards are considered a group with higher employability compared to other Roma. The Roma representatives from Malmö interviewed for the purpose of this report attribute this difference to the fact that the Roma from the Balkans come to Sweden with previous work experience and higher educational qualifications than the Roma who have lived in Sweden for a long time. Furthermore, Roma representatives noted that those Roma who have arrived later often do not disclose their Roma identity to employers so as not to be discriminated against in the same way as those who are open about their Roma origin. Furthermore, they stated that they had been subjected to various forms of harassment in the workplace when they disclosed their Roma origin.<sup>102</sup>

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<sup>97</sup> There is a **lack of disaggregated data** on employment of Roma. Pursuant to section 13 of the Personal Data Act (PDA), it is prohibited to process personal data revealing, for example, race or ethnic origin.

<sup>98</sup> There is a **lack of disaggregated data** on employment of Roma. Pursuant to section 13 of the Personal Data Act (PDA), it is prohibited to process personal data revealing, for example, race or ethnic origin.

<sup>99</sup> [Sweden], Diskrimineringsombudsmannen (2009), Case number: 2009/2449, available at : [[www.do.se](http://www.do.se)].

<sup>100</sup> [Sweden], Pikkarainen Heidi (2011) Diskrimineringsombudsmannen, *Romers rättigheter – Diskriminering, vägar till upprättelse och hur juridiken kan bidra till en förändring av romers livsvillkor* .

<sup>101</sup> Telephone conversation, Roma activist, 9 October 2012.

<sup>102</sup> [Sweden], Malmö Stad (2008) Romers situation i Malmö. En rapport om Malmös minoritetspolitik utifrån romernas perspektiv, available at:



Roma from former Yugoslavia living in Norrköping are reported to be able to support their families. They work mainly in different factories, as street cleaners, vendors and a small group of them are self-employed, running small shops. Some of them support their family through traditional professions such as musicians, singers, and manufacturers of ropes or blacksmiths. One of the problems noted in the case of Norrköping is the language issue in connection with the employment service. Unemployed Roma with low education or no education at all are given interpreters in Serbo-Croatian or in another language, but their knowledge of these languages is often very low, in particular among those who come from Kosovo. There are cases when Roma lost their unemployment benefits due to the lack of language skills. Some of the Roma who are unemployed have missed opportunities to obtain employment through various social measures because they do not know where they should turn to.<sup>103</sup>

## Major projects and initiatives

The project “**Romano Zor! Roma Power!**” was granted 5,504,408 SEK (637,000 EUR) from the Swedish ESF Council.<sup>104</sup> The goal of the project is to create jobs, internships and education for Roma living in Uppsala. The target group is Roma between 18 and 55 years old. The aim is to empower the Roma communities to break the negative social stigma and work to create positive role models for Roma children and youth. The project ran from 2 February 2009 to 29 February 2012.<sup>105</sup> The objectives of the project aimed at employment and the labour market in three parallel phases (employment training, manual and mentoring programmes) to provide better support for Roma to access the labour market and support themselves:

- 100% of the Roma participants will have improved their health conditions after the project ends;
- 5 people will be self-sufficient financially.
- 10 people will be planning to start studying.
- 20 Roma and Swedish mentors will be connected in a programme offering support, internships and jobs.
- A Swedish version of the Finnish manual IF I WOULD HIRE A ROMA? will be developed and distributed to teachers, education providers and employment services that come in contact with Roma.

Since the project started in 2009, four participants were permanently employed and 7 were working in temporary employment at the end of 2011.<sup>106</sup>

The National Roma Youth Association (*Romska Ungdomsförbundet*) ran a project ‘**Roma at work**’ in 2007-2009, funded by the Heritage Fund. The goal was to create new job opportunities for young Roma in the Swedish labour market. The project’s target group was unemployed Roma aged 20 to 30 years and enrolled at AUC (Work and Development Centre). To participate in the project, the applicant had to receive some form of aid (unemployment insurance, social assistance etc.). Participants were guided by Roma mentors and they received skills development training in order to improve their opportunities for active participation in the labour market. Activities included presentation skills, computer/IT training, job search, role-playing, attitude of prejudice, visits to

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[[http://arkiv.minoritet.se/romadelegationen/www.romadelegationen.se/dynamaster/file\\_archive/081010/3aa13f282914e49f8fc90e0ba922d2bd/romers\\_situation\\_malmo.pdf](http://arkiv.minoritet.se/romadelegationen/www.romadelegationen.se/dynamaster/file_archive/081010/3aa13f282914e49f8fc90e0ba922d2bd/romers_situation_malmo.pdf)].

<sup>103</sup> The project “*Samverkansforum med romer*”, Norrköping, [p. 14], available at:

[[http://arkiv.minoritet.se/romadelegationen/www.romadelegationen.se/dynamaster/file\\_archive/081014/b92885b5062b919bc38c669096e1c3a2/norrkoping\\_rapport\\_samverkansforum.pdf](http://arkiv.minoritet.se/romadelegationen/www.romadelegationen.se/dynamaster/file_archive/081014/b92885b5062b919bc38c669096e1c3a2/norrkoping_rapport_samverkansforum.pdf)].

<sup>104</sup> Romano Zor!, available at: [ [www.processtod.se/files/contentFiles/projektet\\_romano\\_zor.pdf](http://www.processtod.se/files/contentFiles/projektet_romano_zor.pdf) ].

<sup>105</sup> [Sweden], EFS-rådet, Romano Zor!, available at: [ [www.esf.se/sv/Projektbank/Behallare-for-projekt/Ostra-Mellansverige/Romano-Zor--Romsk-kraft/](http://www.esf.se/sv/Projektbank/Behallare-for-projekt/Ostra-Mellansverige/Romano-Zor--Romsk-kraft/) ].

<sup>106</sup> [Sweden], Sveriges Radio, Romskt projekt vill satsa på romska ungdomar, 2011-10-10, available at: [<http://sverigesradio.se/sida/artikel.aspx?programid=3064&artikel=4745920> ]

interesting sites etc. The Roma Framework was a complement to the traditional employment service and it was based on voluntary participation. Information about the project is scarce, and according to the evaluation of the project conducted by Suarez (2009), the young Roma youth learned how to apply for a job and how to handle job interviews. The project was considered successful and the youth showed great interest according to the project manager. The problem was that the more the media found out about the project, the more the employers became affected in a negative way. The project is currently on-going in Uppsala and it has been renamed as Romano Zor. It is now a two-year project co-funded by the EU.



## 4 Housing and neighbourhood

Roma live predominantly in the urban areas in southern Sweden. There are no precise statistics about the living conditions of the Roma since no official statistics of people's ethnic origins other than citizenship and country of birth are available. As a rule, according to the Swedish Personal Data Act the collection of this kind of data is prohibited.<sup>107</sup>

There are no national, regional or local housing and accommodation policies specifically targeted at Roma. According to general policies everyone has equal right to housing, but some policies inadvertently affect the Roma's opportunities to find housing.

### a) Quality and affordability of housing

The dominant type of housing for Roma in Sweden is rental housing in migrant-dense areas, but it is difficult to assess a specific ethnic group as overly more segregated since these areas are generally of mixed ethnic population.<sup>108</sup> Roma live in a socially deprived situation, which means, for instance, that they may have difficulties in meeting the landlord's criteria for renting accommodation.<sup>109</sup>

The socioeconomic situation of Roma is one of the reasons why they frequently have to rely on the municipal social services to sign housing contracts on their behalf or to assist them in finding a home by other means. This affects their security of tenure and also their chances of climbing the housing ladder.<sup>110</sup> The complaints to the Equality Ombudsman also reveal overcrowding, low living standards and poor sanitary conditions in rented housing.<sup>111</sup>

A study conducted by the National Board of Housing, Building and Planning indicated that banks require loan applicants to have a good financial state in the form of a steady income or savings. The banks judge a loan application based on an estimate that shows if the applicant will be able to pay his or her mortgage and other living expenses, and based on how good an investment the purchase is. Consequently, the difficulties that Roma face in obtaining permanent employment or a sufficient salary create obstacles on the housing market.<sup>112</sup>

In autumn 2007, the Equality Ombudsman visited an area in Sundsvall (Nacksta) to observe the housing situation of Roma. The tenants that the Ombudsman spoke to with during the visit said that they were dissatisfied with the maintenance of their homes, the way the landlord treated them and their demands to have the faults repaired. Residents in the area told the Ombudsman that they were worried about the safety of their children. According to information from the municipality, the environment was not considered suitable for children and consequently, the municipality did not refer families with children to flats in the area. The tenants living in the area were mostly Roma and migrant groups. Furthermore, the housing company had installed cameras in the area with the objective to increase security and prevent crime. However, the tenants said that the cameras had the opposite effect, creating a sense of insecurity and violating their integrity.<sup>113</sup>

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<sup>107</sup> Kaplan, Robert B. and Baldauf Jr., Richard B. (2005), *Language Planning and Policy in Europe: Finland, Hungary and Sweden*, Clevedon: Multilingual Matters Limited, [p. 257].

<sup>108</sup> [Sweden], Diskrimineringsombudsmannen, available at: [[www.do.se](http://www.do.se)].

<sup>109</sup> [Sweden], Diskrimineringsombudsmannen, (2011), *Roma rights: discrimination, paths of redress and how the law can improve the situation of Roma* [p. 50], available at: [[www.do.se/Documents/Material/English/Roma%20rights.pdf](http://www.do.se/Documents/Material/English/Roma%20rights.pdf)].

<sup>110</sup> [Sweden], Diskrimineringsombudsmannen, (2011), *Roma rights: discrimination, paths of redress and how the law can improve the situation of Roma* [p. 50], available at: [[www.do.se/Documents/Material/English/Roma%20rights.pdf](http://www.do.se/Documents/Material/English/Roma%20rights.pdf)].

<sup>111</sup> [Sweden], Diskrimineringsombudsmannen, (2011), *Roma rights: discrimination, paths of redress and how the law can improve the situation of Roma* [p. 51], available at: [[www.do.se/Documents/Material/English/Roma%20rights.pdf](http://www.do.se/Documents/Material/English/Roma%20rights.pdf)].

<sup>112</sup> Boverket (2005), *Välkommen till bostadsmarknaden – En lügesrapport om integration*, Karlskrona.

<sup>113</sup> [Sweden], Diskrimineringsombudsmannen (2008), *Diskriminering på den svenska bostadsmarknaden – En rapport från DO:s särskilda arbete under åren 2006-2008 kring diskriminering på bostadsmarknaden*.

### **b) Access to social or private housing**

While the situation is not as clear-cut in such areas as tenant-owned and owner-occupied housing, it is nevertheless worth noting that where the buying or selling of such properties is concerned, there are structural obstacles that adversely affect the chances of Roma of climbing the housing ladder. One such obstacle is discrimination in connection with applications to join a tenant-owner association. Many Roma also point out the difficulty of obtaining bank loans as an obstacle in this respect.<sup>114</sup>

According to the Ombudsman, the unfavourable position of the Roma in the housing market is linked to the fact that they are excluded from the labour market. This is a result of the long term and all-pervading discrimination. The exclusion from the labour market means that many Roma are obliged to contact the social services in order to get social welfare allowance. Many landlords use employment as one of the selection criteria when letting housing. Some landlords do not consider social welfare allowance as income and applicants who cannot show a clean financial record have difficulties renting a dwelling. This means that even when the same criteria are applied equally to everyone, many Roma are still in a disadvantaged position.<sup>115</sup>

A case that is illustrative of the difficulties of the Roma in accessing housing went to the Court of Appeal (*Hovrätten*) in January 2009. The case involved a man who sought an available flat with a private landlord in Ulricehamn. On the phone, the landlord was positive with regard to this man's application and a meeting was arranged to sign the lease. When the landlord saw that the applicant was Roma, he said that he felt deceived and refused to let out the flat. The landlord later claimed that his actions were due to the fact that the man had debts. The Roma man lost the case in the district court, but appealed the ruling and won in Göta Court of Appeal. The Court stated that even though the man had debts, the reason why the landlord refused renting out to him was his ethnicity. The court awarded him 40,000 SEK (4,669 EUR) in damages.<sup>116</sup>

### **c) Location and access to public utilities and infrastructure**

The majority of Roma live in the same residential areas as migrants in apartments that are owned either by municipalities or private companies. These residential areas are located, for example, in Rosengård in Malmö, Tensta-Rinkeby in Stockholm or in Södertälje. The public transport in Sweden functions well and so does the infrastructure. However, difficulties may arise in terms of having access to cars and being able to afford bus/train cards.

Data on **regulated and unregulated encampments** for Roma are not available, although there are cases that have received much attention in the media. For example, there was a case where 27 EU-Roma nationals, among them adults and children from Romania, were refused permission to rent space on a campsite on grounds that the site was full. A number of other caravans were admitted, however, during the time they were talking to the campsite owners. The group received a total of 200,000 SEK (23,370 EUR) in compensation under the settlement subsequently reached.<sup>117</sup>

### **d) Security of tenure (including forced evictions and expulsions)**

Roma generally lack the financial means to secure tenure since they are often unemployed. Roma who are unemployed might be forced to live in housing that is provided by the social services in municipalities or live on social welfare. The most common reason why families are forced to live in long-term housing solutions (the secondary housing market) provided by the social services in municipalities is often an impending eviction from their homes. This is often due to unpaid rent,

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<sup>114</sup> [Sweden], Diskrimineringsombudsmannen, (2011), *Roma rights: discrimination, paths of redress and how the law can improve the situation of Roma* [p. 52], available at: [ [www.do.se/Documents/Material/English/Roma%20rights.pdf](http://www.do.se/Documents/Material/English/Roma%20rights.pdf)].

<sup>115</sup> [Sweden], Diskrimineringsombudsmannen (2008) *Diskriminering på den svenska bostadsmarknaden – En rapport från DO:s särskilda arbete under åren 2006-2008 kring diskriminering på bostadsmarknaden*.

<sup>116</sup> [Sweden], *Hovrättens mål* nr. 3501-08, The Göta Court of Appeal Case nr 3501-08.

<sup>117</sup> [Sweden], Diskrimineringsombudsmannen (2011) *Roma rights: discrimination, paths of redress and how the law can improve the situation of Roma*, [p. 37].

caused by a difficult financial situation of the family.<sup>118</sup> This should also be seen in the light of a growing shortage of housing in municipalities,<sup>119</sup> particularly in urban areas, making it very difficult to secure tenure for Roma who suffer discrimination on the housing market and are affected by the exclusion from the labour market.<sup>120</sup>

A case that is illustrative of an eviction due to ethnic discrimination of a Roma family, involves a pregnant woman with three children who signed a lease with a sole proprietorship in Western Sweden. Although the complaint was made in 2005, which is outside the timeframe of this report, this case has had consequences as far as 2009. The complaint was related to the fact that while the Roma family was out of town, the landlord changed the lock on the flat and evicted the family. The district court found that the landlord's actions were due to the woman's ethnic background and awarded her 50,000 SEK (5,770 EUR) in damages.<sup>121</sup> As a consequence of the eviction, the social services took her three children to foster care. The reason given for doing so was that the mother did not have housing.<sup>122</sup>

Another case of eviction concerns a Roma woman in Sundsvall who was evicted from her flat a few weeks after she had signed a lease. The landlord claimed that his actions were due to the fact that she had disturbed the neighbours. The landlord had also given the woman special rules which were not applied to other residents, for instance, prohibiting the woman's family to visit her. The case led to a settlement before suit in May 2008 and the housing company paid 60,000 SEK (6,920 EUR) in damages.<sup>123</sup>

#### e) Residential segregation

The fact that Roma are often directed to segregated and socially deprived residential areas and have very little chance of choosing their housing themselves was noted several years ago in the report *Diskriminering av romer i Sverige* (Discrimination of Roma in Sweden).<sup>124</sup> The report of the Ombudsman against Ethnic Discrimination in 2008 discusses the situation of the Roma in Sundsvall who claim that they have tried to obtain housing through private and municipality owned housing companies, but have not succeeded. The general perception seems to be that once one has been given housing in the area, it is impossible to obtain other or better housing. The right to adequate housing is perceived as a right that is granted to "other" residents of Sundsvall. The Roma clearly articulate that their housing conditions affect other parts of their lives. For example, Roma believe that it is a disadvantage to state where they live on employment applications since it evokes negative perceptions about the applicant.<sup>125</sup>

In August 2010, the Equality Ombudsman published a study on discrimination in the housing market based on discrimination testing. The property rental market was examined through almost 400 phone calls to 150 tenants in 90 different locations. The property purchasing estate market was examined by a total of 44 visits in Stockholm, Helsingborg and Lund. The study revealed that discrimination on ground of ethnicity occurred to a greater extent than on other grounds, targeting mainly people of foreign background in the property rental market and Finnish Roma and Muslims in the property purchasing estate market respectively.

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<sup>118</sup> [Sweden], Socialstyrelsen (2011), *Hemlöshet och utestängning från bostadsmarknaden 2011 – omfattning och karaktär*, [p. 66], available at: [ [www.socialstyrelsen.se/Lists/Artikelkatalog/Attachments/18523/2011-12-8.pdf](http://www.socialstyrelsen.se/Lists/Artikelkatalog/Attachments/18523/2011-12-8.pdf) ].

<sup>119</sup> [Sweden], Socialstyrelsen (2011), *Hemlöshet och utestängning från bostadsmarknaden 2011 – omfattning och karaktär*, [p. 70], available at: [ [www.socialstyrelsen.se/Lists/Artikelkatalog/Attachments/18523/2011-12-8.pdf](http://www.socialstyrelsen.se/Lists/Artikelkatalog/Attachments/18523/2011-12-8.pdf) ].

<sup>120</sup> [Sweden], Diskrimineringsombudsmannen (2008) *Diskriminering på den svenska bostadsmarknaden – En rapport från DO:s särskilda arbete under åren 2006-2008 kring diskriminering på bostadsmarknaden*.

<sup>121</sup> [Sweden], Diskrimineringsombudsmannen, Complaint, OMED 2005/1209

<sup>122</sup> [Sweden], Diskrimineringsombudsmannen, Complaint ANM 2009/84

<sup>123</sup> [Sweden], Diskrimineringsombudsmannen, Complaint, OMED 2005/1040

<sup>124</sup> [Sweden], DO (Ombudsmannen mot etnisk diskriminering) (2004), *Diskriminering av romer i Sverige: rapport från DO:s projekt åren 2002 och 2003 om åtgärder för att förebygga och motverka etnisk diskriminering av romer*. Stockholm: Ombudsmannen mot etnisk diskriminering.

<sup>125</sup> [Sweden], Diskrimineringsombudsmannen, (2008) *Diskriminering på den svenska bostadsmarknaden – En rapport från DO:s särskilda arbete under åren 2006-2008 kring diskriminering på bostadsmarknaden*.

The National Roma Youth Association has argued that the problem of segregation of the Roma is also manifested in different ways, depending on the size of the city. In both big and small cities, Roma have difficulties finding and keeping an apartment. In big cities, the housing shortage contributes to a situation where the landlords have an increased opportunity to choose tenants. In small cities, where there is no housing shortage, the landlords object to having Roma as tenants. Many landlords object on the basis of names typically associated with Roma.<sup>126</sup>

#### **f) Experiences and perceptions of racial/ethnic discrimination**

On 31 July 2010, the Equality Ombudsman submitted a report to the Government on discrimination in the housing market.<sup>127</sup> According to the report, the Roma are one of the most segregated groups in the society. Discriminatory behaviour and harassment by landlords or neighbours is reported to be the main reason for segregation. The Equality Ombudsman also revealed in its 2010 annual report that complaints from Roma constitute 20% of the complaints on discrimination in the housing market, both in terms of provision of apartments for rent and purchase of private apartments.<sup>128</sup> So far, the Equality Ombudsman has received 45 complaints from Roma and also two judgments and three settlements have been reached concerning discrimination in the housing market in Sweden. This is an indication that the Roma have limited chances of finding a home on the same terms as others or choosing a home on the basis of their own needs.<sup>129</sup>

An examination of the complaints to the Equality Ombudsman relating to discrimination of Roma in the housing market shows that both municipal and private actors are involved.<sup>130</sup> As cases involving discrimination of Roma in the housing market have shown, landlords tend to attribute the special treatment they give Roma to negative perceptions held by other tenants who consider Roma undesirable as tenants and neighbours. Complaints from Roma also show unsatisfactory conditions such as insecurity at home, and the gathering of petitions by neighbours seeking to prevent Roma families from moving into an area or in response to perceived disturbances.<sup>131</sup>

Discriminatory practices in connection with the purchase of tenant-owned flats are also described in some complaints to the Equality Ombudsman.<sup>132</sup> This kind of discrimination is confirmed by a study conducted by the Institute for Housing and Urban Research at Uppsala University. The study observed how estate agents treated clients in practice and concluded that Roma are systematically discriminated against during visits to properties.<sup>133</sup>

The Equality Ombudsman concludes that discrimination of the Roma in the housing market is a complex matter and affects the chances of the Roma of taking part in community life on equal terms.

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<sup>126</sup> Romska Ungdomsförbundet, available at: [ [www.rufs.org](http://www.rufs.org) ].

<sup>127</sup> [Sweden], Equality Ombudsman (*Diskrimineringsombudsmannen*), (2008) *Diskriminering på den svenska bostadsmarknaden – En rapport från DO:s särskilda arbete under åren 2006-2008 kring diskriminering på bostadsmarknaden*, available at: [ [www.do.se/Documents/Material/Rapporter/Diskriminering%20p%C3%A5%20bostadsmarknaden.pdf](http://www.do.se/Documents/Material/Rapporter/Diskriminering%20p%C3%A5%20bostadsmarknaden.pdf) ].

<sup>128</sup> [Sweden], Equality Ombudsman (*Diskrimineringsombudsmannen*) (2010), *Årsredovisning 2010*, Stockholm, available at: [ [www.do.se/Documents/Material/%C3%85rsredovisningar/arsredovisningdo2010.pdf](http://www.do.se/Documents/Material/%C3%85rsredovisningar/arsredovisningdo2010.pdf) ].

<sup>129</sup> [Sweden], Equality Ombudsman (*Diskrimineringsombudsmannen*), (2011), *Roma rights: discrimination, paths of redress and how the law can improve the situation of Roma*, [p. 50], available at: [ [www.do.se/Documents/Material/English/Roma%20rights.pdf](http://www.do.se/Documents/Material/English/Roma%20rights.pdf) ].

<sup>130</sup> [Sweden], Equality Ombudsman (*Diskrimineringsombudsmannen*), (2011), *Roma rights: discrimination, paths of redress and how the law can improve the situation of Roma*, [p. 51], available at: [ [www.do.se/Documents/Material/English/Roma%20rights.pdf](http://www.do.se/Documents/Material/English/Roma%20rights.pdf) ].

<sup>131</sup> [Sweden], Equality Ombudsman (*Diskrimineringsombudsmannen*), (2011), *Roma rights: discrimination, paths of redress and how the law can improve the situation of Roma* [p. 48], available at: [ [www.do.se/Documents/Material/English/Roma%20rights.pdf](http://www.do.se/Documents/Material/English/Roma%20rights.pdf) ].

<sup>132</sup> [Sweden], Equality Ombudsman (*Diskrimineringsombudsmannen*), (2011), *Roma rights: discrimination, paths of redress and how the law can improve the situation of Roma* [p. 52], available at: [ [www.do.se/Documents/Material/English/Roma%20rights.pdf](http://www.do.se/Documents/Material/English/Roma%20rights.pdf) ].

<sup>133</sup> Irene Molina et al (2010), *Uthyrarens och fastighetsmäklarens bemötande av kunder ur ett diskrimineringsperspektiv* [Lessor and estate agent treatment of customers from a discrimination viewpoint], Uppsala.

In its opinion, this is serious because without a permanent home or security of tenancy it is either difficult or impossible for people to take control of their own lives. Discrimination in the housing market may also make it more difficult for Roma children to attend school on a regular basis, thereby damaging the educational prospects of the Roma. The relationship between rights, such as rights for housing and education, is a clear example of how chain reactions caused by structural discrimination develop and contribute to a situation where many Roma find themselves on the margins of society.<sup>134</sup>

In 2006, the Ombudsman against Ethnic Discrimination took up a special initiative to combat discrimination in the housing market with a focus on three cities: Göteborg, Malmö and Sundsvall. The purpose of this effort was to increase awareness of structural and individual discrimination, increase knowledge of rights and opportunities of individuals to fight against discrimination, to initiate long-term efforts by and in cooperation with various actors in the housing market to combat and prevent discrimination. The work was mainly based on dialogue and human rights trainings. The Ombudsman against Ethnic Discrimination also collaborated with a reference group which involved the participation of several housing companies, NGOs, municipalities concerned, researchers, representatives of ethnic minorities and of the Government.<sup>135</sup>

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<sup>134</sup> [Sweden], Equality Ombudsman (*Diskrimineringsombudsmannen*), (2011), Roma rights: discrimination, paths of redress and how the law can improve the situation of Roma [p. 53], available at: [[www.do.se/Documents/Material/English/Roma%20rights.pdf](http://www.do.se/Documents/Material/English/Roma%20rights.pdf)].

<sup>135</sup> [Sweden], Equality Ombudsman (*Diskrimineringsombudsmannen*), (2008) *Diskriminering på den svenska bostadsmarknaden – En rapport från DO:s särskilda arbete under åren 2006-2008 kring diskriminering på bostadsmarknaden*.



## 5 Health

There is lack of official data regarding the health situation of Roma and the only data that are available comes from qualitative research. As a rule, pursuant to the Swedish Personal Data Act (1998: 204), the collection of this kind of data is prohibited.<sup>136</sup>

### a) Health status/limitations in daily activities/disability

The National Institute of Public Health (*Folkhälsoinstitutet*) was mandated by the Government to conduct a study on the health status of the national minorities, publishing a report in 2010. Data on Roma were collected in September-October 2009 by a number of Roma interviewers who were selected specifically for this purpose. Roma respondents showed scepticism towards using questionnaires and associated surveys with fear of registration and this is why qualitative methods were used instead. A social anthropologist was hired to conduct interviews with Roma activists. In total, there were 32 individual interviews and 32 focus groups. A total of 10 interviews were conducted with Roma activists. This means that around 300 Roma participated in the study, of which slightly more than half were women. The sample of respondents was representative of a large proportion of the Roma community, i.e. respondents were unemployed, dependent on financial assistance or early retirement. Several of the participants were students and only a few had permanent employment. The age of the respondents ranged from 18 to 75 years old.

The main findings showed that cardiovascular disease, physical inactivity and a high fat diet were more common among Roma than among the majority population. High alcohol consumption was common among men and young people and gambling, tablet and drug abuse was a growing problem. The report concluded that the health status of Roma is associated with their marginalisation in society, under-stimulation, poor diet, poor exercise habits and low vaccination rates. A general widespread abuse of medication among Roma is a growing issue.<sup>137</sup>

The chairperson of the International Roma and Travellers Women's Forum (*Internationella Rom och Resande Kvinnoforum*) addressed the health problems faced by Roma women. She explained that Roma women experience much stress, which is associated with a high workload at home. Low self-esteem is also common due to the lack of education, unemployment and isolation from the mainstream society, which contributes addiction to sedatives and/or alcohol as a way of handling pressuring family obligations and escaping pressure from the society.<sup>138</sup>

### b) Unmet needs in the area of health

On 4 July 2012, the Government tasked the National Institute of Public Health to conduct a study on Roma girls and women's lives and health. The study will include identifying the support Roma girls and women need and their unmet needs in the area of health. The study will be conducted in dialogue with Roma girls and women and experts.<sup>139</sup>

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<sup>136</sup> Kaplan, Robert B. and Baldauf Jr., Richard B. (2005), *Language Planning and Policy in Europe: Finland, Hungary and Sweden*, Clevedon: Multilingual Matters Limited, [p. 257].

<sup>137</sup> [Sweden], Sweden, Statens Folkhälsoinstitut (2010). Hur mår Sveriges Nationella Minoriteter, Östersund: Statens Folkhälsoinstitut, [p. 10], available at: [[www.fhi.se/Documents/Om-oss/redovisade-uppdrag/2010/Aterrapportering\\_regeringsuppdrag\\_nationella\\_minoriteters\\_halsa.pdf](http://www.fhi.se/Documents/Om-oss/redovisade-uppdrag/2010/Aterrapportering_regeringsuppdrag_nationella_minoriteters_halsa.pdf)].

<sup>138</sup> [Sweden], International Roma and Travellers Women's Forum (*Internationella Rom och Resande Kvinnoforum*, IRKF), available at: [[http://romskakvinnoforum.dinstudio.se/text1\\_16.html](http://romskakvinnoforum.dinstudio.se/text1_16.html)].

<sup>139</sup> [Sweden], Regeringen (2012), Arbetsmarknadsdepartementet, Uppdrag angående fördjupad studie om romska flickors och kvinnors livssituation och hälsa, A2012/2102/DISK, 4 July 2012, available at: [[www.regeringen.se/sb/d/15548/a/196370](http://www.regeringen.se/sb/d/15548/a/196370)].

The National Institute of Public Health (*Folkhälsoinstitutet*) pointed out that Roma generally waited long before they sought health care due to the distrust of medical personnel.<sup>140</sup> Furthermore, a large proportion of Roma who have lived in Sweden for a long time are in early retirement due to illness. They often feel that they do not get enough time or help in the Swedish healthcare system. Sometimes they do not get an interpreter and they are afraid of being discriminated against. This often leads to Roma seeking care too late.

The Delegation for Roma Rights (*Delegationen för romska frågor*) addressed the health status of former Roma travellers and their unmet needs in the area of health. The delegation noted that among this group there are many who suffer from rheumatic conditions, but also as a consequence of not visiting healthcare providers too often. The travelling lifestyle might have contributed to having a poor diet which in turn might have effects on their health status in present day.<sup>141</sup> Finnish Roma women who wear heavy traditional skirts might be at risk of increasing back pain and other musculoskeletal injuries. Another health issue highlighted by the Delegation for Roma rights is that many Roma women do not use public restrooms. This applies to toilets that are shared by men and women. In addition to the discomfort of not being able to visit a toilet, this can lead to problems such as urinary tract infections and catarrh. In case there is a reluctance to seek medical attention for various vaginal infections, this could hide significant health problems and suffering.<sup>142</sup> The delegation's representative also drew attention to child marriages as a reality in the Roma communities while noting that there is limited knowledge about the impact child marriages might have on the young Roma girls' health and that the issue is not discussed enough. The situation is complicated because issues of sexuality are sensitive or outright taboo in some Roma communities. The Delegation of Roma Rights suggests that sex education be an important health measure to support Roma youth and that this education should be adapted to the Roma culture in a sensitive way.<sup>143</sup>

A report, *Lyssna, förklara och förstå* (2011), provides insights on Roma migrants' encounters with the Swedish health care system. The aim of the study was to examine experiences of the Roma migrants in terms of healthcare.<sup>144</sup> The data were collected in 2007-2009, with follow-up interviews in 2010. A total of 48 people, 25 men and 23 women between 18 and 55 years of age were interviewed. In addition, 74 questionnaires were collected. The respondents were from Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Serbia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Bosnia, Turkey, Germany, Italy and Finland. They belong to the following Roma groups: Lovara, Arli, Polish Roma, Rumungri and Kale. One of the issues discussed in the study is that Roma women generally do not want to be examined by male doctors. This is especially common among older Roma women and can lead to insufficient health care or communication problems with medical staff. The same problem appears among Roma men, who prefer male doctors.<sup>145</sup> Another problem discussed was that during a visit to the gynaecologist Roma women might not want a male interpreter. The study concludes that Roma patients want to be seen as individuals and treated with respect. Any cultural competence conveyed should be done with great respect for the Roma culture. However, according to the report, culture should not be seen as static and the Roma should not be seen as a homogeneous group in their contacts with healthcare professionals.<sup>146</sup>

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<sup>140</sup> [Sweden], Sweden, Statens Folkhälsoinstitut (2010). Hur mår Sveriges Nationella Minoriteter, Östersund: Statens Folkhälsoinstitut, [p. 10], available at: [[www.fhi.se/Documents/Om-oss/redovisade-uppdrag/2010/Atterapportering\\_regeringsuppdrag\\_nationella\\_minoriteters\\_halsa.pdf](http://www.fhi.se/Documents/Om-oss/redovisade-uppdrag/2010/Atterapportering_regeringsuppdrag_nationella_minoriteters_halsa.pdf)].

<sup>141</sup> [Sweden], Swedish Government Report, SOU 2010:55 (2010), "Romers rätt – en strategi för romer i Sverige" [Roma rights: A strategy for Roma in Sweden], report from the Delegation for Roma Issues, Stockholm. [p. 93].

<sup>142</sup> [Sweden], Swedish Government Report, SOU 2010:55 (2010), "Romers rätt – en strategi för romer i Sverige" [Roma rights: A strategy for Roma in Sweden], report from the Delegation for Roma Issues, Stockholm. [p. 94].

<sup>143</sup> [Sweden], Swedish Government Report, SOU 2010:55 (2010), "Romers rätt – en strategi för romer i Sverige" [Roma rights: A strategy for Roma in Sweden], report from the Delegation for Roma Issues, Stockholm. [p. 94].

<sup>144</sup> Margareta Popoola (2011), *Lyssna, förklara och förstå*. Romska migranters möten med sjukvård i Sverige, Malmö högskola.

<sup>145</sup> Margareta Popoola (2011), *Lyssna, förklara och förstå*. Romska migranters möten med sjukvård i Sverige, Malmö högskola.

<sup>146</sup> Margareta Popoola (2011), *Lyssna, förklara och förstå*. Romska migranters möten med sjukvård i Sverige, Malmö högskola.

### c) Medical insurance coverage

For the purpose of this report the Swedish Social Insurance Agency (*Försäkringskassan*), the body that administers medical insurance, was contacted.<sup>147</sup> However, it had no statistics or information about the situation of Roma and medical insurance coverage since pursuant to section 13 of the Personal Data Act (PDA), processing personal data revealing, for example, race or ethnic origin is prohibited.<sup>148</sup> A desk review of studies about Roma and health showed that in the 2006-2012 period there are no reports or studies that may provide an insight into the medical insurance coverage among Roma.

### d) Circumstances around giving birth

There is a lack of studies specifically on Roma and circumstances around giving birth. The Government tasked the National Institute of Public Health (*Folkhälsoinstitutet*) to conduct a study of Roma girls and women's lives and health. The study will include identifying the support Roma girls and women need and their unmet needs in the area of health. The study will be conducted in dialogue with Roma girls and women and experts. The National Institute of Public Health will submit the final report to the Government on 1 March 2012.<sup>149</sup>

### e) Experiences and perceptions of racial/ethnic discrimination

The report on the health situation of national minorities, published by the National Institute of Public Health (*Folkhälsoinstitutet*), shows that there is a lack of knowledge of national minorities and their culture, rights and health status among authorities and health care professionals as well as among the majority population. Discrimination, exclusion and unemployment are mentioned as key challenges in public health work. The Roma respondents in the report explained that they encountered disrespect in health care services, which diminished their trust and prevented them from seeking health care.<sup>150</sup> At the same time, some of the Roma respondents stated they were treated like any other patient. Some of them pointed out that this may be related to the fact that they had chosen not to reveal their Roma identity and instead only said that they were from Bosnia. The majority of the respondents agreed that no matter how one was treated, most of them witnessed a lack of knowledge about the Roma culture from the part of the Swedish medical staff, resulting in misunderstanding and in some cases, conflicts between Roma patients and health professionals.<sup>151</sup> Respondents talked about how they felt discriminated against because of their Roma identity. The clearest example was the lack of respect for the Roma culture that appeared when they were rejected from hospitals because a large family group gathered to encourage a sick member and his family. The risk of being discriminated against also meant that they refrained from seeking help until the situation was really serious.<sup>152</sup>

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<sup>147</sup> Telephone interview on 8 October 2012 with the Swedish Social Insurance Agency (*Försäkringskassan*).

<sup>148</sup> [Sweden], *Skolinspektionens rapport* (2012: 2), [p. 16],

[[www.skolinspektionen.se/Documents/Kvalitetsgranskning/min/kvalgr-min-slutrapport.pdf](http://www.skolinspektionen.se/Documents/Kvalitetsgranskning/min/kvalgr-min-slutrapport.pdf)].

<sup>149</sup> [Sweden], Regeringen (2012), Arbetsmarknadsdepartementet, Uppdrag angående fördjupad studie om romska flickors och kvinnors livssituation och hälsa, A2012/2102/DISK, 4 July 2012, available at:

[[www.regeringen.se/sb/d/15548/a/196370](http://www.regeringen.se/sb/d/15548/a/196370)]

<sup>150</sup> [Sweden], Sweden, Statens Folkhälsoinstitut (2010). Hur mår Sveriges Nationella Minoriteter, p.10, Östersund: Statens Folkhälsoinstitut, [p. 59], available at: [[www.fhi.se/Documents/Om-oss/redovisade-uppdrag/2010/Aterrapportering\\_regeringsuppdrag\\_nationella\\_minoriteters\\_halsa.pdf](http://www.fhi.se/Documents/Om-oss/redovisade-uppdrag/2010/Aterrapportering_regeringsuppdrag_nationella_minoriteters_halsa.pdf)].

<sup>151</sup> [Sweden], Sweden, Statens Folkhälsoinstitut (2010). Hur mår Sveriges Nationella Minoriteter, p.10, Östersund: Statens Folkhälsoinstitut, [p. 59], available at: [[www.fhi.se/Documents/Om-oss/redovisade-uppdrag/2010/Aterrapportering\\_regeringsuppdrag\\_nationella\\_minoriteters\\_halsa.pdf](http://www.fhi.se/Documents/Om-oss/redovisade-uppdrag/2010/Aterrapportering_regeringsuppdrag_nationella_minoriteters_halsa.pdf)].

<sup>152</sup> [Sweden], Sweden, Statens Folkhälsoinstitut (2010). Hur mår Sveriges Nationella Minoriteter, p.10, Östersund: Statens Folkhälsoinstitut, [p. 59], available at: [[www.fhi.se/Documents/Om-oss/redovisade-uppdrag/2010/Aterrapportering\\_regeringsuppdrag\\_nationella\\_minoriteters\\_halsa.pdf](http://www.fhi.se/Documents/Om-oss/redovisade-uppdrag/2010/Aterrapportering_regeringsuppdrag_nationella_minoriteters_halsa.pdf)].



## Major projects and initiatives

The project “*Empowerment och delaktighet kring hälsa bland romer i Västsverige*” (Empowerment and participation about health among Roma in western Sweden) focuses on community organizing and health. In 2010, the Swedish ESF Council granted the University of West Sweden (*Högskolan Väst*) 6.7 million SEK (772,620 EUR) from the European Social Fund. The objective of the project was to train 6 Roma coordinators to work as local coordinators in their own communities. They will be working with planning and implementing activities within the areas of Roma culture and health. The coordinators will also work to train the National Employment Service, the national Insurance Agency, local authorities and police authorities in Roma issues. The goal of the project is that through the work undertaken by the local coordinators, the Roma communities will be empowered to take control over their own health and life, to increase their influence in matters that concern them and feel part of the local community.

The project ran from 1 October 2010 to 31 July 2012. The project will also work with partners in Greece, Hungary, the UK and Finland.<sup>153</sup>

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<sup>153</sup> Empowerment och delaktighet kring hälsa bland romer i Västsverige available at: [[www4.goteborg.se/prod/sk/Folkhalsan/dalis2.nsf/vyFilArkiv/Informationsbrochyr.PDF/\\$file/Informationsbrochyr.PDF](http://www4.goteborg.se/prod/sk/Folkhalsan/dalis2.nsf/vyFilArkiv/Informationsbrochyr.PDF/$file/Informationsbrochyr.PDF)].

## 6 Poverty/Economic situation

There is a lack of official data regarding Roma and their poverty/economic situation and the only data that are available stem from qualitative research. As a main rule, pursuant to the Swedish Personal Data Act, the collection of this kind of data is prohibited.<sup>154</sup>

### a) Households at risk-of-poverty

The pilot study on the situation of the Roma in Västerås from 2009 showed that Roma children and young people are affected by their parents' poor financial situation. For example, many parents cannot afford to have their children participate in recreational activities. Poverty is also said to be the reason why some young people are drawn to gangs committing crimes and abuse. The study sample comprised of eight young Roma in elementary school and three teachers with experience teaching Roma children in Västerås but from different schools. The Roma included in the study are Finnish, Polish and Bosnian. In the pilot study, the respondents were in their late teens and the other respondents were between 11 and 16 years old. The questions used in the study were designed with the help of the interview guide from the Swedish National Agency for Education (*Skolverket*).<sup>155</sup>

### b) Income/expenditure

There is a lack of disaggregated data as revealed by desk research and a telephone conversation on 23 October 2012 with an expert on Roma issues who works for the Equality Ombudsman and as an investigator in the Government White paper on abuses towards Roma.

### c) Financial situation/social transfers/debts/borrowing

The report of the National Institute of Public Health (*Folkhälsoinstitutet*) on the health care situation of national minorities<sup>156</sup> raised the issue of gambling addiction. The report confirmed an increasing problem among Roma men and young people, mainly boys, of gambling. This problem affects entire families as many Roma have acquired debts because of this addiction.<sup>157</sup>

The National Roma Youth Association (*Romska Ungdomsförbundet*) started a project called 'All in' to address the need to help Roma who are addicted to gambling and increase awareness of the problem. One of the aims of the project was to map and analyse the situation of gambling addiction through local Roma organisations. About 6-10 organisations were examined each year. In spring 2012, a questionnaire was developed as part of the evaluation of the project with questions related to gambling habits. Overall, 88 people responded, but it is highly likely that only those responded who are active in the Roma Youth Association. Therefore, the responses cannot be interpreted as giving an accurate and complete picture of all Roma youth's relation to gambling and gambling addiction. The survey showed that almost half of the respondents either gambled themselves or knew of family members, close relatives or close acquaintances who gambled. The Roma Youth Association pointed out that although the results of their mapping of gambling addiction among Roma are indicative of the

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<sup>154</sup> Kaplan, Robert B. and Baldauf Jr., Richard B. (2005), *Language Planning and Policy in Europe: Finland, Hungary and Sweden*, Clevedon: Multilingual Matters Limited, [p. 257]

<sup>155</sup> [Sweden], Skolverket (2007). *Romer i skolan – en fördjupad studie*. Stockholm: Fritzes.

<sup>156</sup> [Sweden], Folkhälsoinstitutet, (2010), p. 59, available at: [[www.fhi.se/Documents/Om-oss/redovisade-uppdrag/2010/Aterrapportering\\_regeringsuppdrag\\_nationella\\_minoriteters\\_halsa.pdf](http://www.fhi.se/Documents/Om-oss/redovisade-uppdrag/2010/Aterrapportering_regeringsuppdrag_nationella_minoriteters_halsa.pdf)].

<sup>157</sup> [Sweden], Statens Folkhälsoinstitut (2010). *Hur mår Sveriges Nationella Minoriteter*, p.10, Östersund: Statens Folkhälsoinstitut, [p. 58], available at: [[www.fhi.se/Documents/Om-oss/redovisade-uppdrag/2010/Aterrapportering\\_regeringsuppdrag\\_nationella\\_minoriteters\\_halsa.pdf](http://www.fhi.se/Documents/Om-oss/redovisade-uppdrag/2010/Aterrapportering_regeringsuppdrag_nationella_minoriteters_halsa.pdf)]

extent of the problem, a more thorough research about the actual prevalence of the problem would have to be carried out.<sup>158</sup>

**d) Malnutrition/hunger**

There is a lack of disaggregated data as revealed by desk research and a telephone conversation on 23 October 2012 with an expert on Roma issues who works for the Equality Ombudsman and as an investigator in the Government White paper on abuses towards Roma.

**e) Material deprivation and/or other non-income poverty indicators**

There is a lack of disaggregated data as revealed by desk research and a telephone conversation on 23 October 2012 with an expert on Roma issues who works for the Equality Ombudsman and as an investigator in the Government White paper on abuses towards Roma.

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<sup>158</sup> Sweden, Romska Ungdomsförbundet, All in!, available at: [ [www.rufs.org](http://www.rufs.org) ].

## 7 Active citizenship/Rights awareness

### a) Awareness of the existence of representative Roma organisations, other civil society organisations, anti-discrimination legislation and equality bodies;

On 16 February 2012, the Government adopted a coordinated and long-term strategy for the inclusion of Roma for the period 2012–2032.<sup>159</sup> The implementation of the strategy involves Roma participation and Roma influence, focusing on enhancing and continuously monitoring Roma access to human rights at the local, regional and national level.

The overall goal of the 20-year strategy is for every Roma youth who turns 20 in 2032 to have the same opportunities in life as all non-Roma youth. The rights of the 20-year-old Roma in 2032 should be safeguarded within the ordinary structures of society to the same extent as the rights of 20-year-olds among the rest of the population. The target group are Roma who are socially and economically excluded and those who are subjected to discrimination. Women and children are a special priority. The Government has allocated 46 million SEK (5,3 million EUR) for the period 2012–2015 for the implementation of the measures. This sum is earmarked and it is in addition to the ordinary allocations to national minorities.<sup>160</sup>

The strategy is based on proposals from the final report from the Swedish Delegation for Roma issues delivered to the Government in 2010. Besides pointing out that Roma have limited access to education and lack awareness of their rights, the Delegation also found evidence of a deep confidence divide, which endangers all efforts to improve the situation. To counteract this, the Delegation proposed that a reconciliation process should be initiated through the means of a truth commission with a mandate to uncover past abuses of the Roma minority in Sweden. The Delegation also pointed out that reforms in themselves would not improve the situation, which is why it proposed a political, financial and organisational push – a Swedish Roma Strategy. The strategy should be implemented and concluded during the course of 20 years. According to the Delegation, the strategy should have three over-arching goals: close the welfare divide between Roma and mainstream society, reduce the power deficit of Roma, and bridge the confidence gap while building trust in state institutions and mainstream society among Roma.<sup>161</sup>

The awareness of Roma organizations at the local, regional and national level is high among the Roma, but what is missing is a unified Roma voice through a central Roma organization. The Delegation for Roma Rights noted that during Government consultations with national minorities, other minorities were represented by their central organizations, while the Roma were represented by various organizations.<sup>162</sup>

One of the measures that the Government has drawn up within the framework of the Roma strategy is to introduce a pilot project in a number of municipalities. The goal is to raise awareness of Roma organisations in municipalities in the implementation of the new Roma strategy by means of consultation.<sup>163</sup> Cooperation, awareness and participation of Roma organisations will be important in the training of bridge builders between the communities, testing the use of health communicators and increased knowledge of the extent to which support is given to Roma children in schools. The

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<sup>159</sup> [Sweden], Ministry of Employment, (2012), A strategy for Roma inclusion for the period 2012–2032 (official communication 2011/12:56), *En samordnad och långsiktig strategi för romsk inkludering 2012–2032* (skr. 2011/12:56).

<sup>160</sup> [Sweden], Ministry of Employment, (2012), A strategy for Roma inclusion for the period 2012–2032 (official communication 2011/12:56), *En samordnad och långsiktig strategi för romsk inkludering 2012–2032* (skr. 2011/12:56).

<sup>161</sup> [Sweden], Swedish Government Report, SOU 2010:55 (2010), “Romers rätt – en strategi för romer i Sverige” [Roma rights: A strategy for Roma in Sweden], report from the Delegation for Roma Issues, Stockholm.p. 93.

<sup>162</sup> [Sweden], Swedish Government Report, SOU 2010:55 (2010), “Romers rätt – en strategi för romer i Sverige” [Roma rights: A strategy for Roma in Sweden], report from the Delegation for Roma Issues, Stockholm. [p. 271-272].

<sup>163</sup> [Sweden], Swedish Government Report, SOU 2010:55 (2010), “Romers rätt – en strategi för romer i Sverige” [Roma rights: A strategy for Roma in Sweden], report from the Delegation for Roma Issues, Stockholm. [p. 271-272].

Stockholm County Administrative Board will be responsible for monitoring and coordinating the project. The National Agency for Education, the Public Employment Service and the Equality Ombudsman will be involved, and the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions will also be invited to participate. Progress reports on the implementation of the strategy will be presented annually to the Parliament in the budget proposal.<sup>164</sup>

The Equality Ombudsman has for several years worked with rights-based awareness raising seminars with the Roma community. Cooperation with Roma reference groups has been established through a knowledge-building process throughout the years and it has been instrumental in identifying problems and measures that show the existence of discrimination against Roma. The Equality Ombudsman has, in some reference groups dealing with discrimination in the housing market, included representatives of housing companies, landlords, tenant associations, municipalities, the research community, ethnic minorities and the Government. These reference groups provided a platform for dialogue between representatives of the Roma groups exposed to discrimination and the actors specifically responsible for ensuring access to fundamental rights.<sup>165</sup> This rights-based awareness work has contributed to increasing awareness of protection against discrimination and established trust between the Roma and the Ombudsman against Ethnic Discrimination. Different Roma groups have been targeted such as Roma youth, Roma in segregated housing areas and Roma women in particular in several locations around the country.<sup>166</sup>

The International Roma and Travellers Women's Forum works to strengthen Roma women's participation in public debates. The organisation has managed to raise awareness of its existence among Roma communities and it is said to have 445 members, of which the majority are Roma women. Roma women were found to be in special need of awareness raising activities to increase their participation and influence over issues that concern them.<sup>167</sup>

The Association for Roma Youth (*Romska Ungdomsförbundet, RUFs*) works to raise awareness among Roma youth on their rights and inform the Swedish society about Roma culture and history. The organisation is well known in the Roma community as a platform where Roma youth can strengthen and develop their position as a national minority.<sup>168</sup>

The Delegation for Roma Rights consulted several municipalities and Roma organisations to map the activities targeted toward Roma communities and with regard to their influence and participation in issues that concern them. In Västmanland, Örebro and Stockholm County, the methods used in these consultations were research studies, meetings with representatives of Roma organizations, individuals and families. Representatives from schools, social services and primary care were also interviewed. The results showed that few municipalities had established forms of consultation with the Roma community. Some municipalities, such as Botkyrka, had experienced difficulties in reaching Roma representatives. The municipal government of Botkyrka decided to include in the annual plan for 2011 a targeted effort to establish contact with the Roma communities in the municipality.<sup>169</sup>

Several municipalities set up functioning Roma consultations. For example, a Council for Roma Affairs (*Rådet för romska frågor*) was founded in Västerås 2009. It has been instrumental in proposing and identifying a number of areas for development. The Council meets once a month in

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<sup>164</sup> [Sweden], Swedish Government Report, SOU 2010:55 (2010), "Romers rätt – en strategi för romer i Sverige" [Roma rights: A strategy for Roma in Sweden], report from the Delegation for Roma Issues, Stockholm. [p. 271-272].

<sup>165</sup> [Sweden], Pikkarainen Heidi (2011), *Romers rättigheter – Diskriminering, vägar till upprättelse och hur juridiken kan bidra till en förändring av romers livsvillkor*, Diskrimineringsombudsmannen (DO): Stockholm, [p. 21].

<sup>166</sup> [Sweden], Pikkarainen Heidi (2011), *Romers rättigheter – Diskriminering, vägar till upprättelse och hur juridiken kan bidra till en förändring av romers livsvillkor*, Diskrimineringsombudsmannen (DO): Stockholm, [p. 21].

<sup>167</sup> *Föreningen Resandefolkets Riksorganisation (FRFO)*, available at: [ <http://resandefolketsriksorganisation.se/>].

<sup>168</sup> *Romska Ungdomsförbundet (RUFs)*, available at: [ [www.rufs.org](http://www.rufs.org) ].

<sup>169</sup> [Sweden], Länsstyrelsen i Stockholms län, (2011a), *Rapport om tillämpningen av lagen om nationella minoriteter och minoritetsspråk år 2010*, available at:

[ [www.lansstyrelsen.se/stockholm/SiteCollectionDocuments/Sv/publikationer/2011/Lagen-om-nationella-minoriteter-tillampning-rapport-2010.pdf](http://www.lansstyrelsen.se/stockholm/SiteCollectionDocuments/Sv/publikationer/2011/Lagen-om-nationella-minoriteter-tillampning-rapport-2010.pdf) ].

study circles and consists of one Polish, two Finnish, two ex-Yugoslavs and two representatives of the municipality of Västerås. The main focus is placed on the areas highlighted in a study from spring 2009 on the Roma's situation. In February 2010, the municipal government (*kommunstyrelsen*) in Västerås set aside 1 million SEK (115,362 EUR) for monitoring and implementing measures to strengthen the participation of Roma communities.<sup>170</sup> Västra Götaland County has for several years an established consultation with representatives of all five national minorities. The division of culture and education in Norrbotten County Council has implemented activities in collaboration with all the national minorities.<sup>171</sup>

The Delegation for Roma issues proposed in its final report that the Government set up an official Roma representative body to increase and strengthen Roma communities. According to the Government, the establishment of a Roma representation or establishment of a Roma management area is currently not feasible. The Government explained that neither the results of the consultation process nor the views put forward at the consultative meetings suggest that there is any strong desire from Roma communities to have a central representative body for Roma issues. What is needed, according to the Government, is to support a trend towards stronger national Roma organisations that can take part in the consultation and cooperation at all levels in the 20-year strategy for Roma inclusion.<sup>172</sup>

## **b) Participation in Elections and Political Representation<sup>173</sup>**

The Election Authority is responsible for public information on when, where and how voting shall take place. The goal is to reach as many people as possible before each election. In 2006, the Election Authority argued in its annual report that segregation and isolation contributed to the disinterest in voting among ethnic and national minorities. Several of the ethnic organisations and national minority organisations said that they must first find a reason to vote and then learn how to do this. Information about the voting process was translated into 21 languages, including minority languages.<sup>174</sup> The Election Authority also had information about the voting cards translated into 14 languages, including Romani Chib. The translations were printed in a brochure "Good to know about the election". The brochure was mainly used in the voting venues and polling stations and it was distributed to associations, organizations and projects relevant to the target audience.<sup>175</sup>

The report 'Roma rights - a strategy for Roma in Sweden' (*Romers rätt- en strategi för romer i Sverige*) of the Delegation for Roma issues from 2010 notes that Sweden is far behind its international commitments in this area. From a European comparison, Sweden was also found to be far behind many of its eastern neighbours, both those who have more and those who have fewer Roma among its citizens when compared to Sweden.<sup>176</sup> The Delegation urged the Government to allocate more

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<sup>170</sup> [Sweden], Länsstyrelsen i Stockholms län, (2011a), *Rapport om tillämpningen av lagen om nationella minoriteter och minoritetsspråk år 2010*, [p.10], available at: [\[www.lansstyrelsen.se/stockholm/SiteCollectionDocuments/Sv/publikationer/2011/Lagen-om-nationella-minoriteter-tillampning-rapport-2010.pdf\]](http://www.lansstyrelsen.se/stockholm/SiteCollectionDocuments/Sv/publikationer/2011/Lagen-om-nationella-minoriteter-tillampning-rapport-2010.pdf).

<sup>171</sup> [Sweden], Länsstyrelsen i Stockholms län, (2011a), *Rapport om tillämpningen av lagen om nationella minoriteter och minoritetsspråk år 2010*, [ p. 10], available at: [\[www.lansstyrelsen.se/stockholm/SiteCollectionDocuments/Sv/publikationer/2011/Lagen-om-nationella-minoriteter-tillampning-rapport-2010.pdf\]](http://www.lansstyrelsen.se/stockholm/SiteCollectionDocuments/Sv/publikationer/2011/Lagen-om-nationella-minoriteter-tillampning-rapport-2010.pdf).

<sup>172</sup> [Sweden], Ministry of Employment, (2012) (A coordinated and long-term strategy for Roma inclusion for the period 2012–2032 (official communication 2011/12:56), [p. 65].

<sup>173</sup> Data and information about the participation of Roma in European, national, regional and local elections are not available according to a telephone conversation (2012-09-05) with the Election Authority (*Valmyndigheten*). They explained that the authority has targeted information campaigns for ethnic and national minorities, but they do not collect data on the number of voters or participation of Roma.

<sup>174</sup> [Sweden], Valmyndigheten (The Election Authority), [p. 6], available at: [\[http://www.val.se/pdf/arsredovisning2006\\_webb.pdf\]](http://www.val.se/pdf/arsredovisning2006_webb.pdf).

<sup>175</sup> [Sweden], Valmyndigheten (The Election Authority), [p. 6], available at: [\[http://www.val.se/pdf/arsredovisning2006\\_webb.pdf\]](http://www.val.se/pdf/arsredovisning2006_webb.pdf).

<sup>176</sup> [Sweden], Valmyndigheten (The Election Authority), [p. 6], available at: [\[http://www.val.se/pdf/arsredovisning2006\\_webb.pdf\]](http://www.val.se/pdf/arsredovisning2006_webb.pdf).



resources to strengthen the political power of Roma, their ability to influence the management authorities over decisions that affect Roma, the degree of autonomy and participation in Roma civil society organization.<sup>177</sup>

Roma political participation was also mentioned by Södertörn University in a communication to the Delegation for Roma issues, suggesting that Roma should be appointed within various funding bodies, such as the Swedish European Social Fund Council, the National Board for Youth Affairs and the Swedish Inheritance Fund Commission. This would provide support for Roma funds applications and also strengthen Roma participation in society.<sup>178</sup>

The report from the Delegation for Roma issues states that even nowadays individuals in Roma communities feel that they have little control and influence over their own lives. Furthermore, it can be assumed that the voting propensity is lower and that Roma are not yet represented in elected assemblies according to their share in the population. Very few elected officials are or were Roma and in many cases they might not have disclosed their Roma identity.<sup>179</sup>

Most Roma who grew up in Sweden during the 20th century lack trust in the Swedish society and the constant instability regarding education and housing has affected their ability to exercise effectively their right of participation in the democratic process. The Delegation emphasized that the prerequisite for Roma to vote and participate in the democratic process is repairing the trust in the mainstream society. The Delegation flagged for strengthening Roma representation and appointment to the governmental, regional and local authorities positions.

The right to participate in elections, both as voters and as candidates is a right that does not exist in practice for Roma. Only a few generations ago, although Roma were Swedish citizens, they were not registered in the national population registration (*folkbokföring*), and could therefore not receive a voting card. According to an interview study conducted by the Delegation for Roma issues with the Kelderash group, the interviewed elderly people said that they voted for the first time in mid 1960s after that they were registered for the census.<sup>180</sup>

### **c) Participation and representation in non-governmental organisations;**

One of the major issues that the Roma communities have stressed is the importance of providing organisational and practical support to Roma organisations to enable them to achieve stability. In the consultative meetings in December 2010, the Delegation for Roma issues (*Delegationen för Romska frågor*) and the Roma organisations stressed in particular the need for earmarked funding for Roma women's associations working on issues like education, abuse, equality and enterprise.<sup>181</sup> Another issue addressed is that when the authorities call on Roma organisations for consultative meetings, the organisations have to pay for the travelling costs themselves, which has been criticised by the Roma organisation for travellers (*Föreningen Resandefolkets Riksorganisation, FRFO*). They argue that

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<sup>177</sup> [Sweden], Swedish Government Report, SOU 2010:55 (2010), "Romers rätt – en strategi för romer i Sverige" [Roma rights: A strategy for Roma in Sweden], report from the Delegation for Roma Issues, Stockholm. [p. 24] [\[www.riksdagen.se/sv/Dokument-Lagar/Utredningar/Statens-offentliga-utredningar/\\_GYB355d2/?text=true\]](http://www.riksdagen.se/sv/Dokument-Lagar/Utredningar/Statens-offentliga-utredningar/_GYB355d2/?text=true).

<sup>178</sup> [Sweden], Ministry of Employment, 2012-02-16 (A coordinated and long-term strategy for Roma inclusion for the period 2012–2032 (official communication 2011/12:56), [p. 63].

<sup>179</sup> [Sweden], Ministry of Employment, 2012-02-16 (A coordinated and long-term strategy for Roma inclusion for the period 2012–2032 (official communication 2011/12:56), [p. 288].

<sup>180</sup> [Sweden], Swedish Government Report, SOU 2010:55 (2010), "Romers rätt – en strategi för romer i Sverige" [Roma rights: A strategy for Roma in Sweden], report from the Delegation for Roma Issues, Stockholm.p. 286, available at: [\[www.riksdagen.se/sv/Dokument-Lagar/Utredningar/Statens-offentliga-utredningar/\\_GYB355d2/?text=true\]](http://www.riksdagen.se/sv/Dokument-Lagar/Utredningar/Statens-offentliga-utredningar/_GYB355d2/?text=true).

<sup>181</sup> [Sweden], Ministry of Employment, 2012-02-16 (A coordinated and long-term strategy for Roma inclusion for the period 2012–2032 (official communication 2011/12:56), [p. 61].

since most Roma organisations have very little resources, they find it difficult to participate and represent their interests due to financial limitations.<sup>182</sup>

The proposal ‘From recognition to autonomy’ stated that the national minorities had criticised the Government for the level of the organisational grant because it was felt that the amount received by each association was so low that they could not carry out the type of activities that could give the national minorities real influence in matters that concerned them. The minorities themselves found it problematic that the groups were competing with each other for relatively modest state funding. The level of support was increased from 2010 onwards to give the national minorities a better chance of taking part in consultations at various levels in matters that concern them. In its proposal on the national minorities, the Government mentioned that it was especially prioritising ways for the national minorities to create effective consultative models within the administrative areas and that the increased support was an important measure to reinforce the autonomy and real influence of the national minorities.<sup>183</sup>

The chairperson of the International Roma and Travellers Women’s Forum explains that poor self-esteem is common among Roma women and that they are excluded even from their own Roma communities when it comes to participating in the public debate. She emphasizes that Roma women are burdened by family obligations and lack education that would make their voices heard. The International Roma and Travellers Women’s Forum therefore works, among others, to empower Roma women and girls to have a voice and participate in public debates through strengthening their self-esteem and creating platforms where young Roma women can act as role models. The organisation has managed to create awareness about its existence among Roma communities and it is the only organised Roma women’s association. Today the organisation is said to have 445 members of whom the majority are Roma women. The organisation receives state funding and was granted 330,000 SEK (38,827 EUR) in 2012 from the Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs (*Ungdomsstyrelsen*) for their basic activities (see Annex 2. Table 9. *Funds allocated to national minorities working with gender equality 2010*).

Another Roma women’s organisation *Le Romane Nevimata* received funds from the Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs (*Ungdomsstyrelsen*) to organize a national Roma Women’s Conference in spring 2012. Within the project “Innovative Roma Women Network” they also organize seminars to increase the skills of Roma women about how to start and run an NGO and thereby increase Roma women’s participation in organisations and the society.

*È Romani Glinda* started in 1998 and publishes a magazine that reaches Roma in Sweden. All Roma get the magazine for free. *È Romani Glinda* also has projects that actively involve Roma women and youth. The organisation has stressed that one of the problems regarding the Roma movement is not having the skills to organise themselves in comparison with other ethnic minority groups and the majority society, which has contributed to various difficulties including holding consultative meetings between the Roma community and the local authorities. *È Romani Glinda* works to strengthen the knowledge of the Roma of the options available to have their voices heard, not least in their municipalities. *È Romani Glinda* therefore supports the Roma by providing education on how to organise themselves and, in particular, on how to integrate gender equality issues in their work. *È Romani Glinda* organises seminars and workshops enabling Roma communities to develop the tools needed to make a difference in society, make their voices heard and improve the consultations with authorities through claiming their rights.<sup>184</sup>

In 2008, the Youth Board was commissioned by the Government to work on projects that aimed to improve the gender balance among the national minorities in Sweden during a 3-year period. *È Romani Glinda* was one of the organizations that received the opportunity to develop different projects, supplementing the on-going work carried out on gender issues within the Roma community.

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<sup>182</sup> *Föreningen Resandefolkets Riksorganisation* (FRFO), available at: [ <http://resandefolketsriksorganisation.se/> ].

<sup>183</sup> [Sweden], Ministry of Employment, 2012-02-16 (A coordinated and long-term strategy for Roma inclusion for the period 2012–2032 (official communication 2011/12:56), [p. 62].

<sup>184</sup> *È Romani Glinda*, available at: [ [www.romaniglinda.se/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=94:fraemja-det-romska-civila-samhaellet&catid=38:vara-projekt&Itemid=37](http://www.romaniglinda.se/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=94:fraemja-det-romska-civila-samhaellet&catid=38:vara-projekt&Itemid=37) ].



Jamis: Equality Minorities in Sweden (*JAMIS: Jämställda Minoriteter i Sverige*) is a platform, which is founded, owned and operated by *É Romani Glinda*. Jamis was developed in collaboration with the five national minorities and with the support from the National Board of Youth Affairs (*Ungdomsstyrelsen*). The platform is created for exchange of information in the form of a web portal that will also serve as a source of information for other organizations that wish to have information about the projects and methods that have been and will be implemented on equality among national minorities. The portal also serves as a platform for organizations to easily and effectively publish information and make visible their work on equality issues.

In 2011, the National Board was commissioned by the Government to continue supporting projects aimed at improving the gender situation among the national minorities in Sweden.

The largest Roma organisation for travellers is *Föreningen Resandefolkets Riksorganisation* (FRFO). Its aim is to elucidate and clarify the culture, language and identity of the travelling communities. The organisation has five local branches and a youth organisation for Roma travellers. FRFO cooperates with other non-governmental organisations arranging workshops and study circles in several locations in Sweden to ensure that their language Swedish-Romani (*svensk-romani*) is preserved. One of the objectives is to get a clear recognition that Roma travellers have their own identity and should not to be confused with other minorities. They have also objected to other groups, such as the newly arrived Roma in Sweden, carelessly using the travellers' history of being in Sweden for 500 years as their own history and taking advantage of the travellers' history. FRFO works to raise awareness among authorities and Roma communities that, together with the Sami, the Roma travellers are the oldest minority in Sweden. By being protective of their own unique history within the Roma community, FRFO is engaged in working to raise funds together with the authorities to help Roma travellers who suffered because of injustices that occurred for several decades and that affected Roma travellers' future and life negatively.

FRFO believes that there should be financial compensation for these injustices from the Swedish Government and the organisation has criticised the Government decision rejecting the proposal about an independent truth commission. The organisation argues that the Government White Paper will only lead to a public apology and no concrete results. It also questions if it is ethically correct for authorities to write a white paper on abuse that the authorities themselves are responsible for.<sup>185</sup>

One of the proposals made by the Delegation for Roma Issues (*Delegationen för Romska frågor*) in their final report is to establish an independent truth commission composed of representatives of various parliamentary parties, human rights organizations, historians, other scholars and experts and above all, representatives of Roma and travellers. The Government decided to reject the idea of a truth commission and instead commissioned the Ministry of Labour to internally compile a white paper.

The author and journalist Bo Hazell published the book *The Traveling People: from Gypsies to Travellers* (2002) and followed the development of the Roma travellers for two decades. Bo Hazell wrote in an article in the newspaper *Dagens Nyheter* (29 December 2011) that an apology from the Government is not enough instead of the establishment of a truth commission and decisions on financial compensation for 500 years of oppression – for example, in the form of a fund to support traveller culture – is essential for the travellers to regain self-respect and pride, both as individuals and as a group. According to Hazell, unless the Government changes the setting, this is a betrayal of Sweden's Roma and Travellers. By extension, it may mean the death knell for traveling people's individuality.<sup>186</sup>

It should also be mentioned that FRFRO did not receive government grants in 2009-2010. This resulted in major financial problems, forcing the organisation to take private loans which they have paid through the government grants received for 2011.<sup>187</sup>

In a report on Malmö's minority policies based on a Roma perspective, it is stated that there are about 15 organizations or groups in Malmö working with Roma issues through different activities. The

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<sup>185</sup> Föreningen Resandefolkets Riksorganisation (FRFO), available at: [<http://resandefolketsriksorganisation.se/>]

<sup>186</sup> *Dagens nyheter, debatt*, 2011-12-29.

<sup>187</sup> Föreningen Resandefolkets Riksorganisation (FRFO), available at: [<http://resandefolketsriksorganisation.se/>].

Roma organisations are divided broadly along nationality, group and family. This division is common and is related to the way in which Roma relate to one another in their community. The Roma Cultural Centre in Malmö is mentioned as an organisation that has successfully implemented projects and activities for Roma. But Roma representatives argue that the Roma Cultural Centre does not have activities that are inclusive and aimed at all Roma groups and therefore a suggestion has been made that the municipality of Malmö should fund a setting up of an organisation that incorporates all Roma, regardless of nationality or group affiliation.<sup>188</sup> Among the Roma representatives interviewed for the purpose of this study, there was dissatisfaction with regard to difficulties in reaching agreements among Roma and regarding the fact that the mainstream society often treats the Roma as a homogeneous group. The Roma representatives expressed a desire to agree in some important areas where the Roma in Malmö can identify common interests. At the same time, the various groups within the Roma minority should be allowed to be different and Roma representatives demand an understanding from the majority society of these differences. Roma representatives express a wish to have a forum where all groups of Roma are represented, where young and old can meet and where both men and women can participate.<sup>189</sup>

The Association for Roma Youth (*Romska Ungdomsförbundet*, RUF) works to raise awareness among Roma youth about their rights and to inform the Swedish society about the Roma culture and history. The organisation is well known in the Roma community as a platform where Roma youth can strengthen and develop their position as a national minority. The organisation has 2,117 members and 23 local organisations around the country.<sup>190</sup> RUF was granted funding from the National Board of Youth Affairs of 400,000 SEK (46,1534 EUR) in 2011 to work with a project on giving Roma youth a voice (*Ge Unga En Röst*). The project is aimed at organising a national platform for Roma youth and organising seminars on human rights. The aim of the project is also to integrate issues of gender equality and anti-discrimination. The project is carried out in cooperation between the anti-discrimination agency in Uppsala (DU) and the Sensus Study Association (*Sensus*).<sup>191</sup>

The National Board of Youth Affairs published in 2009 an interview study with Roma youth (*Unga Romers situationen intervjustudie*). It raised the issues of participation and influence for young people within the Roma community. The study is based on three types of source material: interviews with a sample of young Roma, interviews with key respondents and surveys and follow-up conversations with managers in selected municipalities. A focus group interview with eight young Roma was conducted. In addition, three young Roma were interviewed individually. In total, eleven Roma youth between the 16 and 26 years were interviewed. Of these, five were men and six women. A sample of sixteen municipalities with a high percentage of Roma inhabitants or active Roma associations was chosen. Key respondents linked to Roma youth organizations were interviewed (four women and one man). One of the respondents said that there is a fundamental conflict between the young people's individual needs and older generations' demands and expectations. Collective interests prevail before the needs of the individual. Young Roma women lack knowledge about their rights and it is very important to take this issue seriously, as a key task for associations, government agencies and other organizations. The respondents concluded that there are two issues that need to be addressed: the lack of Roma youth participation in society and the subordination of Roma youth within the Roma community.<sup>192</sup>

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<sup>188</sup> [Sweden], Malmö Stad (2008) Romers situation i Malmö. En rapport om Malmös minoritetspolitik utifrån romernas perspektiv. [p. 9], Malmö Stad:Malmö, available at:

[[http://arkiv.minoritet.se/romadelegationen/www.romadelegationen.se/dynamaster/file\\_archive/081010/3aa13f282914e49f8fc90e0ba922d2bd/romers\\_situation\\_malmo.pdf](http://arkiv.minoritet.se/romadelegationen/www.romadelegationen.se/dynamaster/file_archive/081010/3aa13f282914e49f8fc90e0ba922d2bd/romers_situation_malmo.pdf)].

<sup>189</sup> [Sweden], Malmö Stad (2008) Romers situation i Malmö. En rapport om Malmös minoritetspolitik utifrån romernas perspektiv. [p. 10], Malmö Stad:Malmö, available at:

[[http://arkiv.minoritet.se/romadelegationen/www.romadelegationen.se/dynamaster/file\\_archive/081010/3aa13f282914e49f8fc90e0ba922d2bd/romers\\_situation\\_malmo.pdf](http://arkiv.minoritet.se/romadelegationen/www.romadelegationen.se/dynamaster/file_archive/081010/3aa13f282914e49f8fc90e0ba922d2bd/romers_situation_malmo.pdf)].

<sup>190</sup> *Riksförbundet för Romska Ungdomar*, available at: [[www.rufs.org/](http://www.rufs.org/)].

<sup>191</sup> [Sweden], Ungdomsstyrelsen (2011), Projektbidrag för jämställdhet och mot diskriminering till nationella minoriteter 2011, available at: [[www.ungdomsstyrelsen.se/ad2/user\\_documents/Projektbidrag\\_jb\\_nationella\\_minoriteter\\_2011.pdf](http://www.ungdomsstyrelsen.se/ad2/user_documents/Projektbidrag_jb_nationella_minoriteter_2011.pdf)]

<sup>192</sup>[Sweden], Ungdomsstyrelsen. (2009). *Unga romers situation: En intervjustudie*. p. 19-20, Stockholm: Ungdomsstyrelsen, available at: [[www.ungdomsstyrelsen.se/ad2/user\\_documents/unga\\_romers\\_livssituation.pdf](http://www.ungdomsstyrelsen.se/ad2/user_documents/unga_romers_livssituation.pdf)].

#### **d) Awareness and use of complaints procedures;**

The Equality Ombudsman noted that there is a clear improvement regarding Roma making complaints and asserting their right to non-discrimination by reporting abuses to the authorities. This is a result from the Equality Ombudsman's focus on mutual knowledge building. Prior to the launch of the Roma Project in 2001, the Ombudsman against Ethnic Discrimination received just two or three complaints per year from Roma. Since the completion of the project, the number of complaints has constantly been 30-40 per year. Of the complaints received, about 30 have been resolved by a court judgment or by the parties settling outside the court.

To a large extent, Roma have obtained redress, partly due to the mutual knowledge building process with the Roma communities that has facilitated the development of new methods and procedures in the cases when the Ombudsman investigates individual complaints. The complaints have increasingly been investigated on the basis of the agency's clearer understanding of the situation of the Roma. One important change in procedure has been that the need for oral contact is addressed at each step in the investigation. This is both to secure satisfactory results and to increase trust in the complaints body as a means of obtaining redress.<sup>193</sup>

Roma's willingness to report discrimination cases and paths of redress are recurring themes in the Equality Ombudsman's dialogue with the Roma communities. In these dialogues, Roma have expressed a lack of confidence in institutions and government agencies due to abusive history and infringement of rights that Roma have experienced in the Swedish society. Roma have been suspicious of the efforts of the Equality Ombudsman and of making complaints to the agency – they have a difficult time believing this would actually lead to any effect on their unequal condition. The Equality Ombudsman states that the small number of complaints noted in relation to the education system should therefore be seen in the light of Roma's lack of confidence in the authorities and their fear that, for instance, by reporting a school on grounds of discrimination they may be placing their child in an even more vulnerable position. Also of relevance here is the way in which the Roma regard the school as an institution has been treating their children in the past.<sup>194</sup> By the same token, the relative lack of Roma complaints citing discrimination in working life may be seen in the light of the marginalisation that the Roma community has experienced in the labour market.

Another factor that affects the willingness of Roma to report discrimination is doubt about anti-discrimination legislation as a tool for redress. One major problem is the length of time passing from lodging a complaint to actually achieving redress. Roma complaints tend to relate to urgent problems and the Equality Ombudsman's case investigations may be considered too slow and cumbersome. Moreover, lodging a discrimination complaint demands much energy and strength that many Roma do not always have given their social and economic precarious situation.

An important factor that influences the willingness to make complaints is the amount awarded for damages. The settlements that the Ombudsman against Ethnic Discrimination and the Equality Ombudsman have concluded with the parties have been between 3,000 SEK (346 EUR) and 100,000 SEK (11,538 EUR) per person in compensation and have directly involved over 50 adults and children.

The Equality Ombudsman concluded that in cases when Roma were awarded damages, through court cases, the amount was between 8,000 SEK (923 EUR) and 50,000 SEK (5,769 EUR). In the Equality Ombudsman's view, these levels are inadequate in terms of meeting the dual aims of the legislators, which is to compensate the victims of discrimination and to deter others from engaging in discriminatory practices.

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<sup>193</sup> [Sweden], Kawesa, Victoria (2009), "En utvärdering av DO:s bemötande och kontakt med romska anmälare" [An assessment of the Swedish Equality Ombudsman's treatment of and communication with Roma complainants], Linköping University.

<sup>194</sup> [Sweden], Pikkarainen Heidi (2011), *Romers rättigheter – Diskriminering, vägar till upprättelse och hur juridiken kan bidra till en förändring av romers livsvillkor*. Diskrimineringsombudsmannen (DO): Stockholm

In the new Discrimination Act (1 January 2009), a new penal sanction – compensation for discrimination (*diskrimineringsersättning*) – was introduced. The purpose of this new sanction is to raise the amount of damages awarded in discrimination cases to levels that constitute a very serious deterrent. In the bill proposing the law, the Government observed that “discrimination must be costly”, e.g. when abuses are explicitly racist in character. This should make it possible to raise the levels of compensation in cases concerning discrimination against Roma, and higher levels could thus be expected to have the desired impact as a preventive mechanism.

The Equality Ombudsman’s evaluation study concerning the experiences of Roma with the redress mechanisms concluded that several Roma complainants found that the process in itself is a path to achieving redress, while the agreement to settle out of court is taken as an acknowledgement that abuse has occurred.<sup>195</sup>

The Equality Ombudsman has stated that settlements are an effective legal tool, particularly in view of the Ombudsman’s mandate to promote social change and prevent and combat serious abuses and discriminatory structures. The option of settling out of court means that more people can obtain redress through the Ombudsman. Also, the way in which cases are dealt with follows standard practice in civil law litigation. However, although there are reasons to use settlements as legal tools, this does not create or move forward discrimination case law and the establishment of precedents is limited, since settlement cases are not considered in court.<sup>196</sup>

#### **e) Experiences and perceptions of racial/ethnic discrimination.**

Reports of discrimination against Roma concern mainly housing, justice, social services and the education sectors. In April 2011, the Equality Ombudsman published a report on discrimination against Roma based on an analysis of about 230 cases in which Roma had made complaints on discrimination grounds. The report focuses on the complaints to the Equality Ombudsman, judgments and settlements during 2004-2010. The report was prepared in consultation with a Roma reference group.<sup>197</sup>

There is relatively little research carried out on the attitudes that the majority students have towards national minorities. One of the few in this area is a study of secondary school students’ attitudes in the academic year 2009/2010. Its aim was to explore attitudes towards other groups, such as Roma, Jews and Muslims.<sup>198</sup> The study did not provide information on specific figures comparing Roma children with other groups. However, the study points to the fact that the 4,674 high school students had more negative attitudes towards the Roma students than towards any other group.<sup>199</sup>

Roma women made about 70% of all the complaints lodged by Roma in 2004-2010. Reportedly, they are often being discriminated against and harassed in shops when buying food or clothing. Roma women also reported discrimination in connection with visits to hotels or restaurants. About 25% of all the complaints lodged by Roma – 45 complaints – concerned discrimination in the housing market. Settlements were reached in 18 cases after the Ombudsman had investigated the matter and decided on litigation. Two of these concerned discrimination in working life, three concerned discrimination in the housing market and 13 concerned discrimination in relation to the supply of other goods and services. Seven settlements concerned cases when Roma women had reported being discriminated against in shops.

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<sup>195</sup> [Sweden], Kawesa, Victoria (2009), “En utvärdering av DO:s bemötande och kontakt med romska anmälare” [An assessment of the Swedish Equality Ombudsman’s treatment of and communication with Roma complainants], Linköping University

<sup>196</sup> [Sweden], Pikkarainen Heidi (2011), *Romers rättigheter – Diskriminering, vägar till upprättelse och hur juridiken kan bidra till en förändring av romers livsvillkor*, Diskrimineringsombudsmannen (DO): Stockholm, [p. 21].

<sup>197</sup> [Sweden], Pikkarainen Heidi (2011), *Romers rättigheter – Diskriminering, vägar till upprättelse och hur juridiken kan bidra till en förändring av romers livsvillkor*, Diskrimineringsombudsmannen (DO): Stockholm [p. 18].

<sup>198</sup> Löwander & Lange, 2010.

<sup>199</sup> Löwander & Lange, 2010.

The Equality Ombudsman reports that there has been an increase in complaints from Roma concerning situations in which schools or health care authorities have reported that conditions in a given Roma family need to be investigated. Other complaints involve Roma parents reporting discrimination in connection with cases when their children have been taken into care under the Care of Young Persons (Special Provisions) Act and also when their children have been placed in non-Roma environments. Few complaints from Roma concern the situation of Roma children in schools. Similarly, few Roma report discrimination in working life, the health or medical care services or the justice system.

The Equality Ombudsman concluded that in the cases when Roma were awarded damages, through court cases, the amount was between 8,000 SEK (923 EUR) and 50,000 SEK (5,769 EUR). In the Equality Ombudsman's view, these levels are inadequate in terms of meeting the dual aims of the legislators, which is to compensate the victims of discrimination and to deter others from engaging in discriminatory practices.

Another important agency that records and publishes information about the situation of Roma in Sweden is the Swedish National Council on Crime prevention (*Brottsförebygganderådet - Brå*). The Council's 2012 annual report on hate crimes in Sweden shows that in 2011, there were 184 reports with an anti-Roma motive as a principal offence, which represents an increase by 27% (39 incidents) since 2010. Anti-Roma hate crimes constituted 5% of all xenophobic/racist hate crimes in 2011. Unlawful threats and non-sexual harassment represented 40% of all reported anti-Roma hate crimes, which makes this the most common crime category. Defamation (20%) and unlawful discrimination (15%) were the next most common types of crime. Hate speech was less common (9%). Unlawful discrimination is a common type of offence among hates crimes identified as anti-Roma. It is also more common in comparison to other hate crime motives.<sup>200</sup>

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<sup>200</sup> [Sweden], Brottsförebygganderådet (2011), Statistik över polisanmälda brott med identifierade hatbrottsmotiv, report No. 2012:7, [p. 62], available at: [[http://www.bra.se/download/18.1ff479c3135e8540b29800020067/2012\\_Hate\\_crime\\_2011\\_summary.pdf](http://www.bra.se/download/18.1ff479c3135e8540b29800020067/2012_Hate_crime_2011_summary.pdf)].



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The Swedish National Council on Crime prevention (*Brottsförebygganderådet - Brå*) *Hatbrott 2011. Statistik över polisanmälda brott med identifierade hatbrottsmotiv, report No. 2012:7.*

Uppsala: Uppsala universitet, Centrum för multietnisk forskning.

Westin, C. & Marti, M.T. (2008). *Hur blev det med anställningen?: uppföljningsintervjuer med romer som utbildat sig till lärarassistenter, barn- och ungdomsledare och barnskötare*. Stockholm: Delegationen för romska frågor.

## 2. Statistical tables

### Section 7 (ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP / RIGHTS AWARENESS)

**Table 9 Funds allocated to national minorities working with gender equality 2010**

#### **UNGDOMSSTYRELSEN**

[www.ungdomsstyrelsen.se](http://www.ungdomsstyrelsen.se)

#### **Jämställdhet bland de nationella minoriteterna 2010**

Organisation	Projektnamn	Belopp (kr)
Federationen WIZO i Sverige	Vi kan växa (Eng. We can grow)	252 000
Föreningen Lovara	Jekhipe	210 000
Ie romane nevimata	Romskt nationellt kvinnoätverk	378 000
Nevo Drom	Även våra tjejer kan	280 000
Sáminuorra	Niejda - Chicks in Sápmi	255 000
Svenska Samernas Riskförbund,...	Nätverksträff 3,0	450 000
	Jämställdhet även för icke	
	föreningsaktiva sverige-finska	
Sverigefinska Riksförbundet	kvinnor.	210 000

Source: The Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs (Ungdomsstyrelsen),  
[www.ungdomsstyrelsen.se](http://www.ungdomsstyrelsen.se)

### 3. Table of complaints

<b>2006</b> , 757 complaints to the Ombudsman against Ethnic Discrimination, <b>27 from Roma, 30% men, 70% woman</b>	
<b>2007</b> , 905 complaints to the Ombudsman against Ethnic Discrimination, <b>34 from Roma, 26% men, 74% woman</b>	
<b>2008</b> , 796 complaints to the Ombudsman against Ethnic Discrimination, <b>50 from Roma, 50% men, 50% woman</b>	
<b>The total amount of complaints to the Ombudsman against Ethnic Discrimination 2000-2009 is 6727, some 235 from Roma</b>	

*Source: The Equality Ombudsman, email correspondence, 2012-09-03*

#### *The Equality Ombudsman- Roma settlements and court decisions 2006-2011*

<b>2006</b>	
3 settlements	0 decisions by court
<b>2007</b>	
3 settlements	1 decision by court
<b>2008</b>	
2 settlements	3 decisions by court
<b>2009</b>	
1 settlement	1 decision by court
<b>2010</b>	
<b>6 settlements</b>	3 decisions by court
<b>2011</b>	
<b>3 settlements</b>	1 decision by court

*Source: The Equality Ombudsman, email correspondence, 2012-09-03*

<b>2006</b>
2 cases lost in the Swedish Labour Court by the Union
14 settlements by the Ombudsman against Ethnic Discrimination <b>of which 3 concerns Roma</b>
11 settlements by the Unions
2 private settlements

<b>2007</b>
2 cases lost in the Swedish Labour Court by the Ombudsman against Ethnic Discrimination
4 cases won in District Court and/or Court of Appeal by the Ombudsman against Ethnic Discrimination <b>of which 1 concern Roma</b>
10 settlements by the Ombudsman against Ethnic Discrimination <b>of which 3 concerns Roma</b>
20 settlements by the Unions
2 private settlements

<b>2008</b>
3 cases won in District Court and/or Court of Appeal by the Ombudsman against Ethnic Discrimination <b>of which 3 concerns Roma</b>
1 case lost in the Swedish Labour Court by the Ombudsman against Ethnic Discrimination
10 settlements by the Ombudsman against Ethnic Discrimination <b>of which 2 concerns Roma</b>

13 settlements by the Unions <b>of which 1 concern Roma</b>
1 private settlement

<b>2009</b>
1 settlement by the Equality Ombudsman <b>concerning Roma (damages awarded 40,000 SEK – 4,600) EUR</b>
1 court decision Court of Appeal won by the Equality Ombudsman (damages awarded to a Roma man 40.000 SEK-€ 4600)

<b>2010</b>
6 settlements by the Equality Ombudsman <b>concerning Roma (range of damages awarded 8,000-75,000 SEK – 922-8,764 EUR</b>
1 court decision Court of Appeal won by the Equality Ombudsman (damages awarded to a Roma man 40.000 SEK-€ 4600)
1 court case lost in Court of Appeal
1 court case lost in the District Court

<b>2011</b>
3 settlements by the Equality Ombudsman <b>concerning Roma (range of damages awarded 15,000 SEK-120,000 SEK- 1,728-13,830 EUR).</b>
1 court decision District court, lost by the Equality Ombudsman

Source: The Equality Ombudsman, email correspondence, 2012-09-03

Table 1.1. Number and proportion of police reports with an identified hate crime motive, years 2006–2011.

Motive	Year								Change compared to 2010, %	Change compared to 2008, %				
	2006		2007		2008		2009				2010		2011	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%		
Xenophobia/Racism	2 189	67	2 489	70	4 224	72	4 116	71	3 786	74	3 936	72	4	-7
Afrophobia*	..	..	..	..	761	13	780	13	818	16	803	15	-2	6
Anti-Roma**	..	..	..	..	178	3	163	3	145	3	184	3	27	3
Between minority groups	..	..	..	..	692	12	808	14	476	9	551	10	16	-20
Against majority population	..	..	..	..	142	2	144	2	130	3	128	2	-2	-10
Anti-Religious	386	12	324	9	602	10	591	10	552	11	651	12	18	8
Islamophobia	134	4	118	3	272	5	194	3	272	5	278	5	2	2
Anti-Semitism	252	8	206	6	159	3	250	4	161	3	194	4	20	22
Christianophobia	..	..	..	..	161	3	134	2	97	2	162	3	67	1
Other religions	..	..	..	..	10	0	13	0	22	0	17	0	-23	70
Homophobia, biphobia, heterophobia	684	21	723	20	1 055	18	1 060	18	770	15	854	16	11	-19
Homophobia	684	21	723	20	1 046	18	1 039	18	749	15	839	15	12	-20
Transphobia	..	..	..	..	14	0	30	1	31	1	52	1	68	271
In total	3 259	100	3 536	100	5 895	100	5 797	100	5 139	100	5 493	100	7	-7

.. = Information unavailable.

\* Includes both majority against Afro-Swede and minority against Afro-Swede.

\*\*Includes both majority against Roma and minority against Roma.

Source: The Swedish National Council on Crime prevention (Brottsförebygganderådet - Brå) Hatbrott 2011. Statistik över polisanmälda brott med identifierade hatbrottsmotiv, report No. 2012:7, p.62, [http://www.bra.se/download/18.1ff479c3135e8540b29800020067/2012\\_Hate\\_crime\\_2011\\_summary.pdf](http://www.bra.se/download/18.1ff479c3135e8540b29800020067/2012_Hate_crime_2011_summary.pdf)



#### 4. Table of sources (reports and studies on Roma)

	<b>Title, author, source</b>	<i>Delegationen för romska frågor (2008b), Hur blev det med anställningen?, Charles Westin &amp; Manuel Tan Marti.</i>
	<b>Source and type</b>	<i>Governmental</i>
<b>Thematic area</b>	<i>Education</i>	
	<i>Housing</i>	
	<i>Employment</i>	✓
	<i>Health</i>	
	<i>Poverty</i>	
	<i>Migration</i>	
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	
	<b>Sample</b>	<i>Roma nationals. Six women and five men. The two youngest respondents were 22 years old. The oldest was 32 years old. The average age was 26.</i>
	<b>Location</b>	<i>Sundbyberg, Stockholm</i>
	<b>Target population</b>	<i>The target group was eleven students who had completed vocational training as teaching assistants, child and youth workers and child minders at the Sundbyberg Folk High School (Sundbybergs folkhögskola).</i>
	<b>Key findings</b>	<i>The study concludes that many Roma who complete labour market programmes do not have a job, despite the great need for trained personnel in the relevant professions (teaching assistants, child and youth workers and nannies). The authors attributed discrimination as the likely cause of why the Roma are not hired</i>
	<b>Methodology</b>	<i>Qualitative interviews. Eleven interviews were conducted with six women and five men. The two youngest respondents were 22 years old when the interviews were conducted and the oldest was 32 years old. The average age was 26. The interviews were conducted in Swedish and Romani Chib.</i>
	<b>Representativeness, transferability of findings</b>	<i>Generally for Roma groups in Sweden.</i>

	<b>Title, author, source</b>	<i>“En utvärdering av DO:s bemötande och kontakt med romska anmälare” Kawesa, Victoria (2009), Diskrimineringsombudsmannen, Stockholm.</i>
	<b>Source and type</b>	<i>Governmental Report</i>
<b>Thematic area</b>	<i>Education</i>	
	<i>Housing</i>	
	<i>Employment</i>	
	<i>Health</i>	
	<i>Poverty</i>	
	<i>Migration</i>	

	<i>Active citizenship</i>	✓
	<b>Sample</b>	<i>6 Roma women</i>
	<b>Location</b>	<i>Mainly in the three largest cities in Sweden (Stockholm, Gothenburg, Malmoe). In the suburbs and smaller towns such as Kalmar and Umeå in Northern Sweden.</i>
	<b>Target population</b>	<i>Roma women who had filed a complaint with the Ombudsman for ethnic discrimination</i>
	<b>Key findings</b>	<i>Roma have obtained redress, due in part to the fact that the Equality Ombudsman has increasingly investigated complaints on the basis of the agency's closer understanding of the Roma's situation. The need for oral contact has been addressed at each step in the investigation, with satisfactory results and increased trust in the complaints body as a means of obtaining redress.</i>
	<b>Methodology</b>	<i>Qualitative deep interviews with 6 Roma complainants to the Equality Ombudsman. All interviewed were women.</i>
	<b>Representativeness, transferability of findings</b>	<i>Generally for Roma groups in Sweden.</i>

	<b>Title, author, source</b>	<i>“En utvärdering av DO:s bemötande och kontakt med romska anmälare” Kawesa, Victoria (2009), Diskrimineringsombudsmannen, Stockholm.</i>
	<b>Source and type</b>	<i>Governmental Report</i>
<b>Thematic area</b>	<i>Education</i>	
	<i>Housing</i>	
	<i>Employment</i>	
	<i>Health</i>	
	<i>Poverty</i>	
	<i>Migration</i>	
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	✓
	<b>Sample</b>	<i>6 Roma women</i>
	<b>Location</b>	<i>Mainly in the three largest cities in Sweden (Stockholm, Gothenburg, Malmoe). In the suburbs and smaller towns such as Kalmar and Umeå in Northern Sweden.</i>
	<b>Target population</b>	<i>Roma women who had filed a complaint with the Ombudsman for ethnic discrimination</i>
	<b>Key findings</b>	<i>Roma have obtained redress, due in part to the fact that the Equality Ombudsman has increasingly investigated complaints on the basis of the agency's closer understanding of the Roma's situation. The need for oral contact has been addressed at each step in the investigation, with satisfactory results and increased trust in the complaints body as a means of obtaining redress.</i>
	<b>Methodology</b>	<i>Qualitative deep interviews with 6 Roma complainants to the Equality Ombudsman. All interviewed were women.</i>
	<b>Representativeness, transferability of findings</b>	<i>Generally for Roma groups in Sweden.</i>

	<b>Title, author, source</b>	<i>Gustavsson, Josefine (2007), "Extern utvärdering – Effekterna av DO:s informationsinsatser riktade till grupper särskilt utsatta för diskriminering" [External evaluation: The impact of informational measures targeting groups particularly exposed to discrimination], School of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg.</i>
	<b>Source and type</b>	<i>Non-Governmental report</i>
<b>Thematic area</b>	<i>Education</i>	
	<i>Housing</i>	
	<i>Employment</i>	
	<i>Health</i>	
	<i>Poverty</i>	
	<i>Migration</i>	
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	✓
	<b>Sample</b>	<i>Interviews with staff at the Equality Ombudsman's office.</i>
	<b>Location</b>	<i>The evaluation was conducted at the Office of the Equality Ombudsman in Stockholm</i>
	<b>Target population</b>	<i>Staff at the Equality Ombudsman</i>
	<b>Key findings</b>	<i>This report evaluated the work carried out by the Ombudsman against Ethnic Discrimination targeting groups such as the Roma, who are particularly exposed to discrimination. The evaluation focused on the methods and procedures adopted in pursuit of mutual knowledge- building. One of the conclusions was that maintaining a dialogue with discriminated groups such as the Roma is a strategic way of reaching out with scarce resources and ensuring access to protection against discrimination.</i>
	<b>Methodology</b>	<i>Qualitative interviews with employees at the Ombudsman against ethnic discrimination and with community leaders of the different discriminated groups such as the Roma.</i>
	<b>Representativeness, transferability of findings</b>	<i>Generally for Roma groups in Sweden.</i>

	<b>Title, author, source</b>	<i>Rodell Olgaç, Christina (2006), "Den romska minoriteten i majoritetssamhällets skola – Från hot till möjlighet" [The Roma minority in the majority society's school system: From threat to opportunity], Stockholm Institute of Education. <a href="http://www.avhandlingar.se/avhandling/7835a63df4/">http://www.avhandlingar.se/avhandling/7835a63df4/</a></i>
	<b>Source and type</b>	<i>Non- governmental (Dissertation)</i>
<b>Thematic area</b>	<i>Education</i>	✓
	<i>Housing</i>	
	<i>Employment</i>	

	<i>Health</i>	
	<i>Poverty</i>	
	<i>Migration</i>	
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	
	<b>Sample</b>	Participant observations and interviews.
	<b>Location</b>	Interviews with Roma (not specified any particular group of Roma) in different locations in Sweden
	<b>Target population</b>	Roma groups in Sweden and the majority society.
	<b>Key findings</b>	This dissertation examined how the relationship between the Roma minority and the Swedish majority has developed since the mid-20th century in terms of the Roma's school situation. The study shows that openly racist perceptions of the Roma community were a feature of their schooling and contributed to their aversion to school as an institution. Various lines of development are identified in the relationship between Roma and the education system, including for instance how schools blamed Roma parents and Roma culture for Roma children's relative lack of school attendance. One of the findings of the study is that the discrimination to which Roma were exposed has had a lasting effect and that this has contributed to their continued marginalisation.
	<b>Methodology</b>	The dissertation is based on three types of data: texts, interviews and observations, that have been organised to cover three different periods. Three autobiographies and two theses cover the first period, from the middle of the 20th century to the 1970s, when the Roma were allowed into schools. The interviews cover the second period, from the 1970s to the
	<b>Representativeness, transferability of findings</b>	<i>Generally for Roma groups in Sweden.</i>

	<b>Title, author, source</b>	<i>Swedish Government Report, SOU 2010:55 (2010), "Romers rätt – en strategi för romer i Sverige" [Roma rights: A strategy for Roma in Sweden], report from the Delegation for Roma Issues, Stockholm. (<a href="http://regeringen.se/sb/d/12482/a/150025">http://regeringen.se/sb/d/12482/a/150025</a> )</i>
	<b>Source and type</b>	<i>Governmental</i>
<b>Thematic</b>	<i>Education</i>	✓
	<i>Housing</i>	✓
	<i>Employment</i>	✓
	<i>Health</i>	✓
	<i>Poverty</i>	✓

	<i>Migration</i>	✓
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	✓
	<b>Sample</b>	No specific number of participants. The report deals with Roma (no particular group specified), NGO's, authorities, municipalities, County Councils
	<b>Location</b>	It was conducted on all levels of society. Mapping of the whole society regarding Roma
	<b>Target population</b>	Roma groups in Sweden and the majority society, institutions and civil society
	<b>Key findings</b>	The delegation for Roma rights proposed a Roma strategy to be implemented and concluded during the course of 20 years. The strategy should have three over-arching goals: (1) to close the welfare divide between Roma and mainstream society (2) to reduce the power deficit of Roma (3) to bridge the confidence gap and build Roma trust in state institutions and mainstream society. The organisation to implement the National Roma Strategy was proposed to be a Secretariat for Roma Issues, partially modelled on the Finnish Roma Delegation with a Roma representation on the board of no less than 50 percent.
	<b>Methodology</b>	Various types of methods, qualitative, quantitative, participatory observations, surveys, focus group discussions, investigations, questionnaires
	<b>Representativeness, transferability of findings</b>	<i>Generally for Roma groups in Sweden.</i>

	<b>Title, author, source</b>	<i>The Swedish Ombudsman against Ethnic Discrimination(2008), "Diskriminering av nationella minoriteter inom utbildningsväsendet" [Discrimination of national minorities in the education system] available at: <a href="http://regeringen.se/content/1/c6/18/70/41/b7e89fd9.pdf">http://regeringen.se/content/1/c6/18/70/41/b7e89fd9.pdf</a></i>
	<b>Source and type</b>	-
<b>Thematic area</b>	<i>Education</i>	✓
	<i>Housing</i>	
	<i>Employment</i>	
	<i>Health</i>	
	<i>Poverty</i>	
	<i>Migration</i>	
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	
	<b>Sample</b>	There is no specific number of participants. Desk research.
	<b>Location</b>	It was conducted on all levels of society. Mapping of the whole society regarding national minorities.
	<b>Target population</b>	Roma children and other minority groups in Sweden and the majority society, institutions and civil society
	<b>Key findings</b>	The investigations show that there is a widespread structural discrimination of the Roma. The municipalities do not have knowledge of the national minorities and their rights and the school

		does not sufficiently help to strengthen the Roma identity, language or culture. Children from all minority groups have experienced harassment related to their ethnicity. National minorities are affected by low confidence in the authorities and fear that a complaint against the school can increase the vulnerability of the child.
	<b>Methodology</b>	<i>Desk research</i>
	<b>Representativeness, transferability of findings</b>	<i>Generally for Roma groups in Sweden.</i>

	<b>Title, author, source</b>	<i>National Board of Health and Welfare (Socialstyrelsen, 2006) Omhändertaganden av romska barn (Taking Roma children into care) Artikelnummer 2006-131-36. (<a href="http://www.socialstyrelsen.se">www.socialstyrelsen.se</a>)</i>
	<b>Source and type</b>	-
<b>Thematic area</b>	<i>Education</i>	
	<i>Housing</i>	
	<i>Employment</i>	
	<i>Health</i>	
	<i>Poverty</i>	
	<i>Migration</i>	
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	✓
	<b>Sample</b>	Interviews with social assistants in the municipalities.
	<b>Location</b>	This was a mapping of social authorities work with Roma children and placement of Roma children in institutions and foster homes.
	<b>Target population</b>	<i>General public, the social service, the civil society, childrens organisations, government authorities and Roma NGO's .</i>
	<b>Key findings</b>	<i>The study shows that 32 Roma children were taken into care by the social services in 2004 and 39 children in 2005. One of the conclusions was that no real evidence had been found of any increase in the number of cases of Roma children being taken into care. The board pointed out that the basic data was too limited and the period of investigation too short (only two years) to make any firm conclusions about whether the Roma children were over-represented among those taken into care. One of the points that the study made was that there is too little awareness within the social services of the fact that Roma in Sweden are a recognised national minority.</i>
	<b>Methodology</b>	Desk research
	<b>Representativeness, transferability of findings</b>	<i>Generally for Roma groups in Sweden.</i>



## 5. Roma networks

Type of Associations, Organisations, NGOs	Name of Organisation	Email/Website	Roma involvement	Main area of expertise
NGO	The National Roma Youth Association of Sweden (Romska Ungdomsförbundet)	Website: <a href="http://www.rufs.org/en/">http://www.rufs.org/en/</a>	The National Roma Youth Association's main goal is to strengthen the development of Roma children and youth, and create new conditions for them in the future. It is the only national organisation for Roma children and teenagers and has currently 20 member associations with activities throughout all of Sweden.	Education Gender Youth Culture Discrimination
NGO	The Roma National Federation (Romernas Riksförbund)	Email: palison@romhotmail.com		Education Gender Youth Culture Discrimination
NGO	The Roma Cultural Centre (Romsk kulturcenter (RKC))	Website: <a href="http://www.rkc.nu/">http://www.rkc.nu/</a>  lars.demetri@romsktkulturcentrum.se		
NGO	Romska Kulturförening Riksorganisation	Email: baki.hasan@swipnet.se		Education Gender Youth

				Culture
NGO	Föreningen Resandefolkets Riksorganisation (FRFRO)	Website: <a href="http://resandefolketsriksorganisation.se/">http://resandefolketsriksorganisation.se/</a> Email: info@resandefolketsriksorganisation.se	FRFRO's goals and objectives are to combat the oppression and persecution of Roma in Sweden. The association cooperates with relevant agencies to give support to Roma victims of injustices in the Swedish society.	Education Gender Youth Culture Discrimination
NGO	The Roma Cultural Centre in Malmö (Romska Kulturcentret Malmö)	Website: <a href="http://www.rkcmalmo.se/">http://www.rkcmalmo.se/</a> Email: info@rkcmalmo.se	The Roma Cultural Centre in Malmö offers extensive activities to the general public to take part in Roma culture, learn about the Roma history and better understand the situation for Roma in Sweden today.	Education Gender Youth Culture
NGO	Nationella Centralförbundet Roma International	Email: dimitriflorin@spray.se		
NGO	Riksförbundet Internationella romska och resande Kvinnocenter	Email: rositagronfors@yahoo.se	The Board includes seven women from different groups working to raise awareness about Roma women. The Association has opened a shelter for Roma women and a counselling centre where they help with social issues such as	Education Gender Youth Culture Discrimination

			housing, and discrimination.	
NGO	Riksförbundet Romer i Europa	Email: stefano.kuzhiov@helsingborg.se		Education Gender Youth Culture Discrimination
NGO	Internationella kvinnoföreningen För Romni	Email: ewarosengren@hotmail.com	The association is a national association with 10 member organizations, working on gender issues and violence against women around Sweden. The association is also working on education issues and integration of all Roma communities and young people.	Education Gender Youth Culture
NGO	Svarta Safirer, kultur- och musikgrupp i Göteborg	Website: <a href="http://www.svartasafirer.com/">http://www.svartasafirer.com/</a> Email: svartasafirer@msn.com	Roma Association Black Sapphires have been around since 1997 and was initially focused on the musikverksamheten through music band Black Sapphires. In 2000, it has expanded its business to a family business, focused on youth ages 5-20 years. The association has	Education Gender Youth Culture

			about 400 members, one third of children and adolescents. Most of them are Roma from the former Yugoslavia, Macedonia, Kosovo and Serbia, but the association is open to all and also has members with different bakgrund.De Most members live in Bergsjön.	
NGO	Resandefolkets Romanoa Riksförbund, RRRF	Email:birgerrosengren.@hotmail.com	RRRF is a national association with 20 member associations. The Federation also has a youth section. RRRF work conducts workshops and exhibitions throughout Sweden to educate and raise awareness about the travelling Roma community Sinnti's history and culture.	Education Gender Youth Culture